

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL

2025-2026 ADMITTED LAW STUDENT GUIDE



CONGRATULATIONS

ON YOUR ADMITTANCE TO SIU SIMMONS LAW!

We are thrilled you have chosen SIU Simmons Law School to pursue your educational law journey. We know that selecting a law school is an important decision, so our comprehensive support for you begins today. In the coming months, we will regularly send you emails with information that will help you with your transition to Carbondale and law school. We will also send you a link to the Class of 2028 Facebook group so that you can get to know your classmates, ask advice, and maybe even find the ever-elusive perfect roommate.

To ensure your best possible start, SIU Simmons Law School is pleased to partner with BarBri to provide a specially designed online summer course, "Lawyering Fundamentals" before you arrive in Carbondale. It is a two-week, required pre-orientation online course designed to help you develop realistic expectations and proven success strategies for law school. Consider it the first step of your legal training. As an added bonus, we hope it will demystify professors' teaching methods so you can truly hit the ground running when classes begin!

Finally, if you would like a sneak peek of our facilities and the campus community, you may choose to schedule a campus visit date through the Office of Admissions to meet with the Admissions Director, speak with our financial aid representative, tour the law school, and possibly sit in on a law class. Regardless of whether you make an early trip to campus, mark your calendar to ensure you arrive in time for the required Orientation, which will take place the week before the semester begins.

All this before the first day of class! When you join SIU Simmons Law School, you can feel confident that we will support you from before your arrival on campus, through earning your degree, bar passage, and securing a job in your chosen field. We look forward to adding your photo to the past 50 years of class pictures lining our hallway walls. Each of the alumni on the walls have contributed to our school and the law profession in their own unique way and we look forward to seeing how your contributions enrich the field and our institution.

– Layla Murphy, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid



Cover: Salukis are one of the earliest dog breeds, dating back to 3600 B.C., and are known for their speed, grace, and endurance. At SIU, the Saluki is a collective spirit that defines our culture in our hometown and in the hearts of our proud alumni.

I'VE BEEN ADMITTED. WHAT NOW?

Step 1: Pay Your Seat Deposit

To secure your seat in our incoming SIU Simmons Law class, you must submit a non-refundable deposit. Pay your seat deposit online at law.siu.edu. Refer to your welcome packet for your deposit deadline.

Step 2: Retrieve Your Dawg Tag

First, look up your Dawg Tag at netid.siu.edu. Then use your Dawg Tag to set up your Network ID. If you need assistance, contact SIU Information Technology at 618/453-5155.

Second, use your Network ID and the password you created to access your SalukiNet account. SalukiNet is an online resource to access your university records. Through SalukiNet, you can:

- Access your email after you have been registered for classes
- Access your schedule
- View your university balance and make an online payment
- Access our Class of 2028 page
- Accept your financial aid award

Step 3: Apply for Financial Aid

Most SIU Law students use Federal Direct Loans to fund their legal education. If you plan to apply for federal educational loans, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov. **Be sure to include SIU's federal school code: 001758.**

- As a law student you are considered financially independent. No parental financial information is required.
- You may be eligible for up to \$20,500 annually through a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, which will accrue interest while you are in school.
- If you wish to apply for additional federal loan funding to cover the cost of attendance, you may apply for a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan. A separate application and credit check are required. This loan also accrues interest while you are in school.

The SIU Financial Aid Office will process financial aid awards during the spring semester. Be sure to check your SIU email and your SalukiNet account for updated information.

Step 4: Secure Local Housing

The majority of SIU Law students elect to live off-campus in Carbondale or other surrounding communities, such as Cambria, Carterville, Herrin, Murphysboro, Marion, or Anna-Jonesboro. University Housing has compiled a list of off-campus housing options to assist in your housing search.

On-campus housing is also available for graduate and professional students. housing.siu.edu

Step 5: Submit Your Final Transcript

You will be required to provide a final, official undergraduate transcript to LSAC. The final transcript must list the degree you were awarded and the date it was awarded. If you have questions, contact Admissions at 618/453-8858 or lawadmit@siu.edu.

Step 6: Submit Your Immunization Records to the Saluki Health Portal

Once you receive your receipt of submission from the Immunization Office, use this QR code to upload the receipt and receive a Simmons Law t-shirt! shc.siu.edu/immunizations



"The sooner you get things done it will release some stress down the road and you can focus on other things and getting ready to start law school."

— Emily, Admissions Ambassador, 3L

WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN MY 1L YEAR?

As a first-year student, you will receive a solid foundation in the basic principles of the law. The Academic Success Program helps you maximize your learning, hone your intellectual and professional capacities, and master lifelong professional learning strategies from the first year through post-graduation preparation for the bar exam.

law.siu.edu/programs/student-services/academic-success.php

First Year Required Courses

Civil Procedure I
Contracts I & II
Criminal Law
Lawyering Skills I & II
Mastering Legal Education I & II
Property I & II
Torts I & II

2024-2025 Annual Tuition and Fees

Based on required first-year curriculum (31 hours)

tuition.siu.edu

Tuition

\$16,957

University Fees

\$4,811

Health Insurance Fee*

\$2,258

Academic Support Fee**

\$998

ACCESS TO
BarBri, AccessLex, WestLaw, LexisNexis

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

RSOs

law.siu.edu/programs/student-services/student-orgs.php

Taylor Mattis Fellows Study Groups

All 1Ls are assigned a Taylor Mattis Fellow study group led by a 2L/3L Honor student.

Pro Bono Requirement

All Simmons Law students are required to engage in 35 pro bono hours before graduation.

Networking

Take full advantage of our extensive alumni network to cultivate professional relationships and connections.

HELPFUL TIP

"The best way to get into programs/activities is to be in the top 10 as that opens doors during law school."

– Kyle, Admissions Ambassador, 2L

TYPES OF AID

Admissions Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to incoming students who demonstrate a high aptitude for the study of law – up to full tuition. All applicants will receive full consideration, and no additional application is required.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

Eligible up to \$20,500 each year; not based on need.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan

Eligible for the remainder of your costs not covered by other aid; a separate application and credit check are required.

* Students with comparable health insurance coverage may request a fee waiver.

** The Academic Support Fee provides all students with educational services and materials throughout their three years of law school and post-graduation bar preparatory program through BarBri.

STUDENT SERVICES AND OTHER AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Health Benefits

SIU requires all students taking on-campus courses to have health insurance. To meet this mandate, SIU Law students will be billed the student health insurance fee. shc.siu.edu

If you already have comparable health insurance coverage, you may request a fee waiver by completing the waiver process in accordance with university deadlines. shc.siu.edu/health-insurance/index.php

Immunization Requirements

The Illinois College Immunization Code requires enrolling students to provide proof of immunizations for: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella. Additional proof of Meningococcal conjugate is needed for students under 22 years of age. shc.siu.edu/immunizations

Non-traditional Students

Many students come to SIU Law to pursue a second career or to continue their education in pursuit of a professional career. You are not alone, and the Non-traditional Student Services office is prepared to support you and share resources that may be helpful in transitioning to SIU. nontrad.siu.edu

Office of Access and Accommodation

SIU offers academic support services for students with permanent or temporary disabilities. access.siu.edu

Parking Services

Students intending to park on campus are required to purchase a parking sticker. parking.siu.edu

Student ID

All SIU students are required to obtain a university-issued photo ID card. studentcenter.siu.edu

Student Recreation Center

A 214,000 square foot facility offering a wide variety of services including intramural sports, sports clubs, personal trainers, therapeutic massage and aquatics, along with instructional programs such as yoga and pilates, dance, boxing and martial arts. Outdoor adventures, such as scuba diving, camping and boating packages, are also available. rec.siu.edu

University Housing

Offers three on-campus apartment areas for graduate and professional students. housing.siu.edu

Veterans Services

Veterans Services is committed to making the transition from the military to SIU Carbondale a seamless process, including assistance with military education benefits. veterans.siu.edu

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS counselors are here to support you! SIU Students can see the CAPS Counselor on Duty in the Law Library Wednesday afternoons or at the Student Health Center. shc.siu.edu/counseling

Saluki Cares

Saluki Cares is an early warning system for students who have been perceived as encountering challenges that may interfere with completing their education. Campus representatives work to assist with removing obstacles to student success.

LOOKING FORWARD: 2L AND 3L YEARS

Clinics

Our legal clinics serve the southern Illinois region and offer students the opportunity to work with clinical faculty to represent clients in cases involving civil practice (elder clinic), juvenile justice clinic, and veterans benefits appeals and discharge upgrades.

Externships

Our public-interest externship program allows students to earn course credit working with in-house counsel at a publicly funded law office, a nonprofit organization, or a federal, state or local agency. Students who are interested in working for a state or federal judge may enroll in a judicial externship.

Law Journal

The *Southern Illinois University Law Journal*, a student-led scholarly journal, focuses on a variety of legal topics and issues. Each year, the editors choose several members' articles to publish in the Law Journal.

Taylor Mattis Fellows

"Talking with a 2L or 3L Taylor Mattis Fellow regarding real life experiences of a law student is a valuable opportunity. Taylor Mattis Fellows encourage, guide, and are an added support for 1L students."

— Emily, Admissions Ambassador, 2L

Law Student Ambassadors

"As a Law Student Ambassador, I promote Simmons Law School across a range of exciting recruitment activities with the intent of securing admissions from some of the brightest minds around."

— Jake, Admissions Ambassador, 2L

Moot Court

"Students hone their advocacy skills in our appellate moot court program. They compete successfully in regional and national competitions, where they regularly earn team and individual awards."

— Caitlin, Admissions Ambassador, 3L

Joint Degree

We offer nine dual-degree programs through the SIU Carbondale Graduate School and the SIU School of Medicine that allow students to receive M.D. or master's degrees while pursuing a law degree.

Mock Trial

Provides real life trial experience. Mock Trial is a simulated courtroom experience where students act as lawyers, witnesses and other courtroom roles to present a hypothetical case.

JUSTICE IS A HUMAN
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

ARE YOU READY TO BECOME A SALUKI?

HAVE YOU:

- ☐ Paid Seat Deposits
 - ☐ 1st by April 1
 - ☐ 2nd by May 15
- ☐ Retrieved your Dawg Tag
- ☐ Viewed our New Student Information page via D2L
- ☐ Applied for financial aid
- ☐ Viewed your class schedule on SalukiNet by June 10
- ☐ Secured local housing by June 15
- ☐ Joined our Class of 2028 Facebook group beginning in January 2025
- ☐ Submitted your immunization compliance form to Saluki Health Portal shc.siu.edu/immunizations
- ☐ Obtained your SIU Student ID card during Orientation week
- ☐ Purchased your parking sticker
- ☐ Submitted your final transcript

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is located in Carbondale, Illinois, a town of approximately 26,000. A classic university community, the population grows each fall with the addition of over 11,000 students.



QUESTIONS?
We're here to help!

Contact us at:
lawadmit@siu.edu
618/453-8858

law.siu.edu



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
**SIMMONS
LAW SCHOOL**

**Office of Admissions
Simmons Law School**
Lesar Law Building – Mail Code 6804
Southern Illinois University
1150 Douglas Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901