Our first-year program integrates fundamental legal theory with development of the basic skills and professional traits required of a successful law practice.

As a first-year (1L) law student, you will receive a solid foundation in the basic principles of the law. In our nationally recognized Lawyering Skills Program, you will participate in small classes designed for active learning in which you will practice a range of skills, including legal research and writing, client interviewing, client counseling, advocacy and negotiation.

In our Professionalism and the Law course, you will learn about the core values of the legal profession and your responsibilities as a member. You will participate with your class in the drafting of a “Declaration of Professional Commitment,” which you will recite during your induction as a lawyer-in-training, presided over by an Illinois Supreme Court justice.

The Academic Success Program facilitates advanced learning and skill building from the first year through post-graduation preparation for the bar exam. The Program includes a mandatory first-year Mastering Legal Education course for all new students, with second- and third-year assistance provided through individual mentoring. Graduating students are encouraged to participate in the SIU supplemental bar preparation program, which provides support to all graduates taking the bar.

**FIRST-YEAR COURSES**

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Procedure</td>
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<td>Contracts I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawyering Skills I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative and Administrative Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professionalism and the Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torts</td>
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After your first year, you can pursue a specially designed course of study in several areas of law practice specialization. The course of study for each practice area includes core and elective courses, a writing project and an experiential learning component. Students who complete a specialization receive a transcript notation and certificate to help demonstrate their focus to potential employers.

- Business and Transactional Law
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property
- International and Comparative Law
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Public Interest Law

We offer eight 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.

- Doctor of Political Science
- Doctor of Medicine
- Master of Accountancy
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Science in Education
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Social Work
- Master of Electrical and Computer Engineering

"The SIU Medicine and Law Dual Degree Program provided me with knowledge, skills, mentors, and opportunities that I will forever cherish. Now, as the Founding Chair of SIU School of Medicine’s Department of Population Science and Policy, my SIU education guides my ability to lead a talented team working on policy solutions to improve the health of Illinois."

— Sameer Vohra, MD/JD, ’11
Chair, Department of Population Science and Policy
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Medical Humanities, and Law
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
Springfield, IL
PRACTICAL TRAINING

You will be able to immerse yourself in skills-building programs such as moot court, journal, externships, and legal clinic work. You will also have opportunities to collaborate with faculty members in their areas of research and pro bono service.

EXTERNSHIPS

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

LEGAL CLINICS

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

JOURNAL

The Southern Illinois University Law Journal is our general journal, focusing on publishing the highest quality legal scholarship.

MOOT COURT

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

PRO BONO PROJECTS

The SIU School of Law is the first Illinois law school to create a pro bono requirement. Students must complete 35 hours of approved pro bono work prior to graduation. Students are able to participate in faculty-led projects such as the Immigration Detention Project and student-led projects such as the Transgender Name Change and Gender Marker Project.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

This two-day workshop explores the key attributes of leadership and the challenges that women face in the legal profession because of gender differences. The course is team-taught by a well-respected faculty of lawyers, judges and law professors, who encourage students to actively participate through small group discussions, mock negotiations, simulated interviews, and short writing assignments.

“SIU Law provided many opportunities to lead. From my participation in national moot court competitions to the opportunity to work with the administration to build a pipeline program to ensure more people who look like me have a chance to enter law school, SIU Law gave me a platform to work on issues of importance to me and be the change I wanted to see in the world.”

Before law school, Willie worked as a legislative assistant to US. Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-SC) and as deputy chief of staff and legislative director for U.S. Rep. William L. Enyart, ’79 (D-IL). While in law school, he was an active member of the law school community. In addition, his work with The Carbondale Pipeline Working Group (CPWG) and with other organizations earned him a spot as one of National Jurist magazine’s 25 “Law School Students of the Year” for 2016-2017.

— Willie Lyles, III, ’17
ALUMNI

Our powerful alumni network is a great tool that assists students as well as graduates in a variety of ways, including externships and employment opportunities. Alumni practice law in 47 states and internationally in more than 10 countries, and 144 hold or have held federal and state judgements.

“The education, experience and connections that I made while at SIU Law allowed me to propel my career to unthinkable heights. In terms of value, SIU Law simply can’t be beat!”

During law school, Andrew served as President of the Law and Medicine / Health Law student group and interned with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Immediately after graduation, Andrew was selected as a David A. Winston Health Policy Fellow – a prestigious national fellowship located in Washington, DC. He then went on to hold positions in the US Department of Health and Human Services and the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Andrew founded the Institute for Childhood Preparedness and travels the country helping early childhood professionals prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

– Andrew Roszak, JD/MPA ’08
Executive Director, Institute for Childhood Preparedness
Washington, DC

“...has profoundly shaped my career and personal growth, and some of my fondest memories were made while attending law school.”

While in law school, Alisha was a teaching assistant, served as president of the Justinian Society, earned several CALI Excellence Awards for her classroom performance, and ranked Dean’s List all six semesters.

Alisha is working as a federal judicial law clerk with The Honorable Sue E. Myerscough, a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois. Prior to this, she was an associate attorney at Heyl Royster.

Alisha is currently serving as a member of the Illinois State Bar Association Board of Governors.

– Alisha Sheehan, ’15
Law Clerk, The Honorable Sue E. Myerscough, U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois Springfield, IL
COST AND AID

SIU School of Law offers a tuition rate that is among the lowest in the country, and our graduates typically have a debt load below the national law school average.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, in-state students pay $547 per credit hour. The annual budget is based on the required first-year curriculum (32 credit hours).

- In-State Tuition: $17,504
- General Student Fee: $3,510
- Student Insurance Fee*: $1,750
- Room and Board: $14,272
- Books and Supplies: $1,638
- Miscellaneous Personal Expenses: $2,941

**TOTAL**: $41,615

*Insurance may be waived with proof of comparable coverage.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid for law students is generally available from two different loans: the Federal Direct Unsubsidized and Federal Direct Graduate Plus loans. These loans, combined with scholarships offered at time of admission, will cover your cost of attendance. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed to qualify for loans. The annual loan limit for an unsubsidized loan is $20,500. Graduate Plus loans are used to make up the difference in the cost of attendance minus the unsubsidized loan and scholarships/award.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- SIU’s Federal School Code is 001758.
- Law students are encouraged to submit a FAFSA after October 1 of each year.
- No parental income is required on the FAFSA.

ACCEPTABLE BUDGET INCREASES

Federal regulations permit the SIU Financial Aid Office to increase a student’s educational budget for certain allowable items. Examples are: dependent care for children up to 12 years old; bar exam expenses; computer purchase; prescription drugs; and medical, dental and optical expenses. Acceptable budget increases are approved by the SIU Financial Aid Office.

SCHOLARSHIPS

SIU School of Law has a generous scholarship program, and all scholarships are automatically awarded at time of admission. Scholarships are automatically renewed when the terms are met at the end of the second and fourth semesters. In addition, every spring semester an awards catalog, funded by our donors, is released to all students.
Southern Illinois University Carbondale is located in Carbondale, Illinois, a town of approximately 26,000. A class university community, the population grows each fall with the addition of over 11,000 students.

Students enjoy the advantages that come with a university that is a major research institution—the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies SIU Carbondale among the top 5 percent of U.S. higher education institutions for research. There is also a variety of cultural, athletic, educational and recreational opportunities within the community and throughout Southern Illinois that will enhance your educational experience.

"The small class size provides a supportive community and the ability to foster lifelong friends. The absence of large lecture halls gives quality one-on-one time with professors that really care about my success."

Ryesha is actively involved in a variety of registered student organizations. In addition, she is a senior law clerk in the SIU Students’ Legal Assistance office where she assists on-campus students with legal issues. Upon graduation, Ryesha hopes to return home to Chicago and work in the public interest sector.

— Ryesha Patterson, ’20
Undergraduate: Northern Illinois University
Hometown: Lansing, IL