

Southern Illinois University School of Law Admissions

[Excerpted from the School of Law Rules for AY 2023-2024]

ARTICLE II - ADMISSIONS (J.D. Degree)

[amended 4/14/09; amended 8/12/18]

1. Regular Admission

By September 1 of each year and as needed during the year, the Dean shall send the Admissions Committee a written charge setting targets for the size, LSAT and undergraduate GPA statistics, and other characteristics of the entering class for the following academic year. The Admissions Committee shall adopt admissions policies and requirements for the application cycle for that entering class, including standards to ensure that students who do not speak English as a native language have sufficient proficiency in English such that they are likely to succeed in their classes at the School of Law. [moved and amended from Art. V, 2/22/11; amended 12/11/23]

- (a) Requirements for Admission. In order to be considered for admission to the School of Law, an applicant must have:
 - (i) received a bachelor's degree, or the equivalent, prior to matriculation;
 - (ii) taken the LSAT;
 - (iii) registered with LSDAS; and
 - (iv) submitted a complete application, including required documentation.

Any matriculated applicant not admitted through an approved 3+3 program that fails to provide an undergraduate transcript verifying their bachelor's degree by October 15 of the Fall semester of their first year in law school shall be administratively withdrawn.

- (b) Criteria for Admission. In order to be admitted to the School of Law, the applicant must have demonstrated a capacity for the study of law by a satisfactory undergraduate record and satisfactory performance on the LSAT. While admissions decisions will be based primarily on these criteria, the School of Law, in seeking to obtain a diverse, intelligent, and highly motivated student body, may also consider all special circumstances which are brought to the attention of the Admissions Committee. These special circumstances are of particular importance whenever there are more qualified applicants than there are positions available.
- (c) Fee. Applications for admission to the School of Law must be accompanied by an application fee in an amount set by the Dean. The application fee may be waived if the applicant has been granted a fee waiver through LSAC.

- (d) Application Period. Applications may be filed any time after September 1 of the calendar year preceding the year in which the applicant seeks admission.

2. Special Admission

The Admissions Committee may admit a very limited number of exceptional students to the School of Law upon the completion of their junior year of undergraduate study. These exceptional students must meet the following criteria to be considered for early admission:

- (a) be enrolled as an undergraduate student at SIUC, SIUE, or a college or university with which the School of Law has an approved 3+3 program;
- (b) be recommended and approved by the dean of their undergraduate college, or chair of their department, or the equivalent thereof;
- (c) have an outstanding undergraduate grade-point average and an exceptional LSAT score (or in the case of a student otherwise qualifying under an approved 3+3 program, have a cumulative undergraduate grade-point average and a LSAT score equal to or greater than the median for the previous year's cohort); and
- (d) comply with the requirements for regular admission in Rule II.1, other than section II.1(a)(i).

3. Transfer

Applications for admission with advanced standing (transfer) will be considered by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Curricular Development if and to the extent that there is space in the second-year class. [amended 11/2005; 4/14/09; 11/18/22]

- (a) Requirements for Admission of Transfer Student. In order to be considered for admission to the School of Law by transfer, the applicant must meet the following requirements.
 - (i) Current Admission Requirements. The applicant must meet all current admission requirements set forth in Rule II.1(a).
 - (ii) Minimum One Year. [amended 10/20/09] The applicant must have been enrolled at a school that satisfies the American Bar Association standard for admission with advanced standing, and must have completed at least:
 - (A) one full year of law study at a school which operates on the semester system; or
 - (B) two quarters or trimesters at a school which does not operate on the semester system.

- (iii) Good Standing. The applicant must be in good standing at the school from which the applicant is transferring. [amended 11/2005; 4/14/09]
 - (iv) Documentation. The applicant must provide to the law school the following documents: official transcripts of all undergraduate studies and certification of a degree; an LSDAS report; official transcripts of all law work previously undertaken; a statement of class rank, if available, from the applicant's original law school; a letter from the office of the dean of the applicant's original law school stating that the applicant is in good academic standing and is eligible unconditionally to continue as a law student at that school; and other materials as requested.
- (b) Criteria for Admission of Transfer Student. Approval of transfer applications is discretionary. Transfer applicants may be admitted if it appears that the applicant is likely to successfully complete the requirements for graduation from the School of Law. In making this assessment, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Curricular Development will give primary consideration to the applicant's law school record including, particularly, class rank, GPA, law school attended, and whether the law school attended was approved by the American Bar Association; LSAT; undergraduate GPA, undergraduate school attended and subjects taken; and may consider other relevant factors.[amended 11/18/22]
- (c) Effect of Admission of Transfer Student. Admission as a transfer student is subject to the following limitations.
- (i) Number of Credit Hours Transferred. Except in unusual circumstances, an applicant may transfer no more than 30 semester hours from an ABA approved law school. An applicant may transfer no more than 30 semester hours from a non-ABA approved law school. [amended 11/2005; 10/20/09]
 - (ii) Grade Needed for Transfer of Academic Credit. The School of Law will grant credit only for a course from another law school in which an applicant has earned a grade that is equal to or better than the GPA required by the other law school for graduation from that school. Provided: Credit may be awarded in the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Curricular Development for courses graded "credit/no-credit" or the equivalent, subject to the limitations for receiving credit for non-graded courses at the School of Law. [amended 4/14/09; 11/18/22]
 - (iii) Graduation Requirements. After admission, the transfer student must satisfy all graduation requirements of the School of Law; this may require taking one or more first-year or other required courses which the transfer student did not take at the student's original school, or which the

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Curricular Development determines are not equivalent to courses taken at the student's original school. [amended 4/14/09; 11/18/22]

- (d) Application Period. An applicant may apply for transfer at any time, but the application will not be acted upon until the applicant has satisfied all the requirements of Rule II.3(a).

4. Special Students [amended 11/18/22]

The following individuals may enroll in law school classes with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Curricular Development and the instructor in the class, even though they are not candidates for the J.D. degree:

- (a) a student enrolled as a graduate student in another department of the University or as an unclassified graduate student;
- (b) any person who holds a J.D. or equivalent degree from an accredited law school, but such person may not be awarded academic credit at the law school and is to be classified as a non-degree, unclassified student; and
- (c) a student in good standing at another law school who will take 30 or fewer hours of courses at the law school as a visiting student and apply the academic credit earned at the law school toward the graduation requirements at the student's home school.

5. Part-Time Students [amended 11/18/22]

Applicants who expect regularly to enroll for fewer than 12 credit hours per semester may apply for admission as part-time students. Part-time students may be admitted provided that the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance is convinced that the circumstances justify it. Only in exceptional circumstances should the number of part-time students exceed five percent of the regularly enrolled students in the law school.

6. Misconduct in the Admissions Process [amended 4/14/09; amended 11/18/22]

Any information indicating that a matriculated student or an applicant who has been admitted but not yet matriculated has committed an act of admission misconduct shall be promptly referred, along with any supporting evidence, to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance, in the case of a matriculated student, or to the Director of Admissions, in the case of an applicant who has been admitted but not yet matriculated. Upon receipt of such information, the following procedures apply.

- (a) Matriculated Students

- (i) The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance may conduct any necessary investigation to determine the relevant facts. If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance determines that there is no substantial evidence that the student committed an act of admission misconduct, that determination shall be conclusive and nonreviewable. If appropriate, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance shall place a copy of the determination in the student's permanent file.
- (ii) If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance determines that there is substantial evidence that the student committed an act of admission misconduct, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance shall notify the student in writing of the allegation of admission misconduct and shall inform the student of the procedures of this rule. Such notice and information shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or other method of transmission that provides comparable proof of delivery, to the student's last known mailing address, as reflected in the law school records.
- (iii) Within 14 days of the date of mailing of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance's notice, which period may be extended by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance for good cause, the student may file with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance a statement, together with such evidence as the student may choose to present, to rebut, explain, excuse, or justify the alleged misconduct. The student may also request the opportunity to appear in person before the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance in support of the student's defense, and any such request shall be granted unless to do so would unreasonably delay the determination of the matter or be impractical for some other reason.
- (iv) After receipt of the student's response (if any) and the meeting (if any), the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance shall make a final determination, based on a preponderance of the evidence standard, as to whether the student committed an act of admission misconduct. In making this determination, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance may consult with the Academic Standards Committee or the Admissions Committee.
 - (A) If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance finds that the student did not commit an act of admission misconduct, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance shall prepare a written report including the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance's findings, send the report to the student, and place a copy of the report in the student's permanent file.

(B) If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance finds that the student did commit an act of admission misconduct, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance shall prepare a written report including the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance's findings and a recommended sanction or sanctions, which may include a formal reprimand, suspension from the law school for a fixed period of time, or dismissal from the law school and revocation of the student's admission. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance shall send a copy of the report to the student and shall send the report and the record, including a recording of the meeting with the student, if any, to the Dean. The Dean shall affirm the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance's findings if supported by substantial evidence in the record and will make the final determination as to the appropriate sanction and administer the sanction. A copy of the Dean's decision shall be given to the student and a copy shall be placed in the student's permanent file. The Dean shall report orally the disposition and sanction imposed to the faculty at the next regular faculty meeting, in executive session.

(b) Non-Matriculated Applicants. The Director of Admissions shall resolve the matter in consultation with the Dean or Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance and the Admissions Committee. The Director of Admissions' resolution shall be conclusive and nonreviewable.

7. Admission to the Academic Honors Program [amended 11/18/22]

(a) Pre-matriculation: An applicant (otherwise offered admission to the School of Law) will be offered admission in the Academic Honors Program if the student's LSAT score is within the top 10% of LSAT scores among matriculated students for the prior year. A student cannot be admitted into both the Academic Honors Program (a three-year program) and the Two-Year Honors Program.

(b) Post-matriculation: Students who were not originally admitted to the Academic Honors Program but whose cumulative GPA is 3.500 or higher at the end of two full semesters are eligible to join the Academic Honors Program. Students who were not in the Academic Honors Program during their first two semesters but whose cumulative GPA after completing their fourth full semester is 3.500 or higher are eligible to join the Academic Honors Program. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance or designee will be responsible for communicating with students about their eligibility to join the program.

(c) Further rules governing the Academic Honors Program after initial admission are found in Rule IV.14.

