

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS—CECIL C. HUMPHREYS SCHOOL OF LAW

One North Front Street  
Memphis, TN 38103-2189  
Phone: 901.678.5403; Fax: 901.678.0741  
E-mail: lawadmissions@memphis.edu; Website: www.memphis.edu/law

### History of the School of Law

The Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis was established in response to widespread interest in developing a full-time accredited law program to serve Memphis and West Tennessee. The Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law opened in 1962 and was accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA) in 1965. The school was named in honor of Cecil C. Humphreys, then-president of Memphis State University and an educator of great distinction. Dr. Humphreys led the group that worked with the state legislature and the ABA to accredit the law school. The school also is an active member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).

Since its inception, the School of Law has graduated over 5,000 students and continues its tradition of preparing competent and ethical attorneys. Our graduates can be found throughout the United States, employed in private practice, federal and state judiciaries, corporate boardrooms, government agencies, and public service organizations.

### Memphis and the School of Law

Memphis is one of the South's largest, most beautiful, and most diverse cities. Memphis has one of the lowest cost-of-living rates of any major US city, and its temperate climate provides ample opportunity for year-round activities. Memphis has a rich history and an unmatched musical heritage.

The School of Law brings together unique individuals with a wide variety of cultural, geographical, employment, and academic backgrounds. Many of its students come to law school immediately after finishing their undergraduate education; however, a significant number have been in the workforce or have completed advanced degrees. The diversity within the student body enriches the classroom experience for all students and enhances the overall quality of the educational program.

In 2010, the School of Law received a "best value" rating by *preLaw* magazine, recognizing that Memphis is among schools that can boast a high bar exam passage rate, a strong job placement rate for graduates, and an affordable tuition. The School of Law has been cited elsewhere for "quality of life," reflecting student responses to questions about building aesthetics, sense of community, location, classroom facilities, social life, and library staff.

In January 2010, the School of Law began classes in the newly renovated US Custom House and Post Office located in the heart of legal, business, and cultural districts in downtown Memphis. This beautiful state-of-the-art building offers a magnificent view of the Mississippi River and is within blocks of numerous law offices and both state and federal courthouses.

### The University of Memphis

The University of Memphis serves as a regional center for education, service, and research, and is linked historically, intellectually, and emotionally with its community. It is a learner-centered metropolitan research university that enrolls over 21,000 students and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

### Curriculum

The School of Law offers a full-time day program and a part-time day program. The challenging curriculum prepares our students for the practice of law. The curriculum reflects a commitment to traditional legal education, and academic emphasis is placed on fundamental lawyering skills and areas of knowledge.

### Lawyering Skills, Legal Clinics, and Externships

The School of Law provides the opportunity to take upper-level courses in lawyering skills, including trial advocacy, appellate advocacy, and alternative dispute resolution. Upper-division students may receive academic credit and practical experience through our Externship and Clinic Programs. Externship placements are offered in the US District Court, Federal Bankruptcy Court, US Attorney's Office, Federal Public Defender's Office, state appellate judicial offices, National Labor Relations Board, Shelby County District Attorney's Office, Shelby County Public Defender's Office, and the Memphis Area Legal Services Office. Spring 2011 clinic offerings include Child and Family Litigation, Civil Litigation, Elder Law, and Immigration Law. Students enrolled in the legal clinic courses are either specially admitted to practice by the Tennessee Supreme Court or by the US Immigration Court. They represent indigent clients referred through Memphis Area Legal Services or by the Community Legal Center as well as children in abuse and neglect cases, terminations of parental rights cases, adoptions, and other civil legal matters as referred through appointment by the courts.

### Joint- and Dual-Degree Programs

The School of Law and the Fogelman College of Business and Economics offer a coordinated degree program leading to both the JD and MBA degrees. The purpose of this program is to allow students to study business management and law. This joint degree enables students to complete the JD and MBA in considerably less time than would be required to complete each degree separately.

The School of Law and the Department of Political Science offer a dual degree leading to both the JD and MA degrees. Credit toward degrees in these disciplines can be earned simultaneously if admission and curricula are carefully structured. Students can complete both degrees in less time than would normally be required to complete each degree separately.

### Library and Information Technology

The University of Memphis law library serves students, faculty, the legal community, and the public with reference services and access to its collection of print and electronic resources. The law library occupies five levels of the historic School of Law building and offers students many options for study—from study rooms to a three-sided glass reading room overlooking the Mississippi River. Students have access to computers in labs and open study areas. There is wireless access throughout the building.

## Student Programs and Activities

The *University of Memphis Law Review* is a scholarly journal edited and staffed entirely by students. Law review members have numerous opportunities to improve their legal research, writing, and editing skills.

The Moot Court Board is composed of 20 third-year students who are dedicated to the development of advocacy skills. In addition to intraschool competitions, the law school fields several teams in national moot court and mock trial competitions. In recent years, University of Memphis teams have earned national recognition for their performances in major national moot court and mock trial competitions. This national recognition garnered an invitation to participate in the Moot Court National Championship in 2009 and 2010.

The Student Bar Association (SBA) is the student government of the law school. The SBA coordinates a wide variety of activities, ranging from social events to a speaker series. Students can also choose from many other student groups, ranging from legal fraternities to special interest and service organizations.

## Admission

Applicants initially are evaluated by the Admissions Office based on a weighed combination of LSAT score and cumulative undergraduate GPA as calculated by the Law School Admission Council. Those not admitted, or denied, as a result of this evaluation will be reviewed by the Faculty Admission Committee using nonquantifiable factors such as quality of the applicant's undergraduate institution, level and rigor of coursework, letters of recommendation, graduate work, employment during and after college, extracurricular activities, educational diversity, and state of residence. In an attempt to attract a diverse student population, the school has developed a selection process that reviews the merits of all qualified applicants but assures that admission is based on a comprehensive range of criteria demonstrated to be predictive of success in law school.

## Career Services

The Career Services Office actively assists students and alumni by helping them develop their interest in specific areas of the law, enhancing their professional skills, and providing information about opportunities for legal employment. A comprehensive national Internet job bank as well as a network of alumni mentors are available to help students who are interested in law careers beyond the Memphis area.

In addition to hosting a large number of firms, corporations, and public interest/governmental employers for on-campus interviewing and seminars, the School of Law is a member of several organizations that conduct annual recruiting conferences.

Employment for Memphis law graduates has remained consistently high during the last decade. Of those known graduates seeking legal employment in the graduating class of 2009, 93.75 percent were employed within nine months of graduation, as reported to the Association for Legal Career Professionals (NALP). Memphis has graduates practicing in all 50 states and in several foreign countries.

## Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law

Applicants from Tennessee as well as applicants from Crittenden County, Arkansas, and applicants from De Soto, Marshall, Tate, and Tunica counties in Mississippi are eligible to apply for the Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law (TIP) program, which facilitates law school admission for students from diverse backgrounds who do not meet traditional academic standards for admission. Participants who successfully complete the program will be guaranteed admission to the law school. The TIP program is available to all applicants who will have met the requirements for a bachelor's degree prior to the start of the program. The TIP program is a five-week program of classroom instruction that simulates the first-year law school curriculum.

# APPLICANT PROFILE GRID

The University of Memphis—Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA																				Total Apps	Total Adm		
	3.75+ Apps	3.75+ Adm	3.50– 3.74 Apps	3.50– 3.74 Adm	3.25– 3.49 Apps	3.25– 3.49 Adm	3.00– 3.24 Apps	3.00– 3.24 Adm	2.75– 2.99 Apps	2.75– 2.99 Adm	2.50– 2.74 Apps	2.50– 2.74 Adm	2.25– 2.49 Apps	2.25– 2.49 Adm	2.00– 2.24 Apps	2.00– 2.24 Adm	Below 2.00 Apps	Below 2.00 Adm	No GPA Apps	No GPA Adm				
175–180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
170–174	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
165–169	3	3	0	0	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	16
160–164	14	10	15	13	18	16	17	15	9	7	4	1	4	1	4	2	0	0	1	1	86	66		
155–159	25	19	40	32	49	33	43	26	27	14	22	3	6	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	217	130		
150–154	31	16	51	18	57	20	58	15	41	12	20	2	10	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	273	84		
145–149	13	2	16	3	40	0	42	1	28	2	20	1	10	0	5	0	2	0	2	0	178	9		
140–144	0	0	7	0	18	1	21	0	19	1	16	1	7	0	6	0	4	0	0	0	98	3		
135–139	1	0	0	0	7	0	7	0	15	0	9	0	8	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	53	0		
130–134	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	4	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	18	0		
125–129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0		
120–124	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>311</b>		

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool; highest LSAT data reported.