

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SCHOOL OF LAW
ADMISSIONS POLICY

General Information and Admissions Criteria

In our admissions process, the University of Missouri seeks to identify applicants who will be dedicated and successful law students—and active and engaged participants in the Mizzou Law community. We are looking for students who will work in a committed fashion to help develop, in themselves and in their classmates, each of the professional skills and values needed for the effective practice of law.

Every application is read in its entirety by each member of our Admissions Committee, which is comprised of both Law School faculty members and Admissions staff. When evaluating an application, we consider many criteria, including:

- Your undergraduate institution and degree program
- Your undergraduate grade point average (both overall and within your degree program)
- Your graduate institution, degree program, and grades (if any)
- Your work history
- Your military service (if any)
- Your Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score
- Your extracurricular activities
- Your leadership positions and experience
- Your public service activities
- Your career objectives
- Your personal interests
- Information contained in your letters of recommendation
- What your personal statement indicates about your initiative, your personality, your ability to express yourself in writing, and your capacity to contribute to the Mizzou Law community
- Your state of residence and your connection to the State of Missouri or the University of Missouri¹

Consistent with our obligation to train lawyers to serve the needs of all persons within our society, Mizzou Law seeks to recruit a student body that reflects our society’s rich and increasing diversity. We thus also consider whether an applicant is among the first in her or his family to attend college, has experienced and overcome significant personal adversity or socio-economic disadvantage, or is a member of a group that historically has been under-represented in legal education and in the legal profession.

¹ As the public flagship institution of the State of Missouri, the School of Law does give priority consideration to Missouri residents. Nevertheless, we welcome and encourage applicants from other states. Historically, 20-30% of each entering class is comprised of non-Missouri residents.

No one of the above factors is determinative. We do place substantial weight upon an applicant's LSAT score and undergraduate GPA, as these factors tend to correlate highly with likelihood of success on the bar examination. Law study is a significant personal and financial investment, and thus we admit only those applicants whose credentials clearly suggest that they can complete a rigorous and demanding curriculum and pass the bar examination.

Regular Admission Process

Mizzou Law uses a “rolling” admissions process. We will consider your application for admission as soon as it is complete. For an application to be complete, it must be accompanied by the required application fee (or a waiver of the fee) and must include:

- Responses to all information indicated on Mizzou Law's application for admission
- LSAT score and academic transcripts provided through LSAC's Credential Assembly Service
- A personal statement
- A resume
- All required character and fitness disclosures (as discussed further below), and
- At least two letters of recommendation (up to four are permitted). [Note: Unless you completed your undergraduate work more than five (5) years prior to your application, at least one (1) of your letters of recommendation MUST come from a professor who can address your academic abilities.]

Mizzou Law does not require a personal interview for admission. We encourage you to visit Mizzou Law in person and, during any such visit, the Admissions staff will be pleased to arrange for you to meet with one or more faculty members of the Admissions Committee.

You may submit your application beginning on September 1 for the following academic year. If you want to ensure your consideration for scholarship awards, you must apply by February 1. If you are admitted through the regular admissions process, you must make a deposit to secure your place in the entering class by a specific date (typically in early April), which will be set forth in your letter of admission.

If your application is rejected, you may request in writing that the Admissions Committee reconsider your application.

Admission by Early Decision

Mizzou Law does have a process that allows you to apply for “binding early decision.” Applications for this process are due by November 15; if you are admitted via early decision, we will notify you by December 15. By submitting an application seeking admission by early decision, you agree that if we admit you on an early-decision basis, you will attend Mizzou Law (unless you choose not to attend any law school) and you will act promptly upon your admission to withdraw any other pending law school applications. If you apply through the early decision process, we will advise you either that (a) you have been admitted, (b) your application is rejected, or (c) we will reconsider your application as part of the regular admissions process.

Character and Fitness Disclosures

Mizzou Law's application for admission requires applicants to disclose arrests and criminal history, pending criminal charges, prior or pending university or military disciplinary actions, and any professional misconduct. This includes matters that may have occurred while the applicant was a juvenile and that were addressed through the juvenile court or juvenile justice systems. Applicants must make these disclosures without regard to whether charges were dismissed or whether a conviction was suspended or expunged.

While your application is pending, or even after you have been admitted but have not yet matriculated, if any event occurs that would render your original disclosure inaccurate (e.g., you are arrested or charged with academic or nonacademic student misconduct), you must update your application immediately. This obligation continues even after your matriculation at Mizzou Law and until your graduation.

We place high importance on the integrity, maturity, and candor of applicants. The Admissions Committee can revoke an offer of admission if the Committee determines that an applicant has engaged in behavior that casts doubt on his or her honesty, maturity, moral character, or fitness to practice law. The Committee likewise may revoke an offer of admission if it determines that the applicant has provided false, incomplete, incorrect, or misleading information during the admissions process, or if new information is required to be disclosed but is not disclosed in a timely manner. Further, applicants determined to have provided incorrect, incomplete, or misleading information in their applications may be reported to LSAC's Committee on Misconduct or Irregularities in the Admission Process.

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. You should determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which you intend to seek admission by contacting that jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners. Admission to Mizzou Law is not a representation, warranty, or guaranty of your admission to the bar, whether in Missouri or any other jurisdiction.

Policy of Non-Discrimination

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability, or status as a protected veteran. Discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions is also prohibited. The University's nondiscrimination policy applies to all phases of its employment process, its admission and financial aid programs, and to all other aspects of its educational programs and activities.

Additional Admissions Programs

“Automatic” Admission through the MU Law Scholars Program

The MU Law Scholars Program provides a path for undergraduate students at MU to obtain automatic admission to Mizzou Law and to complete both a bachelor’s degree and J.D. degree in six years (rather than the customary seven years).

An MU undergraduate student may enroll as an MU Law Scholar during her or his freshman year, if she or he meet the following criteria:

- A score of 29 or above on the ACT, or a score of 1350 (math and verbal) on the SAT, and
- A rank in the top 10% of her/his graduating high school class (or, if the high school did not provide class ranks, a core grade point average of at least 3.71).

In addition, to obtain automatic admission² to Mizzou Law, a prospective MU Law Scholar must:

- complete at least 90 undergraduate semester hours of courses on the MU Campus; and
- complete all general education and major requirements within that 90 hours with a GPA of 3.5 or higher; and
- take the LSAT no later than December of the third year and score in the 75th percentile or above.

“Automatic” Admission through the Judge Ross T. Roberts Scholar Program

Mizzou Law, in cooperation with undergraduate programs at the University of Missouri, Drury University, Truman State University, Westminster College and Lincoln University, has established an honors admission program called the Judge Ross T. Roberts Scholar Program. As a Roberts Scholar, a student will be guaranteed admission³ to Mizzou Law in the fall semester immediately following graduating from college if the student meets the following criteria:

- Graduation from high school with an ACT composite score of 32 or higher, or an SAT composite score (verbal and math) of 1450 or higher (students who did not attend MU as an undergraduate must provide an official copy of their score for verification); and
- Graduation from either MU, Drury University, Truman State University, Westminster College, or Lincoln University with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher (as calculated by LSAC’s Credential Assembly Service); and
- A score at the 75th percentile or higher on the LSAT; and

² Students applying to Mizzou Law through the MU Law Scholars Program must make the same character and fitness disclosures required of all applicants, and the Committee reserves the ability to refuse admission based upon disclosures that would justify denial of an applicant without regard to satisfaction of other program requirements.

³ Students applying to Mizzou Law through the Judge Ross. T. Roberts Scholars Program must make the same character and fitness disclosures required of all applicants, and the Committee reserves the ability to refuse admission based upon disclosures that would justify denial of an applicant without regard to satisfaction of other program requirements.

- Application to and acceptance in the Judge Ross T. Roberts Scholar Program before taking the LSAT; and
- Submission of a complete application to Mizzou Law by the Judge Ross T. Roberts Scholar Program application deadline, which is typically in January.

Applicants who do not meet the criteria for admission as Roberts Scholars will still be considered for admission to Mizzou Law through the regular admission process.