

Admission Standards

Qualitative Requirements: Applicants must have earned a scholastic average of at least "C" in courses of substantive academic content and received an acceptable score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Admission will be granted to a select number of qualified applicants.

Quantitative Requirements: An applicant for admission to candidacy for the Juris Doctor degree must have received a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. An applicant who has been excluded from another law center/school or who fails to present a satisfactory scholastic record may not be considered for admission.

Other Factors: All applications are reviewed by a special committee. Among the factors considered by the committee, in addition to those stated above, are cumulative undergraduate grade point average, work experience or military service, and past pursuits. Social and economic background, ability to analyze and write well as demonstrated by the written portion of the LSAT and personal statement, and extracurricular activities are also considered. An applicant must have good moral character. If there is any indication that an applicant lacks good moral character, the burden is upon the applicant to prove through clear and convincing evidence that he or she possesses the requisite good moral character to be considered for admission. The Law Center reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant who does not fulfill this requirement.

Admission of non-resident applicants may be limited to ten percent of the first-year class.

Admission with Advanced Standing

Persons who have successfully completed work at a law center/school approved by the American Bar Association and who have met the requirements for admission to the first-year class, may upon application and presentation of proper credentials, be admitted with advanced standing.

If courses presented as a basis for advanced standing were completed at a law center/school outside the State of Louisiana, such courses may be accepted as a substitute for work done in this Law Center, but only to the extent of one year of study. Work done in a Louisiana law center/school may be accepted as the equivalent of work done at the Southern University Law Center up to a maximum of two years. Each student will be required to spend his or her senior year in residence and complete a minimum of 30 academic hours at this Law Center.

The Southern University Law Center reserves the right to refuse credits, in whole or in part, or to withdraw credit for prior work. Transfer students must present a statement from the dean of the law school last attended certifying the student's eligibility for readmission or continued enrollment at that Law School. Students who have been excluded from other law centers/schools because of scholastic deficiencies will not be admitted with advanced standing.

Visiting students are accepted for summer, fall and spring. Applications are required as well as a letter of good standing from the Dean certifying approval to visit and the number of credits transferable.

Early Law School Admission Program (Three Plus Three Program)

The Law Center in conjunction with Southern University Baton Rouge has begun an Early Law School Admission Program to admit exceptional students into law studies from the Baton Rouge campus prior to completion of their undergraduate degrees. The program is being coordinated in the Law Center and the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy.

Character, Fitness, and Other Qualifications

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners.