



Admissions and Scholarship Policy Adopted September 6, 2023

The University of Mississippi School of Law seeks to train lawyers who will enhance the legal profession and the practice of law, advance development of the law, serve the public, and improve the quality of justice throughout the nation. Moreover, as a state institution and the only public law school in Mississippi, we have a special responsibility to educate state residents and to train lawyers who will serve the legal needs of Mississippi. We believe that the educational experience is enhanced when qualified and talented students engage in thought-provoking discussions and debate with classmates who have varied backgrounds and perspectives. By analyzing alternative viewpoints, students strengthen their critical thinking, legal reasoning, and creative problem-solving skills and are better equipped to advocate for a broader community and formulate sound public policy. Our graduates succeed in a myriad of careers: public interest law, government service, private practice, the judiciary, academia, corporate counsel, business, and beyond. We seek to enroll and graduate students who will succeed in law school and continue this tradition of outstanding contribution to the legal profession and other fields.

To accomplish our educational mission, the law school will engage in a holistic file review of each application when making admission and scholarship decisions. We will consider the entirety of an applicant's file, including the following factors:

As part of our holistic file review, we consider academic qualifications and potential for success. An applicant's Law School Admissions Test score, undergraduate grade point average and graduate grade point average are important factors indicating an applicant's potential for success. Other indicators of potential for success include the applicant's letters of recommendation, the strength of the applicant's undergraduate or graduate curriculum, significant trends in the applicant's grades, the age of an applicant's grades, class rank, scholastic awards and achievements, the applicant's ability to research and write, work or military experience, leadership, extracurricular activities, and public service. The fact that an applicant has overcome adversity or hardship, achieved beyond expectation, or proven to be highly motivated are also significant factors. An applicant's role as the primary caregiver for a family member or employment while enrolled in school may also provide additional context to the applicant's record and potential for success. The law school will not admit or deny, nor award a scholarship to, any applicant based solely on numerical indicators.

Another consideration in holistic file review is achieving a multiplicity of viewpoints. To foster robust classroom discussions that will enhance the educational experience and strengthen

students' abilities, the law school will consider the extent to which an applicant will contribute to a multiplicity of viewpoints. We are looking for students with different educational, socio-economic, geographical, and family backgrounds, as well as varied experiences, perspectives, goals, academic majors, and political outlooks. Because our mission includes serving those who do not have access to legal representation, we will also consider an applicant's demonstrated concern for the underserved.

An applicant's personal statement and application essay provide important insight into the applicant's character, goals, potential to succeed, and potential contribution to an educational environment where differing perspectives are welcome and vibrant debate is encouraged. The personal statement may include discussion of a wide range of life experiences that reveal characteristics desired by the law school. The statement and essay may demonstrate an applicant's ability to communicate and advocate effectively. Each applicant will be considered based upon their unique experiences.

If discussed by the applicant, we will consider the extent to which an applicant has overcome obstacles, including racial, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or other discrimination, socio-economic status, loss of a family member, and disability or illness, when evaluating that applicant's character, courage and determination. When considering an applicant's ability to contribute to the law school, we will consider the applicant's motivation or inspiration to assume a leadership role or attain a particular goal. An applicant may have been inspired by their identity, heritage or culture, a particular area of interest or past experience, including struggles, successes, mistreatment or discrimination. An applicant may also have been inspired or motivated by a mentor, former professor, or role model.

Given our special responsibility to educate and serve the citizens of our state, we give a preference to resident applications. We may also consider an applicant's status as a former resident or as a nonresident student who attended any undergraduate school in Mississippi when assessing whether an applicant may serve the citizens of our state.

As part of our holistic file review, we also consider the applicant's record, if any, of criminal, civil, and/or student disciplinary action for academic or other reasons, along with the applicant's explanation.

The University of Mississippi School of Law is committed to equal opportunity for all regardless of race, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, age, disability, military status, protected veteran status or genetic information. This is not only required by law but is consistent with our deep commitment to the University's core values and overall philosophy as reflected in the UM Creed.

This policy will be annually reviewed by the faculty at the first fall faculty meeting in employment.