



Application Instructions

University of Illinois College of Law Admissions Timeline

September 1: College of Law begins accepting applications.

October 1: Anticipated earliest date to submit FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid www.fafsa.ed.gov) to begin financial aid process. FAFSA code for the College of Law is 001775.

March 15: Preferred application deadline.

Admissions Checklist:

Complete all required sections of the application and submit electronically through LSAC by March 15;

Attach a résumé submitted electronically through LSAC;

Attach a personal statement (2-3 pages double-spaced preferred) submitted electronically through LSAC;

Two letters of recommendation (submitted electronically through the LSAC Letter of Recommendation Service) are required. For applicants who will graduate from their undergraduate institutions within a year of attending law school, it is strongly recommended that at least two of your Letters of Recommendation be academic in nature (i.e., from a professor or teaching assistant). You may submit up to 2 additional Letters of Recommendation for a maximum of 4 Letters of Recommendation. All letters of recommendation should be either academic or professional in nature. Letters of recommendation should not come from family, friends, or relatives;

English language proficiency requirement: Applicants whose native language is not English and who have not completed an undergraduate degree at an English-speaking institution within the last five years will be required to submit a qualifying English language proficiency score. Please review [our website](#) for more details.

Illinois Law does not charge an application fee.

If you have questions about the application, please email law-admissions@illinois.edu.

Contact Information:

University of Illinois College of Law
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
201 Law Building
504 East Pennsylvania Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820
Telephone: 217.244.6415
Fax: 217.244.1478
www.law.illinois.edu



Biographical

First (given) name

Middle name/initial

Last (family) name

Suffix

Previous (other) name

Preferred first name

Date of birth

Place of birth: City

Place of birth:

Gender Identity

This information is used for demographic and reporting purposes only. Only the Office of Admissions and the Office of Student Records will have access to this information. Your responses will be kept private and secure. The information will not be used for a discriminatory purpose or in admissions decisions. You can change this information in the future by emailing law-admissions@illinois.edu prior to enrolling.

☐ Woman

☐ Man

☐ Another gender category/identity

☐ prefer not to say



Biographical continued

SSN/SIN (do not include dashes)

Account Number

Program

Applying For:

☐ 1st Time

Illinois Law requires one of either an LSAT, GRE, or JD-Next score for first-year JD applicants. You may (but certainly are not required) to submit more than one type of score. Please let us know which scores you intend to submit. Note: Your application will not be ready for review until we receive at least one of each type of score you select here. If we can see that you are registered for a future LSAT administration, we will automatically hold your application for review until that score posts.

☐ LSAT

☐ JD-Next

☐ GRE



Why Illinois Essay

Please describe why you are interested in attending the University of Illinois College of Law. This statement should address how Illinois Law is uniquely situated to help you reach your academic and professional goals. This could include specific academic programs or professional outcomes; it could include family and personal obligations.

[illegible]



Joint Degree Program

Are you interested in pursuing a joint degree at the University of Illinois?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you are interested in pursuing a joint degree, please tell us which degree, whether you have applied to the other program and/or when you anticipate applying to the other program. You may decide to pursue a joint degree during your first year of law school. If that is the case, please indicate that here, as well.

Residency

In which state do you claim legal residence?

Have you lived in the above state your entire life?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If not, in what year did you move to this state?

Does at least one of your parents maintain a permanent residence in Illinois?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please type in Parent(s) Name:

Parent's Address:

City and State:

Length of time at address (in years):



County

If a resident of Illinois, please select your county.

Language

Are you a native English-language speaker?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If no, did you complete your post-secondary degree at an English-speaking institution within the last five years?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If no, I have reviewed the English-language proficiency requirements on the [Illinois Law website](#) and understand that I may be required to submit a qualifying English-language proficiency score.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Law School Attendance

Have you previously attended law school?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please give school name:

Dates of Attendance:

Did you leave the law school in good standing? If no, please attach a supplementary statement explaining the circumstances.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Have you previously applied to the JD Program at the University of Illinois College of Law?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, when?



Law School Attendance continued

What was the decision?

- ☐ Admit
☐ Deny
☐ Waitlist

If either your education was interrupted and/or there is a gap in your resume/employment, please submit a supplementary statement explaining the circumstances.

Geographic Interest

Where (geographically) do you hope to practice law after graduating from law school?



Areas of Interest

At this time, which areas of law are you looking forward to learning about the most? Select any that apply.

- ☐ Bankruptcy Law
- ☐ Business/Corporate/Securities Law
- ☐ Human Rights Law
- ☐ Constitutional Law
- ☐ Criminal Law and Procedure
- ☐ Employment/Labor Law
- ☐ Environmental Law
- ☐ Family Law
- ☐ Health Law
- ☐ Immigration Law
- ☐ Intellectual Property and Technology Law
- ☐ International and Comparative Law
- ☐ Trial Advocacy
- ☐ Public Interest Law
- ☐ Real Estate/Land Use Planning
- ☐ Tax Law
- ☐ Torts/Product Liability
- ☐ Trust/Estates Law



Character and Fitness

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.

When answering the questions below, if you are unsure whether an incident in your past requires an affirmative response, you are advised to contact the Office of Admissions at (217) 244-6415 to request clarification. Failure to respond candidly and completely to one of these questions is a serious matter in itself. Answering "yes" to any of the questions below will not automatically bar you from admission to the College of Law. If, following your completion of this application, matters arise that would require you to answer "yes" to any of the questions below, you are required to supplement your application with complete details. Your answer will be reviewed on an individual basis in relation to all aspects of your experience, academic achievement, and potential. You must submit a supplementary statement with any affirmative responses providing complete details, including dates and resolution. Your supplementary statement must be self-contained. The College of Law will not conduct its own investigation into the matter.

Have you ever been subject to disciplinary proceedings or actions for academic or other reasons in any of the colleges and universities, graduate, or professional schools you have attended, or are such charges pending or expected to be brought against you?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense, either as a juvenile or as an adult, or is there now pending against you any indictment, criminal information, or criminal complaint? This includes matters that have been expunged or sealed.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Have you ever served in the military?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you did serve in the military, did you receive less than an honorable discharge (other than discharge based solely on sexual orientation)? If your response is "no," a supplementary statement is not required. If your response is "yes," attach your explanation in the Supplementary Statement Attachment.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Did you answer "yes" to any of questions 1, 2, or 4 in this Character & Fitness Section?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Attachment Checklist

I have attached a Personal Statement.

☐ Yes

☐ No

I have attached a Résumé.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Release of Name

Our students, graduates, and student organizations occasionally ask for the names, addresses, and emails of applicants so they can communicate with applicants about the College of Law. Do we have your permission to provide this information?

☐ Yes

☐ No

University of Illinois System Privacy Statement

The University of Illinois [System Privacy Statement](#) explains how the University processes personal information and sensitive personal information, including for persons applying for admission from outside the United States. You are encouraged to read this statement if you have questions about your privacy, including who to contact at the University of Illinois, any rights you may have under applicable privacy laws, and how you can file a complaint. Please agree to the following statement:

To complete my application, I consent to the University of Illinois processing my personal information, including my sensitive personal information, in the United States on University of Illinois servers and systems and/or third party servers and systems, including cloud hosted systems.

☐ I consent.



Certification

By electronically certifying this application, I understand that withholding information requested on this application or giving false or misleading information may make me ineligible for admission to the University of Illinois College of Law or subject to dismissal. I also certify that my personal statement and any optional essays submitted in support of my application are my own work product and were not substantially drafted by another person or by using artificial intelligence. I am familiar with the Law School Admission Council's Rules Governing Misconduct and Irregularities in the Admission Process and understand that conduct that may fall within the scope of the rules will be referred to LSAC for investigation. With this in mind, I certify that the above statements are correct and complete.

I understand that I am under a continuing obligation to disclose immediately to the College of Law any and all circumstances and events occurring after the dates of submission of my application which may bear on my character and fitness. I will report any such circumstances and events so occurring on a separate sheet of paper bearing my name, LSAC Account Number, and signature.

I have read the certification and agree to abide by its terms.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Name:

Date:

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX notice of nondiscrimination is located at go.uillinois.edu/StatementonSexDiscrimination.

Personal Statement

Include a typed personal statement of 2 to 3 pages, double-spaced. There is no formula for a successful personal statement, and different applicants will have different approaches and topics for their essays. At Illinois Law, we look beyond test scores and grades to find the applicants that are best suited for success. We encourage you to discuss significant life experiences; meaningful extracurricular activities; why you have chosen to pursue a career in the law; significant obstacles met and overcome; particular political, philosophical, or religious beliefs; prior careers; or experiences relating to disadvantage of any kind. Any of these subjects, and countless others, could be appropriate for your personal statement and will assist the committee in selecting the best individuals to study at Illinois Law.



Resume

For law school application purposes, we are interested in learning about your professional and academic pursuits AFTER high school. You do not need to include your high school information or test scores on your resume. Additionally, it is perfectly acceptable to submit a resume that is longer than one page if that is necessary. Finally, we love a brief hobbies and interests section. We want to get to know you!

A successful resume can include:

(A) positions of full-time or significant part-time employment, paid or unpaid, including the name and location of your employer, your job title, and the dates you held the position, along with any other information you think will be useful;

(B) significant extracurricular/non-work-related activities;

(C) academic and non-academic honors and awards received, including fellowships, prizes, and memberships in honor societies; and

(D) hobbies or special areas of interest or academic pursuits.

Character and Fitness

If you answered "yes" to question 5 of the Character and Fitness section, attach your supplementary statement here.



Supplemental Essays

Supplemental essays allow you an opportunity to provide us with relevant information that you were not able to include elsewhere in your application materials or that did not fit thematically with your personal statement. If you think writing on any of the topics below would help us get a better understanding of what you individually bring to the law school class, we encourage you to consider submitting your responses to one or two (but no more) of the following topics. Your response to each essay should be less than 500 words. Please use a minimum of 11 point font and double space your responses. Please be sure to include the number of the prompt you are addressing at the top of your essay.

Essay Prompt #1

Describe a challenge, failure, or setback you have faced and overcome, whether long-term and systemic (e.g., socioeconomic, health, or complex family circumstances) or short-term and discrete (e.g., a workplace scenario or a particularly demanding course). How did you confront it? What, if anything, might you do differently?

Essay Prompt #2

Describe a quality or skill you have and discuss how you expect it will help you in your legal career.

Essay Prompt #3

Tell us about a time in the recent past when you changed your mind about something significant.

Essay Prompt #4

Our law school culture is one of encouragement, cooperation, and collaboration. We actively seek out students who exhibit those characteristics, even when it is not convenient or easy. Describe a recent experience when you exhibited any or all of these characteristics.

Essay Prompt #5

One of the goals of our admissions process is to enroll students who will enrich the quality and breadth of the intellectual life of our law school community and the legal profession. How have your lived experiences and perspectives positively shaped who you are today in a way that contributes to our admissions goals?

Essay Prompt #6

Think of someone who knows you in an academic or professional setting, but doesn't know you well (i.e., not a family member or a close friend). How would they describe your work ethic, written or oral communication skills, and/or professionalism? Would their description be accurate? Why or why not?

Essay Prompt #7

Provide insight into your potential to contribute to a community of inclusion, belonging, and respect in which scholars with varied perspectives, abilities, and experiences can learn and collaborate productively and positively.

Addendum

Please address any concerns you may have in your application. If, for example, you do not believe that your academic credentials demonstrate your true capabilities, please explain why. Also, describe any gaps in your academic career and work experience or any extenuating circumstances in your profile of which the admissions committee should be made aware. Please limit your response to 250 words or less, minimum 11 point font, double-spaced.

Additional Documents

If you have additional documents for your application file, attach them here.