

## COLLEGE OF LAW

### General

Stetson University College of Law publishes its own separate *Viewbook*. A copy may be obtained by writing to the Admissions Office, Stetson University College of Law, 1401 – 61st Street South, Gulfport, Florida, 33707.

Stetson University College of Law, founded in 1900, is Florida's first law school. Students may earn a J.D. degree by attending classes on a full-time or part-time basis. Those with a J.D. or foreign law equivalent may pursue an LL.M. degree in International Law or Elder Law (an online program); foreign attorneys also may apply for advanced standing in the J.D. program. For more than half a century, the law school was located in DeLand, Florida, on the University's main campus. In 1954, the College relocated to Gulfport, Florida, a residential municipality contiguous to St. Petersburg, Florida. Although the College is now approximately 150 miles distant from the main campus, it continues to be an integral part of the Stetson University system. In 2004, the College of Law opened a satellite campus in downtown Tampa. Limited part-time and full-time classes are held at this location. Florida's Second District Court of Appeal has offices in and hears arguments in this building. The Tampa Law Center places the College within easy access of the many educational opportunities afforded by a heavy concentration of law firms, courts, and corporations.

The College is approved by the American Bar Association and has been a member of the Association of American Law Schools since 1931.

### Library and Physical Facilities

The main Law School campus, located on 21 acres, is adapted from an early type of Mediterranean Revival architecture. The buildings, constructed around plazas and connected by arcades, or loggias, after the plan of ancient monasteries, are remarkably utilitarian and completely air-conditioned.

Educational facilities include six large classrooms, all fully wired for technology; five courtrooms, including the country's first elder-friendly, barrier-free courtroom; offices for the law review; five seminar rooms; a new Student Center; and a state-of-the-art Law Library and Information Center. The College has its own cafeteria, tennis court, basketball court, fitness center, and swimming pool. The Great Hall is used for dining and other functions. Overlooking the campus's central plaza are dormitory rooms. Other living facilities include the John T. Rosa apartment complex and 50 auxiliary homes.

The College of Law's Law Library and Information Center has the Mediterranean Revival design that pays homage to the architectural style of the Rolyat Hotel (the original building of the College of Law). This beautiful building houses more than 413,000 volumes and provides access to the legal resources now available to students and faculty on the World Wide Web. Students and faculty can sit down at virtually any seat in the building and connect a laptop computer to the campus network, or access the wireless Internet. There are 155 carrels, 19 four-person study rooms, 8 six-person conference rooms, 2 eight-person conference rooms, over 400 seats at tables, and 32 lounge chairs and benches. This magnificent new building brings innovation and technology that will carry us well into the twenty-first century. The Tampa Law Center includes a satellite library that boasts several study rooms, a new reading room, and both wired and wireless technology.

### Pre-Law Preparation

The College of Law prescribes no particular major as a prerequisite for admission; nonetheless, there are important skills, values, and significant bodies of knowledge that can be acquired before law school that will provide a sound foundation for legal education. Rather than seek out law courses as an undergraduate, students should prepare for law school by choosing courses that will develop skills in analysis, problem solving, written and oral communication,

research, task organization and management; abilities in critical reading, listening and in oral and written communication; and the values of serving others and promoting justice. Some basic areas of knowledge that are important to the development of a competent lawyer that should be developed before entering law school include history, political thought, theories of ethics and justice, economics, basic finance, human behavior and diverse cultures.

### **Application and Admission**

New full-time J.D. students may be admitted in fall or spring. Part-time J.D. students are admitted only for the fall semester. Students who enter during the spring semester (which starts in January) are required to attend the first summer session after their entrance. LL.M. students may start in the fall or spring; LL.M. students may attend on a full-time or part-time basis. Applications from members of minority groups and from women are encouraged.

Application forms may be obtained by calling 727-562-7802 or writing to the Office of Admissions, Stetson University College of Law, 1401 61st Street South, Gulfport, Florida 33707, or on the College's Web site (e-mail: lawadmit@law.stetson.edu, Web address: [www.law.stetson.edu/admissions](http://www.law.stetson.edu/admissions)).

Completed application forms accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee of \$55 should be sent by the applicant directly to the Office of Admissions. The application fee will be waived in a case of extreme financial hardship.

All J.D. applicants are required to take the Law School Admission Test and register for the Law School Data Assembly Service. Registration forms and a bulletin of information may be obtained from Law School Admissions Council, Box 2000, Newtown, PA 18940 or [www.LSAC.org](http://www.LSAC.org).

As a prerequisite to enrollment, each approved applicant is required to have earned a baccalaureate degree from a college or university that has been accredited by an accrediting association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Special admission programs are available to qualified Stetson undergraduate students.

In reviewing a J.D. applicant's qualifications, the faculty committee on admissions gives primary consideration to the cumulative undergraduate grade-point average and the LSAT score. However, all other relevant data concerning the individual are evaluated, with special regard to the college's goal of obtaining a student body profile reflecting diversity and potential for significant achievement. All applicants must present satisfactory evidence of good character.

### **Basic Program of Study and Degree Requirements**

To be eligible for the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.), a student must complete a minimum of 88 semester hours of credit with a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.0. In addition, to meet residency requirements, a student in the full-time J.D. program must take classes over six semesters or its equivalent, four of which must be at Stetson. Full-time study requires completion of ten or more hours per semester and five or more hours per summer session. Students in the part-time J.D. program typically will attend for four full years, including three summers.

The College offers a course of instruction planned to equip the graduate for effective service in those areas in which the fundamental knowledge and skills of a lawyer are required. Effort is made to give students a broad perspective of the role of the lawyer and the law in a changing society and an understanding of how they as future community leaders will be responsible for improving the law and for bringing about desirable social change.

### **Special Programs**

Stetson's well-known and widely-emulated clinical programs offer a wide range of legal venues where upper-level law students can work. These clinical programs permit students to work with government agencies and other legal services providers in a wide variety of contexts. Locations at which students may work include the State Attorney's Office, Office of the Public

Defender, U.S. Attorney's Office, National Labor Relations Board, and local legal services offices. In the federal government litigation internship, students have the opportunity to work with federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Veterans Administration. An In-House Counsel Internship places students in non-profit and for-profit businesses. The judicial internship program places students with local federal and state judges, offering the students an inside look at the workings of the judicial process. Students may also participate in the Summer Law and Policy Internship Program based in Washington, D.C. Stetson offers a joint J.D./M.B.A. program with the School of Business Administration of Stetson University, which permits students to obtain both degrees in a shorter time than would otherwise be required. The College of Law also co-sponsors J.D./M.P.H. and J.D./M.D. dual-degree programs with the University of South Florida. Stetson also offers the Spain Summer Abroad Program, the Argentina Summer Abroad Program, the Freiburg/Hague Summer Abroad Program, and the China Summer Abroad Program. A new intercession program affords students the opportunity to study in the Caribbean in January, and a new Spring Break program allows students to study abroad for one week in March.

### **Tuition and Fees**

For the 2008 summer session, tuition will be \$7,660 for full-time students and \$5,290 for part-time students. For fall term 2008 and spring term 2009, full-time tuition will be \$15,250. For fall term 2008 and spring term 2009, part-time tuition will be \$10,530. All fees and other charges, refund policies, and current financial aid programs are available from the College. The College reserves the right to change tuition charges, or other charges or fees, before the beginning of any semester or summer session.

### **Housing**

Accommodations for 40 students are available in dorms at the Gulfport campus. The Rosa complex, located three blocks from the campus, includes 32 two-bedroom apartments. Approximately 50 single-family dwellings are also available.

### **Career Development**

The College of Law makes no specific claims or guarantees about employment prospects for its graduates. However, the College does maintain an active career development office to assist students in obtaining employment information and scheduling employment interviews. Placement surveys are conducted on each graduating class, and the results provide up-to-date information regarding the percentage of responding graduates who obtained employment in legal positions and the average starting salary for such positions. In addition to the placement surveys, Stetson maintains a Web site that provides our alumni and graduates with 24-hour access to job postings. The College also has the Resource Room that is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The Resource Room has computers, printers, facsimiles, typewriters, and career service-related information available to our alumni and students.