



STETSON LAW

### **LL.M. Admission Policy for Faculty Committee on Admissions and Entering Awards**

Stetson University College of Law, through its Admissions Committee, seeks diverse and highly-qualified students who will contribute to a stimulating intellectual environment. Such a diverse and inclusive environment challenges teachers, students, and others in the law school community to strive for excellence in all they do.

The determination of whether a given candidate will meet this standard is necessarily imprecise. To ensure fairness and consistency in the review process, each candidate will receive a holistic, individualized review that gives serious consideration to all the ways a candidate might contribute to the educational environment at the College of Law and to their success in the program. LL.M. Program Directors and the Chair of the Faculty Committee on Admissions and Entering Awards will make final decisions on the overwhelming majority of candidates for their respective programs, with the support of the Admissions Committee.

Applicants for admission to the LL.M. programs must have received a J.D. degree at an ABA-accredited law school, or in the case of foreign applicants, at a law school approved by appropriate authorities in a country other than the U.S. Applicants who received a J.D. degree from a U.S. law school that is not, or at the time of the applicant's graduation was not, accredited by the American Bar Association may be considered for admission if the applicant (1) is licensed to practice law in at least one state within the U.S., (2) can provide proof of good standing from that state's bar, and (3) has a strong resume showing interest and/or experience in the program for which the Candidate is applying. All applicants must demonstrate strong academic achievement and must be proficient in the English language.

The College of Law recognizes that competence and experience indicators may assist in assessing a candidate's potential contribution to the law school's intellectual environment and the diversity of that environment. This may be demonstrated, for example, by educational attainments beyond the law degree, notable military service, or career achievements. Although there can be no definitive list, other such factors include the perceived rigor of the academic program the applicant has pursued, the tone and quality of the candidate's personal statement, and the strength of letters of recommendation.

In addition to competence, a student can also contribute to a stimulating intellectual environment through the perspectives he or she brings to the life of the law school both inside the classroom and out. The richness of academic discourse depends on the presence of diverse viewpoints and experiences, in particular those viewpoints and experiences brought by members of groups that have been historically underrepresented or discriminated against. As the practice of law becomes increasingly global, a lawyer must appreciate the diversity of the world beyond the borders of his or her country.

Among the diversity factors that the College of Law considers important to its educational environment are racial and ethnic diversity; success in overcoming adversity and economic or social disadvantage; being the first in a family to attend college; sex, disability, age, geographic background, religion, national origin, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

The Program Director for the applicant's program and Chair of the Admissions Committee also will consider a candidate's criminal background and history, if any, in making admissions decisions. Law license and other professional disciplinary action including reprimands, expulsions, and disbarments, as well as a denial of admission to the bar, may be relevant to a candidate's participation in the law school community, and the College of Law will consider that information in making admissions decisions. Applicants and matriculated students have a continuing duty to fully disclose to the College of Law all such information; failure to do so may constitute a violation of the Academic Honor Code or the Code of Student Professionalism and Conduct.

These procedures will be reviewed annually by the Admissions Committee. Any change in policy as a result of this regular review will be submitted to the College of Law faculty for ratification.

The Faculty Admissions Committee adheres to the College of Law's Nondiscrimination Policy (available at <http://www.stetson.edu/other/title-ix/media/titleix-policy-2017-18-updated.pdf> and re-printed below) in making admission and scholarship decisions.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

It is the policy of Stetson University, consisting of its multiple campuses, wherever located (collectively the "University") not to discriminate on the basis of sex, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, parenting status, race, age, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, physical characteristics or any category protected by federal, state or local law in its educational programs, activities or employment. The policy is enforced by Stetson, and where applicable, federal laws such as Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1972 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. The University is an equal opportunity education institution.

*Approved by the faculty on September 26, 2017.*