



STETSON LAW

## **General Policy for Faculty Committee on Admissions and Entering Awards**

Stetson University College of Law, through its Admissions Committee, seeks diverse entering classes that will provide a stimulating intellectual environment, both in the classroom and on the campus more generally. Such a diverse and inclusive environment challenges teachers, students, and others in the law school community to strive for excellence in all they do.

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. While the Assistant Dean of Strategic Enrollment Management and the Director of Admissions will make final decisions on the overwhelming majority of candidates, the Admissions Committee will support the staff by agreeing to the importance of certain criteria to ensure fairness and consistency in the review process. Stetson University College of Law admits applicants who appear capable of satisfactorily completing its program of legal education and being admitted to the bar, if they so choose, as required by ABA Standards. Specific admission requirements are included in the application instructions and are reviewed and approved every year by the Faculty Committee on Admissions and Entering Awards.

One set of criteria considered by the College of Law includes various predictors of the candidate's competence as a law student, such as undergraduate grade point average (UGPA) and Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score. Continuous statistical analysis of UGPA, LSAT, and the combination of these two predictor variables has convinced us that they foretell individual performance with sufficient reliability to constitute an important factor in the admission decision. The Assistant Dean, Director, and members of the Committee, however, may also consider the difficulty of the undergraduate institution (in terms of both admissions and curriculum), the difficulty of the undergraduate major, the types of courses selected, whether grades have improved during the applicant's tenure (particularly during the last two years), whether and to what degree the undergraduate institution tends to inflate final grades, and whether extenuating circumstances affected the candidate's undergraduate performance.

The College of Law recognizes that many other factors can indicate a candidate's potential contribution to the law school's intellectual environment. Competence may be demonstrated by, for example, educational attainments beyond the undergraduate degree, indications of excellence in some of the basic skills of lawyering like advocacy and negotiation, career achievements, the tone and quality of the candidate's personal statement, their professional experience, and the strength of letters of recommendation.

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. 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; color; national origin; marital status; veteran status; sexual orientation; gender identity; and gender expression.

The Admissions Committee also will consider a candidate's criminal background and history, if any, in making admissions decisions. Such an inquiry is made by The Florida Bar, as well as the bars in other states. Because a criminal record and other delinquent activities (including academic and behavioral discipline by an educational institution and discipline under or loss of another professional license) may be grounds to deny admission to a bar, and because such factors may be relevant to a candidate's participation in the law school community, 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 December 3, 2003; amended by the faculty November 24, 2008; amended by the faculty on May 4, 2011; revised for administrative change June 2015; amended by the faculty September 26, 2017.*