Since its establishment in 1908, UK Law has provided programs of legal instruction, research, and service to the state and to the bar. The College of Law program is designed so graduates can practice their profession on a local, regional, or national level. The College is accredited by all agencies which establish standards for law schools, including the Association of American Law Schools and the American Bar Association.

The program consists of a three-year general law curriculum designed to be completed in six semesters (or in five semesters and two summer sessions). The program is designed to assist students in acquiring the skills required for the solution of modern legal problems; gaining an appreciation for and understanding of the legal, social, and political institutions on which the administration of justice rests; and preparing for the policy and ethical decisions which must be made in practicing law.

The Faculty
UK Law has a full-time faculty and staff composed of 36 professors, 14 administrators, and 17 library and support personnel. They are assisted by a number of part-time and adjunct professors, as well as visiting professors.

The Library
The Alvin E. Evans Law Library contains the state’s most comprehensive print collection of primary legal materials, as well as access to a growing list of premium legal databases, including WestlawNext, Lexis Advance, Checkpoint, Making of Modern Law, and HeinOnline. In addition, there are reference services to provide students with assistance in identifying, locating, and using resources within the collection.

The Law Building
UK Law occupies a contemporary building located on the main campus of UK. The building was planned to provide all of the special physical facilities required for a modern legal education. Facilities include “smart” classrooms, a model courtroom-auditorium, the library, faculty and staff offices, and student organization offices.

Other Facilities and Information
Since 1912 the College has published the Kentucky Law Journal, a quarterly periodical and the tenth oldest American law review. This journal is published by a student staff, and election to the staff is based on high academic achievement and proven ability to write and conduct research. Articles, notes, and comments written by legal scholars, attorneys, and students are published.

The student-run Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture & Natural Resources Law has been published since 1983, originally as the Journal of Natural Resources and Environmental Law.

Practical training in trial and appellate advocacy is provided in litigation skills and clinical courses, and in co-curricular Moot Court Board and Trial Advocacy Board. Teams representing the College compete in annual competitions.

Instruction in legal research and writing is available to all students, not only in required courses designed for this purpose, but also in seminars, drafting projects, and opportunities for independent study. The College operates an externship program to provide students with a variety of clinical learning experiences. In 1997, the UK Legal Clinic opened, which gives students the opportunity to represent low-income individuals on a variety of legal matters.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

1. The UK Law application and $50 application fee (paid by credit card) must be submitted online through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) at www.lsac.org.

2. The applicant must obtain a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution prior to enrollment at UK Law. Transcript(s) should be submitted to the LSAC Credentials Assembly Service (CAS). Be sure to provide transcripts from all institutions from which you have received credits. CAS simplifies the admissions process by providing a centralized service to submit application materials. Applicants should register for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and CAS at the same time.

3. The applicant must take the LSAT. Registration and information for the LSAT are available from LSAC. The Admissions Committee will view all scores, but in most cases, will consider only the highest score. UK Law requires applicants to retake the LSAT if the most recent test was more than three years before expected enrollment.

4. The applicant must submit at least two (2) letters of recommendation from those with personal knowledge of the applicant’s abilities and qualifications to study law. Letters of recommendation must be submitted through LSAC’s Letter of Recommendation and Evaluation Service.

5. The applicant must submit a personal statement in accordance with the instructions on the application. The applicant must write the statement using his/her own words and ideas. The personal statement will be used both as a sample of writing ability and for insight into the applicant’s personality.

The Admission Process
The admission process at UK Law involves a “full-file review” of each candidate’s application. The goal is to admit a talented and diverse student body that enhances the educational process while serving the needs of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the legal profession. UK Law accepts entering student applications for the fall semester only, and does not offer a part-time program. In measuring your academic potential, the Admissions Committee will begin with your undergraduate GPA (lower quartile, median, upper quartile) and your highest score on the LSAT. Additional academic factors that are considered include: writing skills; trend of college grades; letters of recommendation; interval between college graduation and your law school application; performance of students from your undergraduate school; college grading and course selection patterns; and effect outside work could have on your undergraduate performance. Other nonacademic factors that the Admissions Committee considers include: geographic diversity; cultural background; achievements and leadership positions; perseverance and accomplishment under adverse circumstances; diversity of
reasons for attending law school; and potential for providing legal services to underserved segments of the population. However, your application must show evidence of your ability to succeed academically at UK Law before non-academic factors can play a role in the admission decision. There is no admission interview. Applicants are encouraged to add relevant addenda to their application.

**Admission of Transfer Students**

At a minimum, applicants for transfer from a law school should present a 2.7 average on at least 25 hours of law school work. The Admissions Committee will consider the applicant’s law school record, as well as all factors the Committee considers in a first-year application.

Admission as a transfer student beyond the first semester of the second year is rare, and will not be granted if you have completed more than 44 hours of law school work. Acceptance by the Admissions Committee in no way implies that all credits from another law school will be accepted for transfer credit.

**Procedure for Application**

Applications and application fees must be submitted online through LSAC at [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org).

**Submission Dates and Deadlines**

First-year applications are accepted beginning September 1 with an application deadline of March 15. Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis. The Admissions Committee begins its evaluation of files in November, with the majority of decisions being made between January and April. Applicants will be notified of their application status as soon as possible after their file is reviewed by the Admissions Committee.

**College of Law Withdrawal Policy**

All students enrolled at UK Law are expected to complete their degree requirements without interruption other than for regularly scheduled vacation periods. It is expected that students will complete all courses or seminars in which they are enrolled. Contact UK Law for complete information about rules specific to withdrawal.

**PRELEGAL STUDY**

If you are already in college and are now thinking about law school, do not worry if you have selected a major that is not usually thought of in connection with law. Law schools accept students from a wide range of undergraduate backgrounds. You should choose a major in which you personally are interested, not one that someone else has suggested as being the best major for law school. If you choose a major that really interests you, then you are more likely to perform well in your classes and have a better college GPA, which will be an important part of your law school application. Also, if you decide later not to attend law school, you want to have selected a college major that can lead to other career options that appeal to you.

We recommend taking classes that require you to write papers for critique by your teachers. Writing is a very important skill in college, in law school, and in almost every profession. You also may want to take at least one logic course, which is a major part of the LSAT.

After you have selected your major and are advancing in your course work, start thinking about which faculty members you would like to have write letters of recommendation for you. These will be required or strongly preferred by almost every law school to which you may apply. The best letters of recommendation come from faculty who have had you in one or more classes, who are familiar with your written work, and who can write about your performance as a student and your preparation for law school. You should make an effort to get to know at least one faculty member each semester, so that you will have several faculty whom you can ask to write letters on your behalf.

As a junior, start planning when you will take the LSAT. There is a great deal of information about the LSAT on the LSAC Web site ([www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)). You should plan to take the test after you have been able to allocate the appropriate amount of study time. You should never take the LSAT unprepared: your score is valid for up to 5 years. The earliest you should take the LSAT is the summer between your junior and senior years.

For additional information, students should obtain the current LSAC Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools. Interested UK undergraduate students should also visit [www.uky.edu/US/pre-law.html](http://www.uky.edu/US/pre-law.html)

**THE DEGREE OF JURIS DOCTOR**

Students admitted to UK Law are eligible for the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.) upon completion of a minimum of three academic years (six full-time semesters or equivalent) of residence and 90 semester hours of courses with a grade-point average of at least 2.0.

All courses in the first year of law study are required, as is a course in professional responsibility and an upper division writing course.

Because the study of law at UK is a full-time pursuit, all law students are expected to carry a full academic program (14-16 credit hours each semester). Second and third year students may work up to 20 hours per week.

For the UK Law Overview, interested students may view a copy online at: [www.law.uky.edu/index.php?pid=426](http://www.law.uky.edu/index.php?pid=426). For specific information about the courses and policies of UK Law, students should visit: [www.law.uky.edu](http://www.law.uky.edu). Interested applicants may contact UK Law Admissions at (859) 218-1699, or by e-mail at: uklawadmissions@uky.edu.