Standards of Admission

To be considered for admission to the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana (“Blewett School of Law” or “law school”), applicants must properly follow the instructions on the Application Instructions page, which includes:

- Registering with the Law School Admission Council;
- Completing the Law School Admission Test (“LSAT”) and/or the Graduate Record Examination (“GRE”);
- Submitting:
  - a personal statement;
  - a minimum of two letters of recommendation;
  - a current resume; and
- Earning a baccalaureate degree from a regionally-accredited U.S. or Canadian college or university—or the foreign equivalent whose program has been deemed comparable to that of a 4-year baccalaureate degree—prior to registration of the fall semester, beginning in August of each year.

Applicants must be of good moral character and must maintain good moral character as a condition of continuing enrollment.

During the admissions review process, the law school seeks future students who will achieve the highest standards of academic performance, professional responsibility, and demonstrate a commitment to serving their communities. We have a faculty-based admissions committee. The admissions committee includes members of the faculty, director of admissions (ex officio), and one student nominated by the Student Bar Association (ex officio). The application review process is guided by the policy and principles set forth in the law school's mission statement.

LSAT: Law School Admission Test

First-year J.D. applicants applying to the Blewett School of Law under the normal admission process must take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). We recommend that applicants fully prepare to take the LSAT. The LSAT is currently offered nine times a year. We strongly recommend taking the test no later than the January administration, as our priority application deadline is March 1st of each year. As space permits, we will consider applicants who have scores from late test administrations. If an applicant takes the LSAT more than once, the highest score is used for reporting purposes, but all scores will be evaluated. LSAT scores older than five years will not be accepted. Applicants applying to the Blewett School of Law under the normal admission process should fill out and submit the A1 application form.

GRE: Graduate Record Examination

Beginning in the fall of 2019, the Blewett School of Law will accept GRE scores in lieu of an LSAT score. First-year J.D. applicants applying to the Blewett School of law under this admission process must take the GRE. If you choose to apply with the GRE, you must submit all valid GRE rest results for the last five years. You may not choose which results to share. This parallels the requirement that five years of LSAT scores be disclosed on an application. Similarly, with the LSAT, we will accept an explanation for discrepancies between multiple GRE scores. Any applicant who wishes to submit an addendum is free to
do so. Applicants who take the GRE (instead of or in addition to the LSAT) must have Educational Testing Services (ETS) send the Blewett School of Law all GRE scores from the prior 5-year period. The ETS school code for the Blewett School of Law is 4537.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the law school receives their official GRE report. The priority application deadline is March 1st of each year. If an applicant decides to apply to the law school with a GRE score, but has a reportable LSAT score, the applicant must include their LSAT score in their application and submit their official LSAT score to the law school. In other words, any GRE or LSAT taken with the past five years must be reported to the Blewett School of Law. Applicants applying to the Blewett School of Law with a GRE score should fill out and submit the A4 application form and must subscribe to and utilize the LSAC Credential Assembly Service (CAS).

**Expedited Admissions Program**

Applicants may qualify to apply for our Expedited Admissions Program, which does not require an LSAT or GRE score. A candidate must apply under the general application procedure through LSAC if any of the following requirements are not met, register for LSAC’s Credential Assembly Service (CAS), and follow the instructions for the A1 or A4 Application.

To qualify for the Expedited Admissions Program, candidates must have received a baccalaureate degree from the University of Montana within the academic year immediately prior to anticipated matriculation. The remaining requirements for the Expedited Admissions Program are set forth below:

- The student must have scored at or above the 85th percentile on the ACT or SAT; and
- The student must have ranked in the top 10% of their undergraduate class after at least six semesters of academic work, or achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above after at least six semesters of academic work.

If a candidate has a reportable LSAT score(s), they must report their score, even if they qualify to apply under this Expedited Admission Program.

Applicants applying to the Blewett School of Law through the Expedited Admissions Program will fill out the application form on the law school website: [https://www.umt.edu/law/files/admissions/expedited-admission-program-application.pdf](https://www.umt.edu/law/files/admissions/expedited-admission-program-application.pdf). If admitted, a student must then fill out and submit an A3 application form. The priority application deadline for the Expedited Admissions Program is March 1st.

**3+3 Admissions Program (Rocky Mountain College--pending, Carroll College)**

Qualified undergraduate students at Rocky Mountain College (“Rocky”) or Carroll College (“Carroll”) have the opportunity to apply to the Blewett School of Law’s 3+3 Program. The purpose of this program is to allow Rocky and Carroll students to complete both their baccalaureate degree and Juris Doctor in six years rather than the more typical seven years. It is the responsibility of the applicant to meet with their undergraduate advisor at their respective institution to ensure they qualify to apply to the 3+3 program.

Rev. August 05, 2019
Students who meet the required criteria (as determined by their undergraduate institution) must apply to the Blewett School of Law using the A2 Application. 3+3 applicants must provide a written approval from an appropriate undergraduate official indicating that the applicant will meet all undergraduate requirements for early entry to the law school prior to enrolling in the law school. All 3+3 applicants must be accepted to the law school through its established admissions process. The application deadline for 3+3 applicants is **February 1st**, and will receive expedited review with notice of an admission decision two-four weeks after receipt of a completed application.

**Credential Assembly Service**

Each applicant is also required to register for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS), including those students applying with a GRE score. Applicants register with the LSAC Credential Assembly Service at [www.LSAC.org](http://www.LSAC.org) or by calling (215) 968-1001. LSAC will create a CAS report that contains an applicant’s LSAT score(s) (if applicable), writing samples, copies and analysis of academic transcripts, and copies of letters of recommendation and online evaluations. We require at least two recommendation letters to complete an applicant’s file—and recommend at least one of them be an academic recommendation or evaluation. Upon receipt of an application and application fee, we will request a copy of the CAS Report from LSAC. Once a file is deemed “complete,” the file is ready to be reviewed by the faculty admissions committee. The law school will not accept transcripts or letters of recommendation sent directly to the law school. All transcripts and letters of recommendation must be processed through the LSAC’s Credential Assembly Service.

**Decision Timeline**

We begin to accept applications on September 1st of each year. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis. Usually the first round of applications are considered in December. Applicants are notified of the decision of the admission committee by email and by letter. If an applicant is offered admission, two seat deposits are required to reserve a place in the class. The initial seat deposit is $300, with its due date specified in an applicant’s letter of acceptance. The second deposit is $200 and is due July 1st. Any applicants admitted after July 1st will pay a one-time $500 deposit. The seat deposit is non-refundable. Of this total, the entire $500.00 is credited to the student’s university account. Failure to meet a seat deposit deadline can result in the rescinding of the offer of admission.

**Rescinding Offer of Admission**

The law school may rescind an offer for failure to meet a seat deposit deadline. Additionally, the law school reserves the right to rescind an offer of admission if: 1) the applicant fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress; 2) the applicant’s final transcripts fail to show completion of courses and/or degrees required for matriculation; 3) the applicant submitted incomplete or inaccurate information; or 4) if the applicant’s fitness for legal study or membership in the bar is called into question by any personal or professional conduct issues.

**Previous applicants**

Previous applicants to the JD program may reapply. As a prior applicant, the admissions committee prefers new and updated materials be submitted. Letters of recommendation written within two years of the date of the new application are preferred.
Deferred Admission

The law school strongly believes that applicants should apply in the year in which they want to begin their law school career. For this reason, requests for deferral will not be granted. We understand that sometimes plans do change after a student has been admitted to the law school, and students finding themselves in that position are welcome to reapply when they are ready. Please note that once a student has paid their deposit, that deposit is non-refundable even if the student can no longer attend in the fall.

*The only exception being a student who is admitted and intends to enroll in one of our offered joint degree programs. Applicants who intend to defer and start their joint degree in their Master’s Program must communicate this intent in writing to the Director of Admissions before paying their initial seat deposit.

Residency

If in-state residency is claimed in an application, and the law school is unable to verify residency, applicants will be sent a letter or email directing them to complete a set of follow up questions before a residency determination can be made. The Director of Admissions reserves the right to request additional information and documentation than what is asked for in the general application from any student claiming Montana residency.

Visit https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/residencyinfo.php for additional residency information.

Transfer or Visiting Law Students

The Blewett School of Law will accept transfer applications only from students attending an ABA-accredited law school. Admission is granted based on available seats in the law school class. Transfer applicants will be evaluated on the same criteria as applied to entering students, with the additional consideration of the applicant’s academic performance in the law school currently attended, the quality of that law school, and reasons for seeking a transfer. Transfer students must complete at least 45 credit hours of law study in residence to earn a degree of Juris Doctor from the Blewett School of Law.

Admitted transfer applicants must meet with the Director of Admissions to complete a Transfer Credit Evaluation form. Every effort will be made to transfer credit from the same or similar courses to meet requirements.

Transfer credits and grades will be considered in calculating a student’s grade point average and class rank will be determined after completing one semester at the Blewett School of Law. Grades and GPA will be transferred and calculated as close as possible based on the following scale: A+/A: 4.0; A-:3.7; B+: 3.3; B: 3.0; B-: 2.7; C+: 2.3; C: 2.0; C-: 1.7; D:1; F:0.

Transfer students must register for LSAC’s Credential Assembly Service (CAS) and follow the instructions to ensure a complete application. Register at www.lsac.org. The application deadline for Transfer and visiting students is July 1st.

Please visit: http://www.umt.edu/law/admissions/application/default.php to view the transfer and visiting law student policy.

Rev. August 05, 2019
Conduct Requirement

Law students and members of the legal community are expected to maintain high standards of professionalism. The Blewett School of Law application includes several questions about personal, professional, and academic conduct. If any aspect of an applicant’s responses to questions, or any part of an application has changed since it was first submitted, the applicant must immediately contact the Admissions Office. The Admissions Committee will review the change or changes to the application to determine if further action is required. One action could be the rescinding of the offer of admission.

Admission to the Montana State Bar, or any other state bars, involves consideration of an applicant’s character and moral fitness for the practice of law. Law schools are asked to comment on bar applicants in this regard. It is important that applicants disclose any changes to their applications. Some jurisdictions require applications to law school as a part of its review for membership to the state bar. Applicants who have questions or concerns about bar admission are advised to contact the jurisdiction(s) in which they intend to practice to discuss bar membership requirements. To contact the State Bar of Montana about requirements for bar membership, call (406) 442-7660 ext. 2210 or visit: http://www.montanabar.org/.

At the Blewett School of Law, the Student Handbook contains the Honor Code applicable for law students. The Honor Code is set forth in “Appendix A,” of the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook provides the standards of conduct to which all law students are expected to adhere.

The Honor Code and detailed information about student conduct and community standards can be found on our website at:

https://www.umt.edu/law/academics/students/handbook/default.php

Students must read and be familiar with the code and will be held accountable for all of its provisions.