

Western Illinois University and John Marshall Law School Accelerated Admissions Partnership

Departments of English, History and Political Science – College of Arts and Sciences



Program of Study and Objectives

Exceptionally well-qualified students majoring in English, History, or Political Science at Western Illinois University are eligible to pursue an accelerated admission program at John Marshall Law School in Chicago following the completion of their junior year of undergraduate study at Western. They must have earned at least 90 WIU semester hours, with the additional 30 hours required for a WIU B.A. in the three stipulated departments (120 semester hours total) completed during two full semesters at JMLS. Program participants will receive a baccalaureate degree from WIU following successful completion of the first year of law school at JMLS, and the law degree (J.D.) from JMLS after completing successfully the required law school curriculum, allowing for the fulfillment of requirements for both degrees in a shorter period.

Juniors at Western Illinois University applying for admission to this accelerated admission program must take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The John Marshall Law School evaluates the quality of a student's academic record, faculty recommendations and the applicant's LSAT score. Successful applicants for accelerated admission should have an undergraduate cumulative grade point average and LSAT score that are competitive with those of applicants seeking regular admission. When an applicant's GPA/LSAT profile is at an acceptable level, other qualifications are considered, including extracurricular activities, involvement in cultural or civic affairs and work experience. The John Marshall Law School welcomes applications to this accelerated admission program from qualified students belonging to groups under-represented in the legal profession.

Students interested in this opportunity must work with the academic advisor in their major to ensure successful compliance with all program requirements. **Note:** participants are required to meet the WIU graduation requirement of completion of a minor.

Faculty

WIU faculty members are award-winning teachers and scholars with advanced degrees from some of the finest universities in the world. Although many of Western's outstanding faculty have gained national and international reputations as scholars through their publications and conference presentations, faculty regularly teach classes at all levels, including freshman surveys, sophomore seminars, specialized upper-division courses and senior seminars.

Scholarships

The history department offers six scholarships for undergraduate majors with annual stipends between \$1,000 and \$5,000. History – pre-law and political science – pre-law majors enrolled in the Honors pre-law minor are also eligible to compete for several pre-law scholarships awarded by the Centennial Honors College. Students in the WIU Department of English are eligible to apply for a total of 14 scholarships and awards, ranging from \$250 to \$3,000. In political science, students are eligible for six scholarships. Scholarship amounts vary. In addition, the Dan Webb Political Science Internship award may be used to cover expenses associated with some internships.

Centennial Honors College Admission Requirements

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 or have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class or have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors. Students who participate in the pre-law program within the Honors College must also major in one of the degree programs within the specified departments of English, history, or political science to be eligible for this accelerated program.

Student Activities and Special Opportunities

At Western, student-faculty interaction and professional development extend beyond the classroom. Pre-law students at WIU have the opportunity to participate in one of the College of Arts and Sciences Living Learning Communities, all of which foster personal, academic and professional growth through curricular and co-curricular activities and residence life.

Participants in this accelerated admissions program are eligible for research funding through departmental awards and the College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Grants, which cover the costs of conducting or presenting legal research while taking courses at WIU. Each year, WIU provides opportunities for students to give presentations on campus at the Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day and off campus at various academic conferences. Faculty regularly lead short-term study-abroad programs for interested students, and WIU students also have opportunities to spend a semester studying abroad. Phi Alpha Delta, the pre-law honor society, is open to any students in any major who are interested in law school and legal careers. The organization sponsors visits from law school recruiters and attends a law school conference in Washington D.C. in October.

History majors can join the Associated Students of History (ASH), which regularly holds professional development seminars, takes field trips and plans many social events for both students and faculty. Qualifying, students can also join Western's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the international history honor society. WIU's online history journal, "Western Illinois Historical Review," publishes articles each year representing the most outstanding research produced by WIU history majors. **English** majors can join Sigma Tau Delta, the WIU chapter of the Sigma Tau Delta National Honor Society in English. Each year this group sponsors guest speakers and professional development workshops and sends members to its annual conference in such cities as New Orleans, Portland and Washington D.C. **Political Science** students can pursue internships related to legal, governmental and related careers. The department offers courses in the judicial process, Constitutional law and judicial simulations, the latter of which prepares students to compete on Western's Mock Trial Team. Political science majors are eligible to participate in the activities of student organizations such as the Associated Students of Political Science and the Pi Sigma Alpha honor society.

University Libraries

University Libraries consists of the Leslie F. Malpass Library, which is the main branch, and four other branches: the Physical Sciences Library, the Music Library, the Curriculum Library and the Quad Cities Library. WIU offers students access to a variety of resources in print and online. Research assistance is available in person at the reference desk and via instant messaging. Visit wiu.edu/libraries for hours, events and services available.

Included in WIU's accessible databases are two excellent resources for students interested in the study of the law: LexisNexis and the Congressional Series Set. LexisNexis Academic contains all of the state and federal "Court Reporters," "Shepard's Citations" and more than 600 law review journals. The U.S. Congressional Serial Set includes all reports and other periodicals issued by the U.S. Congress from 1817-1980. The Library also provides a wealth of legal references in print, including the "Illinois Compiled Statutes Annotated," "U.S. Code Annotated," "Illinois Digest," "Northeast Reporter," "Illinois Legal Forms," all of the Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Information treatises and many other treatises on a variety of legal topics. For a guide to the legal resources WIU offers, visit wiu.edu/library/govpubs/legal.

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 19 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,400 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost Guarantee programs ensure that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees and room and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.

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