

Statistically Speaking . . .

According to the information provided by the American Bar Association, based on a combination of Law School Admission Test scores (LSAT) and grade point average (GPA), the law school at Brigham Young University ranks 13th among the 167 law schools accredited by that organization.

This ranking is based on the combined averages of the two scores, not upon LSAT or GPA alone.

Editors Note:

The following statistics were provided by Lola Wilcox, admissions officer, and Ann Mae Gould, placement director for the law school.

Here they are, the statistics. The magic numbers. Of interest to all. They may mean everything. They may mean nothing. According to the Admissions Office 150 new law students were admitted this year.

Of that number 127 are males (85%) and 23 are females (15%). The second year class started out with 149 students, 126 males (85%), and 23 females (15%). The third year class had 152 students, 138 males (91%) and 14 females (9%). Total for the school: 391 males (87%) and 60 females (13%).

Many students are temporarily away on MBA programs or working and will return to the law school. They are counted with the class in which they entered. Current enrollment is 442.

In the new class, 61% of the students are married. This is compared to 50% for the 2nd year class when it entered and 59% for the 3rd year class when it entered. Total for the school: 59% married. The average age for all the classes is 24.5 years old.

LSAT Scores

The highest LSAT score for the 1st year class was 800. The average LSAT score for that class was 644. The highest LSAT in the 2nd year class was 746, average was 635. The highest LSAT in the 3rd year class was 762, average was 630. Average for the school: 636.

GPA

The highest GPA in the 1st year class was 3.96, average was 3.6. Highest GPA for the 2nd year class was 4.0, average was 3.52. Highest GPA for the 3rd year class was also 4.0, average was 3.55. Average for the school: 3.56.

Index Number

The most important number in determining who is to be admitted is the index number (LSAT score plus cumulative GPA times 200.) The law school no longer takes into account an applicant's last 60 units in determining the index number. The highest index number for the newly admitted class was 1578, the average was 1360, (1600 is a perfect score). The highest for the 2nd year class was 1540,

average was 1347. Highest for the 3rd year class was 1530, average was 1432. Average for the school: 1349.

The new class comes to the law school from 30 other schools, from such varied places as the U. S. Navel Academy, Duke, Stanford, and Michigan. The 2nd year class is the most varied, coming from 57 other schools, including the U. S. Air Force Academy, UCLA, Stanford, Princeton, Westpoint, Berkeley, and the University of Lethbridge (Canada.) The members of the 3rd year class come from 34 other schools, including the University of Georgia, Berkeley, Rice, and Central Michigan.

Undergraduate Majors

The most common undergraduate majors for the new class are Political Science (16%), English (13%), Accounting (9%), History and Business (6% each), Psychology (5%), Social Science (4.5%), Modern Languages (4%), Sociology, Humanities, and Economics (3% each). For the 2nd year class it was Political Science (15%), followed by Accounting (12%), English (10%), Economics and History (6% each), Modern Languages and Social Science (5% each), Math, Engineering, Humanities, Psychology, and Business (3% each). Most common in the 3rd year class are Political Science (13%), Business and Accounting (9% each), English (8.5%), History (8%), Social Science (6.5%), Modern Languages (5%), Psychology, Economics, and Sociology (4% each), and Math (3%). Total for the school: Political Science (15%), English (11%), Accounting (10%), History (6.6%), Business (6%), Social Science (5%), Modern Languages and Economics (4.4% each), Psychology (4.2%), Sociology (3.3%), Humanities (2.6%), Math (2.4%), Engineering (2%), Journalism (1.5%), and Speech (1%).

Missions

98% of the students in the law school are members of the LDS Church. 334 of these (74%) have served full-time two-year missions for the Church: 78% of the new class, 66% of the 2nd year class, and 77% of the 3rd year class.

Foreign Missions

Many went to foreign countries, 65% of the 1st year missionaries served in a foreign

country, 52% of the 2nd year class, and 63% of the third year class. The most common places for foreign missions among the 1st year students were Japan and Germany (10% each), followed by Guatemala (6%), then Argentina and Brazil (5% each). For the 2nd year students it was Brazil (14%), China (13%), Germany (10%), Japan and Italy (9% each). In the 3rd year class it was Japan (15%), Germany (11%), Italy, Brazil, and England (6% each), and France (5%). Total for those serving missions in foreign countries: (Japan 11%), Germany (10%), Brazil (8%), Italy (5%), France (4%), China and Guatemala (3% each).

Applications Completed Number Admitted

For the last three years the law school has received an average of 811 applications per year. Of this number an average of 600 students complete applications and an average of 150 new students are admitted, or approximately 25% of those who complete applications.

Upon Graduation

What do they do with their law degrees when they graduate? 55% go right into law firms. Of this number 12% become self employed, 41% go to small firms (5 or less), 22% go to medium firms (6-15), 13% go to large firms (16-50), and 12% go to very large firms (over 50).

4% go to work for corporations, 2% go into nonlegal work, 1% go to banks and 1% go into accounting firms. 5% go into the military, 1% go into legal services, and 2% go on for more degrees.

Clerkships for Graduates

Out of the three classes that have graduated from the law school, two students have received Supreme Court clerkships, ten have received Circuit Court clerkships, seven have received U.S. District Court clerkships, and eight have received State Supreme Court clerkships.

BYU has the distinction of being the only law school in United States history to have a member of its charter class appointed as a clerk to the United States Supreme Court. The next year another BYU graduate received the same appointment. Statistically this is thirty years worth of Supreme Court clerkships in two years.