

ARIZONA SUMMIT LAW SCHOOL

PHOENIX LAW

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Public/private	Private
Affiliation	No Affiliation
Student-faculty ratio	20.0:1
% faculty part-time	7
% faculty female	55
% faculty underrepresented minority	35
Total faculty	77

SURVEY SAYS...

Great research resources, Abundant externship/internship/clerkship opportunities, Diverse opinions accepted in classrooms

STUDENTS

Enrollment of law school	947
% male/female	48/52
% from out-of-state	48
% part-time	34
% underrepresented minority	42
% international	1
# of countries represented	2
Average age of entering class	29

ACADEMICS

Academic Experience Rating	70
Prof's interesting rating	89
Prof's accessible rating	94
Hours of study per day	4.24

Academic Specialties

Civil Procedure, Criminal, International

Advanced Degrees Offered

JD

Combined Degrees Offered

JD part-time, 4 years; JD full-time, 3 years

Academics

This brand-spanking new school received provisional accreditation from the ABA in 2007, and received full ABA approval in June 2010, the shortest possible under ABA accreditation requirements. Arizona Summit is the only private law school in Arizona with both full- and part-time programs. Though this lack of tradition means that many areas of the school can still be considered “reactive,” students claim Arizona Summit is “on the cusp,” and its eventual reputation rests on its performance in the next few years. As of now, the rapidly growing (and somewhat expensive) school seems to be aiming to become a “unique, niche law school targeting nontraditional students with practice ready skills.” Indeed, “practice readiness” is something the school not only proclaims it focuses on, but also “genuinely centers most of its activities toward.”

“Phenomenal” professors are very devoted to their students and “will work with you on any issues and really encourage excellence.” The mix of adjunct and full-time teachers “are very accessible, treat us as colleagues, and devote hours to practical, hands-on applications of the law.” Arizona Summit has “great teachers and very high expectations” (including a strict attendance policy and a C curve), making the achievement of the elusive A difficult, but there’s ample help available from the “knowledgeable, intelligent” professors, and the school even offers intersession classes, which provides even more class availability. “There are many options for class times, if you are willing to take a night class.” “The school’s administration could not do more to try to help and encourage students to succeed. Every school activity and function is centered toward student success,” says a student.

Though the name of the school could certainly use some rooftop screaming, its strong practical focus on experience is highly employable, which bolsters its reputation among those firms that are familiar with Arizona Summit. The externship programs and Center for Professional Development are well-lauded, leading one student to claim that “more than any other school I researched, it really bridges the gap between law school and a law career.” The school has also recently begun small-sized review classes, “which are very informative because they discuss how to approach bar questions.”

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Life

There's a lack of competition at Arizona Summit, due to the friendly, Southwestern nature of the students. "When someone wants notes because they missed class, notes are provided. When someone needs help understanding something, there's always student help nearby. I think the cooperative nature of the student body is a huge asset of this school," says a 3L. Most students are from Phoenix and the sprawling suburbs, and many have come here to embrace a career change. The increased attempt by the administration to gain student opinions is reflected in their recent strides of reaching out to night students to help them to participate in school functions.

Though the school itself doesn't have much of a campus, "It feels like a law school" in its aesthetics. Classes are held in one building located in downtown Phoenix; outfitted with high tech classrooms and common areas designed to facilitate student collaboration. The library is "clean and organized, and the staff is incredibly helpful." Most students have some form of transportation at their disposal but "There is also a light rail and bus system with which people can get anywhere in the city." Social events do exist but typically occur in the city itself. The older average age of students means that many must attend to full-time jobs and families instead of socializing with their fellow classmates.

Getting In

Class sizes have only grown since the school's formation, as has the applicant pool. For Fall 2013, admitted students at the 25th percentile had LSAT scores around 141 and GPAs in the 2.7 range. Admitted students at the 75th percentile had LSAT scores in the high 148s and GPAs of approximately 3.38.

Clinical program required	Yes
Legal writing course requirement	Yes
Legal methods course requirement	No
Legal research course requirement	Yes
Moot court requirement	No
Public interest law requirement	Yes

ADMISSIONS

Selectivity Rating	70
# applications received	1,640
% applicants accepted	70
% acceptees attending	27
Average LSAT	145
Median LSAT	144
LSAT Range (25th to 75th percentile)	141-148
Average undergrad GPA	2.9
Median undergrad GPA	2.88
Application fee	\$0
Regular application deadline	
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Evening division offered	Yes
Part-time accepted	Yes
CAS accepted	Yes

International Students

TOEFL required of international students.	Yes
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FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition	\$39,252
Books and supplies	\$1,500
Fees	\$1,862
Room & Board	\$11,000
% first-year students receiving some sort of aid	98
% all students receiving some sort of aid	96
% of aid that is merit based	15
% receiving scholarships	43
Average grant	\$16,193
Average loan	\$51,793
Average total aid package	\$53,346
Average debt	\$163,590

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Career Rating	85	Prominent Alumni
Total 2013 JD Grads	279	Mark Boesen '13, Quarles & Brady, LLP;
% grads employed nine months out	90.0	Melissa Lopez '13, Greenburg Traurig;
Median starting salary	\$55,000	Kimberly Suci '13, Jones, Skelton and Hochuli; Jessie Tasselmyer '13, Roig,
% job accepting grads providing useable salary information	19	Tutan, Rosenberg, Martin, & Stoller, P.A.;
# employed full-time	219	Julia Guinane '08, Kercksmar & Feltus, PLLC, Selected 2013 Southwest Rising
# employed part-time	31	Star Super Lawyer
# employed bar required	161	Grads Employed by Field (%)
# employed JD preferred	52	Academic (4)
# employed professional/other	30	Business/Industry (20)
# employed non-professional	6	Government (10)
# pursuing advanced degree	6	Judicial Clerkship (1)
# unemployed and seeking employment	13	Military (1)
# not seeking employment	9	Private Practice (47)
% grads employed by school	9	Public Interest (6)
State for bar exam	AZ	
Pass rate for first-time bar	70.0	