

Taft Law School
The Juris Doctor Program
Special Admission Policies

Individuals who do not hold a bachelor's degree or higher may apply for the Juris Doctor Program as a special applicant. Special applicants must, at a minimum, satisfy the standards established by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California with respect to pre-legal education.

By definition, a special admissions policy considers each applicant on a case-by-case basis. Other than the minimum threshold mandated by the Committee of Bar Examiners, the School has not developed any pre-established criteria for special admissions. In the admission of special applicants, the major consideration is whether the applicant has the ability to succeed in the Program and if the applicant will benefit from the Program.

All special applicants must be interviewed by the director of student services and provide supplemental application information. (The interview can either take place in the School's offices or via telephone.) The recommendation of the faculty member and the Dean or Associate Dean is required for admission.

Set forth below are the minimum standards established by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California with respect to pre-legal education. **An application as a special applicant to the Juris Doctor Program cannot be accepted until these standards are satisfied.** Satisfaction of these requirements alone does not guarantee admission. The recommendation of the faculty member and the Dean or Associate Dean is required. The School of Law has also implemented enrollment limits on special admissions.

General Education Requirements of the California Committee of Bar Examiners

(a) Before beginning the study of law, every individual shall have either:

(1) Completed at least two years of college work, which college work shall be not less than one-half of the collegiate work acceptable for a bachelor's degree granted upon the basis of a four-year period of study by a college or university approved by the Committee; or

(2) Attained in apparent intellectual ability the equivalent of at least two years of college determined by taking any examinations in such subject matters and achieving the scores thereon as are prescribed by the Committee." (Comment: This option can only be satisfied by passing the CLEP examinations referenced on page 2.)

*(b) To have completed two years of college work within the meaning of Section (a) above, an applicant shall have earned at least 60 semester, or 90 quarter, units of college credit with an average grade at least equal to that required for graduation. (Comment: An Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree or an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree will normally satisfy this requirement. An Associate in Applied Sciences (A.A.S.) degree will generally **not** qualify. If an applicant does not hold a degree, courses will be evaluated individually.)*

(c) A college or university approved by the Committee referred to in Section (a) above shall be a college or university that has degree granting authority from the state in which it resides. (Comment: This means that virtually all schools accredited by a recognized accrediting body and some state approved schools will qualify.)

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The College Level Examination Program Exams

Applicants who have not completed at least 60 semester or 90 quarter units of work acceptable for a bachelor's degree may satisfy the admission requirements to the School of Law and the requirements of the Committee of Bar Examiners by attaining minimum scores on the following general examinations administered through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP).

Applicants applying for admission based on CLEP scores must take the following examinations:

1. *College Composition* or *College Composition Modular*; and
2. TWO other examinations, each designed to correspond to full-year courses (6 semester hours each*) or four other examinations, each designed to correspond to semester courses (3 semester hours each*) that can be selected from any of the following subjects:

Composition and Literature
(Humanities examination only)
Foreign Languages
History and Social Sciences
Science and Mathematics
Business

The credit granting score for each examination is 50 or higher.

Applicants must either qualify under the unit requirement or the CLEP examinations. They cannot be mixed (i.e. an applicant with 59 semester units could not simply take one CLEP exam - applicants must have either 60 semester/90 quarter units or take all the required CLEP exams.)

Applicants must register to take the examinations directly with the College Board and request that score reports be submitted directly to the School (Code # 4703) and the Committee of Bar Examiners (Code # 7165). Please visit the CLEP website for the cost of each examination.

General information is available by contacting the address and phone number below:

The College Board
P.O. Box 6600
Princeton, NJ 08541-6600
(800) 257-9558
www.collegeboard.com/clep

Many practice guides for CLEP examinations are available at most major bookstores.

*For the Summary of Credit Recommendations for the CLEP Examinations and further information, please contact The College Board at the above address.