

# Fewer women, more minorities enter law school

Incoming University students' median LSAT scores place them above the national average

By Jillian Daley  
Oregon Daily Emerald

School of Law Admissions Director Katherine A. Jernberg leads incoming University students along the first few steps they take into the school.

This year, Jernberg said that the makeup of the new students is a little different than it has been in previous years. There are fewer women than in past years and more minorities. There is also a high number of nonresident students this year.

She said that she thought that the economy, as well as the repercussions from Sept. 11, may have indirectly affected the makeup of the incoming class.

"I think the way the world changed shows in this class," she said.

Jernberg said she saw an increased interest in international law and diplomacy among this year's class.

Law school spokeswoman Eliza Schmidkunz said that the demographic breakdown of incoming students is similar in some ways to that of past years.

Schmidkunz said that the most common undergraduate degrees for the new students are political science, history and English, which are fairly typical for law students.

However, an unusually high number of students — 54 percent — are from out of state.

Those who matriculated are 34 percent women and 66 percent

## 2002-03 law school enrollment statistics

Male: 66%  
Female: 34%  
Non-resident: 60%  
Minority enrollment: 15.6%  
Graduates: 7%  
Increase over 2001: 9.8%  
Average age: 25  
Median GPA: 3.4  
Median LSAT: 159

SOURCE: School of Law

*"I think the way the world has changed shows in this class."*

**Katherine A. Jernberg**  
admissions director  
law school

men. Last year, the number of women who attended was a few percentage points higher.

The law school admitted 53 percent of the women who applied and 47 percent of the men. Schmidkunz said that an equal number of women and men are admitted, but that more men decided to matriculate.

Jernberg said that women accepted 43 percent of the financial awards that the law school had to offer, and men accepted 57 percent of the scholarships. Women may have been less likely to accept financial awards than men, she said, because many women were probably awarded higher scholarships at other universities.

Jernberg said that female law students try to be savvy with scholarships, picking carefully because they will most likely receive lower pay than men when they graduate. She added that the law school works hard to recruit female students.

In addition, enrollment is up by 9.8 percent over last year; this year's class is comprised of 183 new students. This represents approximately 10.5 percent of the 1,734 people who applied to the University's law program.

Minority enrollment has also increased to around 15.6 percent, which is marginally higher than last year.

The breakdown of minorities is 6 percent Hispanic, 5 percent Asian, 2 percent African American, 0.6 percent American Indian, and 2 percent were of a different ethnicity.

The incoming class reflects increasingly high standards for law students, with a median 3.4 GPA and a median score of 159 on the Law School Admissions Test, which is rated on a scale of 120-180. These LSAT scores are above the national average, which is estimated to be 151, and places incoming University law students in the 78th percentile on a national scale.

The new students not only have above-average marks, they are also well-educated: 7 percent already have graduate degrees.

Yet, while a graduate degree can denote a certain level of maturity, this first-year class is also younger on average than most classes have been for years. The average age of last year's class was 27 years old, which is typical for the University, but this year's

class is 25 years old on average. Students attending the law school range in age from 20 to 42.

However, whatever new demographics the current addition to the law school student body may exemplify, Jernberg will miss guiding them through the application process.


Jernberg called the feeling she has "empty nest syndrome."

When law students start classes, she will not get to see them as often to answer their questions and discuss their applications.

"I work with them so closely," Jernberg said. "I brought them to this point, helped them along."

"I just have to let them go."

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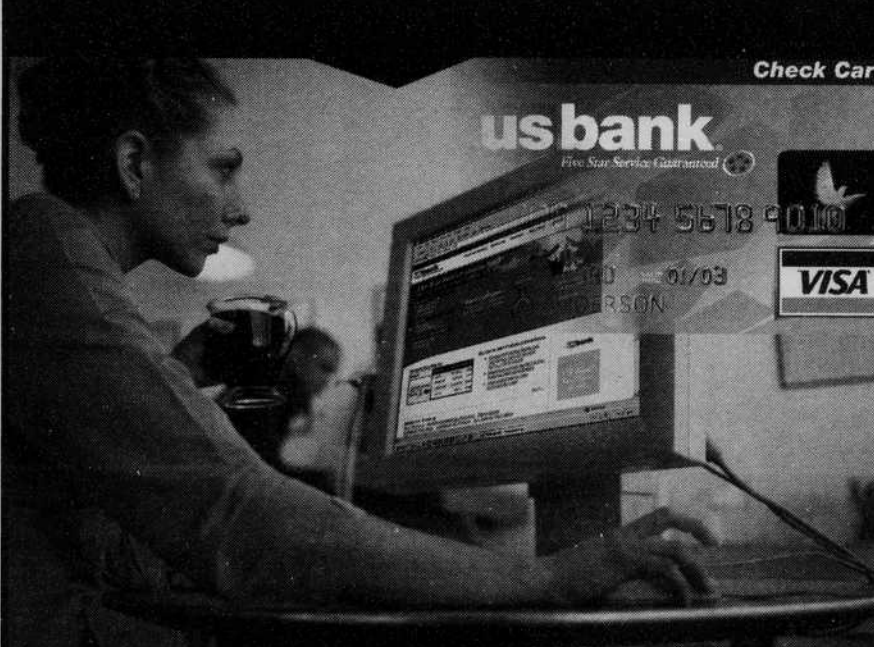
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