

admissions report

important task of handling site-scheduling and equitably distributing the weekly tasks of setup, intake, and return preparation. Stephen Nelson, a Marquette law librarian, was a de facto—and invaluable—team member, handling the technology responsibilities.

Professor Lindsey designated one student (now an alum), Jenny Jedrzejewski, as her deputy site coordinator. Jedrzejewski assisted Professor Lindsey with the requisite quality review of the tax returns and helped to answer student questions. Jedrzejewski had completed almost every tax course offered at Marquette Law School and had accepted a position as an estate planning associate.

The IRS Coordinator of VITA reported that the rejection rate of returns from the Marquette Law School VITA site was well below the average rate of rejection of other VITA sites. Professor Lindsey credits the low rejection rate to the professionalism and aptitude demonstrated by all of the student volunteers.

Professor Lindsey has plans for a VITA site beyond this initial year. The students completed several hundred state and federal tax returns, including approximately 20 nonresident alien tax returns. Professor Lindsey expects that the number of taxpayers relying on the Marquette Law School VITA site will increase substantially in future years, and she is determined to provide Marquette law students the opportunity to volunteer in this worthwhile endeavor for many years to come. •

Marquette University Law School received 1,913 applications for Fall 2005 entrance, the Law School's largest applicant pool on record. This represented an increase of more than 4 percent from the previous year, even as the number of candidates applying to law schools nationally was down about 4.5 percent.

The median undergraduate grade point average (GPA) and Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score of this year's entering class were among the strongest for any entering class in the Law School's history.

This report sets forth certain basic admission information.

A brief statistical profile of the Fall 2005 entering class:

- 215 first-year students (166 full time, 49 part time)

GPA

- Median Undergraduate GPA: 3.41
- 75th percentile Undergraduate GPA: 3.65
- 25th percentile Undergraduate GPA: 3.14

LSAT

- Median LSAT score: 157 (73rd percentile nationally)
- 75th percentile LSAT score: 159 (79th percentile nationally)
- 25th percentile LSAT score: 155 (66th percentile nationally)

Diversity

- 40% women
- 14% students of color
- Residents of 26 states plus the District of Columbia and 3 foreign countries (Germany, Jamaica, Zimbabwe)

Age

- Average age of full-time students: 23 years, 7 months
- Average age of part-time students: 30 years, 8 months

Degrees

- 94 undergraduate schools represented
- 58 undergraduate majors represented
- 10% hold graduate or professional degrees

Some observations:

A larger applicant pool means that the Admissions Committee must be more selective in making offers of admission to candidates. For Fall 2005 admission, the Law School was forced to turn away nearly two out of every three prospective students who applied.

More applications make the committee's job harder not only because of the sheer volume, but because the same care must be taken in reviewing each file. Letters of recommendation, essays, work experience, extracurricular activities, evidence of leadership, and community involvement are all taken into account, in addition to academic records and examination scores, so that each candidate is considered as a whole person. The committee seeks talented people who will succeed academically and contribute to the Law School community and the profession in a positive way.

Applications to Marquette Law School have increased 120 percent over the last six years:

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| 2000: | 868 |
| 2001: | 984 |
| 2002: | 1,254 |
| 2003: | 1,588 |
| 2004: | 1,836 |
| 2005: | 1,913 |

Five points for potential law school applicants to keep in mind:

- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively through good and clear writing, strong analytical reasoning skills, academic achievement, good character and citizenship—all are important factors in the application review process. The Admissions Committee will be most impressed by prospective law students who present strong credentials in all of these areas.

- The Admissions Committee will not look for or expect any specific or particular undergraduate major or course of study. The Law School enrolls students with diverse



educational and professional experiences. Courses that develop strong writing and analytical reasoning skills can be particularly valuable for future law students.

- Undergraduate grade point averages and LSAT scores are not the sole factors determining admission or denial; at the same time, they are extraordinarily important.

- The Admissions Committee at Marquette Law School, like the committees at many law schools, averages multiple LSAT scores of an applicant who has taken the exam more than once. If a candidate can provide concrete, compelling evidence why a lower score should be considered aberrant, he or she is welcome to submit that evidence in a written addendum to the application. The Admissions Committee will not necessarily ignore a lower score, but will consider the addendum within the context of the entire application.

- Intense desire to join the legal profession, passion for the study of the law, and connections to the Marquette community are important but, in our increasingly competitive applicant pool, they do not override evidence predicting academic success during law school.

Questions? Contact:

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