

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN**  
**The Curators of the University of Missouri on behalf of the University of Missouri-Kansas City**  
**School of Law**  
**and**  
**University of Central Missouri**

**Objective:**

To create a pre-law pathway linking students at the University of Central Missouri (UCM) to the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law (UMKC School of Law), and allowing students who have completed three-fourths of their bachelor's degree credits to apply for admission to UMKC School of Law. Successful applicants will be permitted to count their first year of law school credits to satisfy the remaining one-fourth of their bachelor's degree credits, thus allowing those students to complete both their bachelor's and juris doctor degrees in six years.

**Article 1 – Nature of the Agreement**

This partnership is an exploratory arrangement to identify opportunities for collaboration, define potential challenges, and focus on streamlining the experience of UCM students desiring to pursue graduate study with the UMKC School of Law. This agreement does not substantively change existing admissions requirements or procedures for admission to the UMKC School of Law, nor does it alter or otherwise impact UCM's existing undergraduate policies, practices, or procedures.

**Article 2 Eligibility to Participate In the 3+3 Program**

1. Any UCM major is eligible to participate
2. Students must complete at least 90 degree-acceptable undergraduate hours of credit, which includes:
  - a. Completion of all general education requirements
  - b. Completion of all requirements within the major
3. Of the 90 undergraduate hours, students must have completed 30 hours of upper-level (300/400) coursework prior to law school entry.
4. (This is added later) They should have at least a 3.4 GPA and an LSAT score that is equal to or greater than UMKC Law School's 50th percentile of the most recent entering class (in 2019, 153).<sup>1</sup>
5. Completion of the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) after the second year of the three-year program

**Article 3 – Process of Applying for the 3+3 Program**

1. Students should wait to apply to the Law School until they have completed five semesters of full-time undergraduate coursework since this represents the minimum required for LSAC to calculate an official ABA-accepted grade point average.
2. Applicants must otherwise complete all the normal requirements of the law school application process, including, but not limited to, application, personal statement, transcript, letters of recommendation, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Those applicants who do not meet the above grade point average and LSAT criteria will still be given preferential interview status.

3. Applicants will also be required to submit certification from UCM that they will have completed three-fourths of their undergraduate credits (3+3 hours) by the end of the academic year in which they are applying, as well as certification that if the student is admitted to UMKC Law School and successfully completes the first year law school credits, the student will qualify for the bachelor's degree from UCM.
4. All candidates for this program must, during the application process, complete a satisfactory interview with the UMKC School of Law Admissions Committee. Candidates must also demonstrate potential to be a successful law student and an absence of disqualifying character or fitness issues.
5. Students admitted under the 3+3 program must be able to document completion of an undergraduate degree prior to starting their second year of study at the UMKC School of Law.

**Article 4 - UCM agrees to abide by the following:**

1. UCM will encourage a pool of highly qualified students to apply for the 3+3 program beginning in Spring 2021.
2. Interested students will be encouraged to declare their intent to participate in the pre-law pathway to the UCM Pre-Law Advisor upon completion of 60 credit hours at UCM.
3. The Pre-Law Advisor at UCM will coordinate communication with the UMKC School of Law with regards to the application process for the 3+3 program.
4. The Pre-Law Advisor at UCM will coordinate advising and administrative support to 3+3 applicants to support completion of their undergraduate degree at UCM.

**Article -5 - UMKC School of Law agrees to abide by the following:**

1. Upon successful completion of 30-35 graduate credit hours, UMKC School of Law will send a UMKC official transcript to UCM for the evaluation of applicability towards UCM undergraduate degree requirements.
  - a. The actual request of an official transcript, including any associated fees, shall ultimately be the responsibility of the student.
2. UMKC Law School does not confer the undergraduate degree and assumes no responsibility in regard to it. Beyond the sending of a transcript as described above, it is the duty of the student to make certain that the requirements for the undergraduate degree are satisfied.
3. Upon the execution of this agreement, each party to it may promote the program in discussion with students, faculty, and staff.

**Article 6 – Marketing and Publications**

Upon the execution of this agreement, each party to it may promote the program in discussion with students, faculty, and staff.

**Article 7 - The Higher Learning Commission**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made, entered into, and executed by the parties pursuant to the Policies of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools ("Higher Learning Commission") and is subject to the approval or notification requirements established by the Higher Learning Commission.

**Article 8 - Agreement Review, Revision & Termination**

This agreement shall be reviewed and revised as needed to support the long-term objective of a 3+3, accelerated admissions pathway for highly qualified undergraduate UCM students to pursue graduate education at the UMKC School of Law. Creation of any such pathway will be subject to the consent and support of both institutions' leadership as well as the Missouri Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning commission as may be required.

Either party to this agreement may cancel it anytime with written notice. As this agreement does not substantively alter existing admissions, advising, or enrollment practices or procedures at either institution, a "teach-out" provision for engaged students is not required.

**Article 9 - Signatures**

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) and the Curators of the University of Missouri on behalf of the University of Missouri Kansas City-School of Law (UMKC) hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding on this 1 day of October 2020, by the affixing of signatures of the chief academic officers of both institutions.

For the University of Missouri-Kansas City



Jennifer Lundgren, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Provost

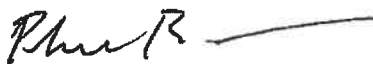
11-2-2020  
Date



Barbara Glesner Fines, JD  
Dean and Rubey M. Hulen Professor of Law, UMKC School of Law

10-1-2020  
Date

For the University of Central Missouri



Phillip Bridgmon, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

10/7/20  
Date

Date

Approved as to  
Legal Form



**MHE**

Sep 18, 2020