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University of Georgia School of Law



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Overview⁵⁻⁷

The University of Georgia School of Law is regarded as one of the nation's top law schools. The school offers the Juris Doctor degree (J.D.), the Master of Laws degree (LL.M.), and the Master in the Study of Law degree (M.S.L.) and features a welcoming community in a charming locale. Georgia Law offers a challenging curriculum and experienced professors dedicated to teaching the theoretical foundations of law as well as providing hands-on experience.

The school's library has a rich, established collection of more than 500,000 digital and print titles and a dedication to new technologies. The library's physical facility is outstanding, with two-story picture windows that offer a view of beautifully landscaped north campus. The library provides ubiquitous wireless access as well as task lighting and power outlets at virtually every seat.

Graduates of the University of Georgia School of Law are prepared for success – in courtrooms, boardrooms or whatever other settings they choose. Opportunities abound for not only the traditional practice of law but for other endeavors requiring the benefits of insight and preparation provided by studying at a law school widely acknowledged as one of the best in the nation.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁸

11.5:1

Admission Criteria⁹

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	158-164	3.33-3.81
Median*	163	3.69

The above LSAT and GPA data pertain to the 2013 entering class.

*Medians have been calculated by averaging the 25th- and 75th-percentile values released by the law

schools and have been rounded up to the nearest whole number for LSAT scores and to the nearest one-hundredth for GPAs.

Admission Statistics¹⁰

Approximate number of applications	2135
Number accepted	711
Percentage accepted	33.3%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades^{11, 12}

Class Rank

Individual class ranks are calculated for those in the top 25% of the class only. Ranking letters are emailed to each student in the top 25%. Students are informed if they grouped in the top 10%, 25%, 33%, 50% or 75% of the class.

The UGA School of Law utilizes the following grading system:

A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	

Grade Normalization (Curve)¹³

First Year Grades

The average grade in each first-year course must fall within the range of 2.9-3.1 based on the Law School's grading system (A+ = 4.3; A = 4.0; A- = 3.7; B+ = 3.3, etc.). The grades of non-J.D. students will be disregarded for purposes of this policy. Variation from this rule is permissible only in extraordinary circumstances. Suggested guidelines, which are not mandatory, are:

- Maximum 33% "A" grades (including A+ and A-)

- Maximum 33% grades of C+ or lower
- Maximum of two A+ grades

Upper-level Grades

In general, the average grade in all upper-level courses must fall within the range of 2.9-3.2. The grades of non-J.D. students will be disregarded for purposes of this policy. Variations are permissible only in extraordinary circumstances. All courses and seminars with 20 or fewer students are not subject to this policy.

Suggested guidelines, which are not mandatory, are:

- Maximum 33% "A" grades (including A+ and A-)
- Maximum 33% grades of C+ or lower
- Maximum of two A+ grades

Honors^{14, 15}

Honor	Criteria
Order of the Coif	top 10% of graduating class
<i>summa cum laude</i>	top 2% of graduating class
<i>magna cum laude</i>	next 8.5% of class
<i>cum laude</i>	next 37.5% of class

Awards¹⁶

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
MacDougald Award	First Honor Graduate
Meinhard Award	Graduate with highest cumulative GPA
Class of 1993 Torts Award	Students with highest grade in IL Torts Class
Chaffin Award	Excellence in study of Trusts & Estates
Georgia Municipal Assoc. Award	Excellence in study of Municipal Corporations
Donald P. Gilmore Jr. Labor Law	Excellence in study of Labor Law
William King Meadow Award	All-around excellence
Ellen Jordan Environmental Award	Outstanding performance in environmental courses
American Bankruptcy Institute Metal	Excellence in study of Bankruptcy
Richardson Award	Excellence in study of Trial Advocacy

O'Byrne Award	Excellence in study of Taxation
Environmental Law Association Award	Environmental Advocacy
Environmental Law Association Award	Outstanding Service
State Bar of Georgia Tax	Excellence in study of Tax
State Bar of GA Real Property Award	Excellence in study of Real Property
ABA-BNA Labor	Excellence in study of Labor Law
ABA-BNA Intellectual Property	Excellence in study of Intellectual Prop
ABA-BNA Health Law	Excellence in study of Health Law
Carlson Evidence Award	Excellence in study of Evidence & Advocacy
ASLME Award	Excellence in study of Law/Medicine

Journals¹⁷

The **Georgia Law Review** is a general subject-matter publication staffed entirely by second- and third-year law students. The Law Review publishes one volume, comprised of four quarterly issues. The Law Review has recently launched a Symposium issue and the Georgia Law Review Online. The Georgia Law Review Online features short, op-ed length essays by professors, practitioners, and judges focused primarily on timely legal issues in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.¹⁸

The **Georgia Journal of International & Comparative Law** is a preeminent forum for academic discussion on current international subjects. From its inception in 1971 as a student initiative supported by former U.S. Secretary of State and UGA Law Professor Dean Rusk, the International Journal features work by legal scholars and practitioners as well as student notes. With a staff composed entirely of second- and third- year law students, the International Journal publishes three times each year.¹⁹

The **Journal of Intellectual Property Law** was founded in 1993 and is the nation's oldest student-edited law journal devoted exclusively to the field of intellectual property law. The Journal is run by the students at the University of Georgia School of Law and publishes two volumes each year with articles by leading scholars, judges, practicing attorneys, and students that address the constantly changing subject areas of trade secrets, patent law, trademarks, copyrights, Internet law, and entertainment & sports law. In 1999, an empirical study ranked the Journal as the best student-run intellectual property and seventeenth best specialized journal in the United States.²⁰

Moot Court²¹

Students are encouraged to participate on Georgia Law's Moot Court teams. Moot court gives students the opportunity to draft briefs and present oral arguments, appear before federal and state justices and judges and travel to local, regional and national competitions. Georgia Law's Moot Court program is supported by committed faculty members and Moot Court alumni who volunteer to judge practice rounds of oral arguments. Membership on the Moot Court teams is reserved for 2nd and 3rd year law students, and 1st year students can present an appellate argument during the spring semester of their

legal research and writing class. After presenting this argument, students may elect to participate in the Richard B. Russell Moot Court Competition and try out for the first 8 spots on the Georgia Law Moot Court team. Georgia Law students can participate in a number of moot court competitions:

- National Moot Court Tournament
- Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- Georgia Intrastate Moot Court Competition
- National First Amendment Moot Court Competition
- Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Moot Court Competition
- American Bar Associational Regional Competition
- Emory National Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition
- Mercer University National Legal Ethics and Professionalism Moot Court Competition
- Evan A. Evans National Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition
- Hulsey/Gambrell Moot Court Competition
- Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship
- Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot

Clinical Programs²²⁻²⁴

Georgia Law's commitment to practical learning is decades old. The Criminal Defense Clinic began over 40 years ago. Now students can participate in numerous programs that focus on both criminal and civil law. Typically, more than 80% of students in each graduating class participate in at least one program.

The **Criminal Defense Clinic** is an excellent opportunity for students interested in becoming defense lawyers, prosecutors and public defenders. Law students work with attorneys in the Western Circuit Public Defender Office interviewing clients, investigating cases, negotiating plea agreements, and appearing in court. Third-year students routinely represent clients in pre-trial hearings and trials.

The **Prosecutorial Clinic** teaches students trial techniques, making it ideal for students who want to litigate immediately after graduation. The program includes classroom instruction and an externship in a prosecutor's office in or near Athens. During the externship, students can observe all phases of a criminal trial, research various questions of law and draft legal memoranda and charging documents. Students are also authorized to participate in preliminary hearings, motion hearings, arraignments, juvenile adjudications, probation revocations, grand jury proceedings and jury trials.

The **Capital Assistance Project** was initiated in 1998 at the request of the Supreme Court of Georgia. Students work at agencies defending individuals charged with or convicted of capital crimes and undertake valuable research and writing projects to assist agency attorneys with these cases.

The **Appellate Litigation Clinic** is designed to teach students to be appellate litigators. The clinic essentially operates as a small firm and accepts clients with cases before both federal circuit courts of appeals and the Board of Immigration Appeals. Students work in teams of two or three to review the record of the case, identify the issues that should be raised in the appeal, draft the briefs (both opening brief and reply brief), and may do the oral argument if permitted and if oral argument is scheduled.

The **Business Law Clinic** offers students an opportunity to develop lawyering skills in a professional, interactive, live-client environment. Clients include entrepreneurs, small business owners, and nonprofit organizations that cannot otherwise afford legal services. Supervised students provide

services related to such matters as entity formation, corporate governance, employment, and contracts. Students learn how to interview, counsel, draft, and negotiate and develop problem-solving, analytical, and editorial skills in the context of client projects and reality-grounded class work. In addition to working on supervised client projects, students attend a weekly seminar covering topics relevant to the representation of entrepreneurs, small businesses, and non-profit organizations.

The **UGA Fanning Institute's Community Economic Development Clinic** allows students to represent a variety of Athens organizations as they work to strengthen communities and provide economic opportunity for low-income Georgians.

The **Community Health Law Partnership Clinic** is an innovative approach to addressing the social determinants of health for indigent individuals. Law students this clinic partner with health care professionals to tackle a variety of legal needs that impact patients, including immigration, disability rights, benefits, and family law. Working under supervision, students have direct responsibility for all aspects of client representation, including the opportunity to interview and advise potential clients, to conduct research and draft legal documents, to advocate in court proceedings and administrative hearings, and to foster inter-professional approaches to holistic problem solving. From time to time, students may also have the opportunity to develop training materials for medical providers, legal advocates, or patients, and engage in related policy work.

The **Environmental Practicum** is an experiential learning program for students interested in environmental preservation. Students in the Environmental Practicum work to improve water quality and protect and restore native aquatic species in targeted watersheds and the Upper Etowah River Basin.

The **Family Violence Clinic** allows students to prepare for a career in family law. Students in this clinic help protect victims of domestic violence. Clinic work includes interviewing, case preparation, counseling and advocacy.

The **Mediation Practicum** allows students to mediate cases in Small Claims Court and to meet requirements for certification under standards set by the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

The **Public Interest Practicum** allows students to work with homeless and incarcerated individuals, and with local service institutions to coordinate resources and information on housing, child custody, debt, benefits and health care.

Placement Facts²⁵

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$50,000 - \$117,500
Private sector - Median	\$63,000
Public service - Median	\$50,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	48.9%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	76%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	54.1%
Business and Industry	8.8%
Government	12.4%
Judicial Clerkships	17.5%
Public Interest Organizations	5.7%
Academia	1.5%
Unknown	0%

Externships/Internships

Externships^{26, 27}

The University of Georgia School of Law offers externships in both criminal and civil litigation. Students can work at a local prosecutors office, work with local civil attorneys handling litigation and/or transactional matters, or clerk with a judge. Students also can explore the work of in-house lawyers by working with a corporate legal department. Organizations currently participating in the corporate legal department program include: Acuity Brands, Inc., American Cancer Society, Asbury Automotive Group, BlueLinx Corporation, CARE, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Cox Communications, Delta Air Lines, InterContinental Hotels Group, NCR Corporation, Verizon Wireless, and YKK Corporation of America, among others.

Internships²⁸

Global Internship Program

Georgia Law students can gain exposure to international and transnational law through summer internships with foreign governmental agencies, academic centers, law firms, corporations and NGOs. Since 2001, Georgia Law's Dean Rusk Center has placed over 200 law students in legal internships around the world. Global Internship Program participants immerse themselves in the environment of their host institution and work side-by-side with local employees in a professional setting for up to twelve weeks.

Student Organizations²⁹

- American Constitution Society
- Asian Law Students Association
- Business Law Society
- Christian Legal Society
- Davenport-Benham: Black Law Student Association
- Dean's Ambassadors
- Education Law Student Association
- Environmental Law Association
- Equal Justice Foundation Board
- Family Law Society
- Federalist Society

- Georgia Association of Law and Politics
- Georgia Society for International & Comparative Law
- Georgia Trial Lawyers Association Student Chapter
- Health Law Society
- Hispanic Law Students Association
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- Jewish Law Student Association
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Labor & Employment Law Association
- Land Use & Planning Organization
- Law Democrats
- OUTLaws
- Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity
- Public Interest Law Council
- Sports & Entertainment Law Society
- Street Law
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Bar Association
- Tax Law Society
- Women Law Students Association
- Working in the Public Interest

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