

## University of Georgia School of Law

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### ■ Introduction

The University of Georgia School of Law, founded in 1859, is on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. The university provides an excellent setting for the study of law with superb libraries and outstanding academic, cultural, recreational, and social opportunities. Athens, a town of 100,000, is the commercial and legal center for northeast Georgia and is approximately one hour from downtown Atlanta. Athens also features a cultural richness ranging from antebellum homes to the latest in the alternative music scene.

The School of Law is approved by the ABA, is a member of the AALS, and has a chapter of the Order of the Coif.

### ■ The Student Body

The law school student body shares a strong sense of community, and the school prides itself on the collegiality among students, faculty, and staff. The entering class usually numbers around 200, and the entire student body, including LLM students, averages 640 students. The law school is also a vital part of the university community, which supports a cosmopolitan mix of over 33,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Many law students take advantage of these assets by taking courses in other schools and colleges of the university, and by participating in the intellectual and social life of the campus.

### ■ Curriculum

The law curriculum is rich and diverse. The first year of study consists of required core courses, but, after its completion, students may choose from a wealth of classes, seminars, and clinical programs to suit their interests.

Clinical program opportunities, both criminal and civil, abound. Clinical education expands upon the classroom knowledge by providing essential experiential learning. Students interested in criminal law can participate in the Prosecutorial Clinic, the Criminal Defense Clinic, or the Capital Assistance Project. Students interested in environmental law, family law, public interest law, and any of a number of other areas of study will find that the Civil Externship Clinic, Family Violence Clinic, Land Use Clinic, Mediation Practicum, Public Interest Practicum, and the Environmental Law Practicum add to their understanding and preparedness.

### ■ Faculty

While some law schools choose to emphasize either scholarship or teaching, the University of Georgia seeks a balance of the two, firmly believing that classroom teaching is enhanced by scholarly expertise. The college town setting fosters student-faculty interaction by increasing faculty availability and promoting a conducive atmosphere for dialogue.

The faculty includes a Pulitzer Prize winner, former law clerks for the US Supreme Court and appellate courts, authors of some of our country's leading legal scholarship, recipients of the university's highest honor for teaching excellence, and Fulbright Scholars. Most bring practical experience to the classroom as well; they have been trial and corporate attorneys, and many continue to accept pro bono cases or serve as consultants.

Faculty expertise is expanded by the addition of outstanding adjuncts, corporate attorneys from the region's most powerful firms, international attorneys, government leaders, and prominent attorneys in the fields of public interest and environmental law. In addition, the law school's Dean Rusk Center—International, Comparative, and Graduate Legal Studies—annually is host to several international scholars who may teach mini-courses in their areas of interest. Recent courses include European Union banking law, international sales law, law of Mexico, and international investment law of Japan.

### ■ Educational Enrichment Programs

University of Georgia law students have several opportunities to expand their educational horizons. First, joint programs with other schools and colleges in the university enable students to complete two degrees in less time than it would take to pursue them separately. Existing joint programs include JD/MBA (business administration), JD/MPA (public administration), JD/MHP (historic preservation), and JD/MEd in Sports Studies.

Students may also take graduate coursework in other schools and colleges of the university and have it count as elective credit toward the 88 semester hours required for graduation. For example, students interested in tax law might take courses in the school of accounting, and students interested in public policy might take courses in the department of political science. Finally, those who are not interested in the joint-degree programs but want more coursework than can be satisfied by elective credit may be concurrently enrolled; that is, students may pursue other advanced degrees at the same time they are fulfilling the requirements for the law degree.

### ■ Study Abroad

Nothing helps one to better understand the culture of another country than actually studying and living in a foreign land. At UGA, this concept is fully embraced. Currently, UGA is second in the nation for the number of students participating in short-term study abroad programs. Several opportunities for legal study and work experience in other parts of the world are provided on an annual basis. They include:

**Georgia Law at Oxford**—This exciting, new 15-week program runs from January through April and is one of the few semester-long study abroad programs offered by an American law school. Selected second- and third-year law students take four courses and receive 12 semester hours of credit.

**International Externship Program**—Established in 2001, this initiative provides students with four to eight weeks of study and/or work experience in a legal learning environment in a variety of countries.

**Brussels Seminar on the Law and Institutions of the European Union**—For more than three decades, Georgia Law has sponsored the seminar, a three-week intensive course on EU law held at the Institut d'Etudes Européennes of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. The course is taught by officials of the EU Commission and Council, judges of the European Community Court of Justice, leading practitioners of EU law, and distinguished professors from European universities.

**London Law Consortium**—UGA belongs to the London Law Consortium, a group of seven US law schools that supports an

ABA-approved semester of study in England. Each spring, selected second- and third-year students take courses from British and American professors.

**International Summer Clerkship Program**—This program provides selected first-year students with employment in prominent legal offices abroad. In recent years, students have worked in Belgium, England, Germany, Italy, and Tanzania.

**Equal Justice Foundation Scholarships**—These awards provide grants to law students who engage in public interest legal work in positions that otherwise would not be funded. Such placements include positions at the South Asian Human Rights Documentation Centre in India, the Attorney General’s Office in Guyana, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Colombia.

## ■ Library and Physical Facilities

The law library’s vast collection makes it one of the largest in legal education. While it has extensive holdings in international law, it focuses on being a functional library serving the needs of students. It is currently placed 3rd nationally in expenditures for online databases and 35th in holdings with over 380,000 bound volumes. The university’s main library is adjacent to the law school and is one of the 20 largest research libraries in the nation.

The law school is headquartered in Hirsch Hall on the northern edge of the campus, the most scenic and historic section of the university. Dean Rusk Hall, adjacent to Hirsch Hall, provides additional office space. The majority of clinical settings are just a short walk away in the downtown area.

## ■ Career Services

The law school offers a fully staffed career services office that assists law students and graduates. Placement rates are among the highest in the nation, and a very high percentage of

students do clerkships around the country prior to beginning the second and third years of study. The career services website is a comprehensive source of information.

Alumni practice in 48 states and over 55 countries. Over 20,000 employer connections were made available in 2004–2005. Employers from 45 states and 25 countries utilized the Legal Career Services Office to target UGA students for summer and full-time employment.

## ■ Advocacy Programs

At Georgia Law, many students participate in the school’s acclaimed moot court and mock trial programs and appear before members of the state’s and region’s highest courts. Team members spend substantial time writing persuasively and learning how to make the most powerful oral presentations that will withstand intense scrutiny by the court.

**Moot Court**—Each year students compete in the most difficult appellate tournaments, and they consistently win. Twice in the last 14 years, UGA has reigned supreme in the oldest and most prestigious moot court tournament in the country, the National Moot Court Competition. Georgia Law has captured the regional crown en route to the nationals 8 of the last 10 years. Additional opportunities are offered through moot court exchanges held in alternating years with Gray’s Inn of London, and King’s Inn of Dublin.

**Mock Trial**—UGA’s mock trial program receives strong support from faculty members and mock trial alumni, who dedicate long hours to bench practice rounds. UGA won the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) title in 1997—becoming the only law school in recent history to hold both the National Moot Court Competition and the ATLA titles in the same year. UGA has also claimed the ATLA regional crown five times.

## Applicant Profile

### University of Georgia School of Law

This grid includes only applicants who earned 120-180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

LSAT Score	GPA																		Total				
	3.75 +		3.50 - 3.74		3.25 - 3.49		3.00 - 3.24		2.75 - 2.99		2.50 - 2.74		2.25 - 2.49		2.00 - 2.24		Below 2.00			No GPA			
	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	Apps	Adm	
175-180	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
170-174	12	12	13	13	12	12	7	6	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	45
165-169	59	56	64	61	64	62	27	22	7	2	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	227	203
160-164	139	72	169	63	159	54	99	23	41	4	15	0	7	0	5	0	0	0	3	1	637	217	
155-159	139	26	178	6	158	6	111	5	43	1	18	0	9	0	4	0	0	0	5	0	665	44	
150-154	77	7	102	14	116	12	80	13	52	4	22	0	9	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	466	50	
145-149	28	5	48	4	52	1	43	2	29	0	20	0	15	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	241	12	
140-144	6	1	24	2	23	0	23	0	33	0	13	0	11	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	139	3	
135-139	1	0	3	0	11	0	14	0	8	0	10	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	58	0	
130-134	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	4	0	6	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	23	0	
125-129	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	
120-124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Total	463	181	603	165	601	147	406	72	220	13	112	0	61	0	22	0	4	0	22	1	2514	579	

Apps = Number of Applicants

Adm = Number Admitted

Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool.