



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
School of Law



Student Handbook  
2025 - 2026

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# Part 1 J.D. Program

## General Requirements for the Juris Doctor Degree

1. successful completion of at least 88 credit hours (for students matriculating before the Fall of 2023) or 89 credit hours (for students matriculating in Fall of 2023 or thereafter), including the full 1L curriculum, the 1L oral argument competition and all additional required courses;
2. six resident academic (Fall and Spring) semesters as a full-time student;
3. cumulative grade point average required at graduation under *Academic Performance Standards for J.D. Students* in Part I of this Handbook;
4. satisfaction of the Law School's Writing Requirements (2L Drafting and Capstone Writing Project);
5. satisfaction of the Practical Skills training requirement (6 cr hours);
6. completion of JURI 4300, The Law and Ethics of Lawyering.

Pursuant to ABA Standard 311, at least 64 credits that count towards graduation shall be in courses that require attendance in regularly scheduled classroom sessions or direct faculty instruction. These 64 credits include credits earned in simulation and clinical courses, distance-education courses, supervised research, independent projects, and credit hours earned by participating in law-related studies or activities in a country outside of the United States in compliance with ABA Standard 307. These 64 credits do not include credits earned through field placements, credits earned in courses outside the law school at another, credits for law review or advocacy activities, or credit hours earned by participating in studies or activities that are not law-related in a country outside the United States in compliance with ABA Standard 307.

To be eligible to participate in the Law School Commencement during the spring semester, students must be within 15 credit hours of completing their degree requirements at the conclusion of spring semester. No student shall graduate or participate in commencement if a disciplinary action or hearing is pending, or if the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs finds such participation inappropriate.

## Degree with Honors

The Law School recognizes scholastic attainment of genuine distinction by awarding the degree of Juris Doctor summa cum laude, magna cum laude, or cum laude based on cumulative grade-point average.

Honors are bestowed on the following basis:

1. top 2% of each graduating class will be awarded the J.D. degree summa cum laude;
2. the next 8.5% of the class will be awarded the degree magna cum laude;
3. the next 37.5% of the class will be awarded the degree cum laude.

## Academic Courseload

The normal full-time credit load is 12 to 18 semester credit hours in the fall and spring semesters and 3 to 8 credit hours in the summer term. A semester requires enrollment in at least 12 semester hours, but under unusual circumstances, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant permission for a student to undertake fewer hours. In the final semester of study, enrollment in at least 10 semester credits qualifies for full-time resident status. Please note that enrollment in 10 credit hours may not be considered full-time for financial aid purposes. Students may not enroll in more than 18 hours in any fall or spring semester, or more than 8 hours in the summer term.

## Coursework Expectations

Law students should expect to spend no less than 2 hours per week of course-related work outside the classroom for each credit-hour of coursework. So, for a 3 credit course students should expect to spend six hours studying each week.

## Required Courses

### FIRST-YEAR COURSES

- Civil Procedure
- Constitutional Law I
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Property
- Torts
- Lawyering I (for students matriculating in Fall of 2023 or thereafter)
- Lawyering II (for students matriculating in Fall of 2023 or thereafter)
- Legal Research
- Legal Writing I
- Legal Writing II
- Elective

First Year Students must enroll in and successfully complete all first year courses, including the Spring Elective, in order to continue to their second year. Selective enrollment or withdrawal from first year courses is not permitted.

#### **Civil Procedure: 4010. 4 hours.**

This course covers the lifecycle of a lawsuit in federal court, including the scope and nature of the federal courts' constitutional and statutory authority to decide cases. Topics include statutory and constitutional constraints on judicial power to render an enforceable judgment against a defendant, subject-matter jurisdiction, venue, pleading, joinder, discovery, summary judgment, trial and post-trial motions, and the preclusive effect of final judgments. The course also touches on choice of law, separation of powers, federalism, forum shopping, and the interpretation of rules, statutes, and constitutional text.

#### **Constitutional Law I: 4180. 3 hours.**

This course addresses the meaning and impact of the Constitution of the United States, particularly with regard to federalism, separation of powers, the judicial function, and due process of law.

#### **Contracts: 4030. 4 hours.**

Contracts provides an introduction to the law of legally enforceable promises under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) and the common law. Topics covered include offer acceptance, and consideration; formalities and promissory estoppel; the parole evidence rule and the statute of frauds; third-party enforcement; material breach of contract; and damages. Students are expected to be able to explain in writing how these and other legal issues under the UCC and the common law apply to various complex factual scenarios.

#### **Criminal Law: 4050. 3 hours.**

This course examines the historical development of criminal law as well as analyzing the necessary elements of crimes and considering the principal classes of crimes.

#### **Property: 4090. 4 hours.**

This course addresses the recognition, development and regulation of rights in real property and personal property, including the nature and function of possession and title, shared ownership, private and public rights, and transfers of property.

**Torts: 4120. 4 hours.**

Covers intentional torts, which may include battery, assault, and possibly false imprisonment, trespass to land, and others. Certain defenses to intentional tort, such as consent and self-defense, may also be covered. The bulk of the course is devoted to the tort of negligence, including the content of the duty of reasonable care, issues bearing on whether the defendant has breached that duty, the requirement that the plaintiff establish a causal connection between the breach and the plaintiff's harm, and proximate cause limits on liability.

**Lawyering I: 4040. 0.5 hour.**

“Lawyering” covers various strategies and issues that are relevant to a long-term, healthy, and satisfying career in a dynamic profession. Topics may include the business of lawyering, professional-identity formation, cross-cultural competency, legal technology, wellness strategies, and professional communication skills. The course is pass/fail.

**Lawyering II: 4041. 0.5 hour.**

This course is a continuation of JURI 4040, covering various strategies and issues that are relevant to a long-term, healthy, and satisfying career in a dynamic profession. Topics may include the business of lawyering, professional-identity formation, cross-cultural competency, legal technology, wellness strategies, and professional communication skills. The course is pass/fail.

**Legal Research I: 4072. 1 hour.**

Introduces students to the sources and strategies for basic legal research including finding cases, statutes, regulations, and secondary authorities.

**Legal Writing I: 4071. 3 hours.**

Introduces the process of legal analysis and reasoning and teaches students to produce written documents in the style and format appropriate for the audience and purpose, with an emphasis on objective analysis and writing.

**Legal Writing II 4081. 2 hours.**

Develops advanced skills of legal analysis and reasoning within the context of both objective analysis and legal argument. Students will produce written documents in the style and format appropriate for the audience and purpose. Also covered are basic concepts, conventions, and formats for drafting legal documents.

Students in Legal Writing II are expected to compete in the preliminary rounds of oral argument used to determine participants in the 1L Moot Court Competition.

**First-Year Elective**

In the spring semester, 1L students will select a 3 credit-hour elective from a list of approved electives.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIRED COURSES**

**The Law and Ethics of Lawyering: 4300. 3 hours.**

This course deals with the ethical and legal principles that govern the legal profession. Topics covered include, among others, the attorney-client relationship, the duty of confidentiality, the attorney-client privilege, conflicts of



interest, ethics in advocacy, ethical issues in representing organizational clients, admission to practice, the professional identity of lawyers, and advertising and solicitation. Particular emphasis is given to the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the Restatement of the Law Governing Lawyers.

## **Upper Level Writing Requirements**

All students must successfully complete both the 2L Drafting Requirement and the Capstone Writing Requirement. Before the conclusion of their second year, students must take a one semester class (for a minimum of two credit hours) that has been designated as meeting the criteria for the 2L Drafting Requirement.

A list of qualifying courses will be published prior to the Fall registration period.

The Capstone Writing Requirement requires each student, prior to graduation, to complete an additional analytical writing project of at least 20 double-spaced pages. The project, which may consist of a single writing or be comprised of a series of shorter writings on related topics, must meet the following criteria:

1. be written in a professional style; and
2. require that the student engage in research and creative analytical thinking; and
3. be developed and revised based on faculty input and comments.

### [2025-2026 Capstone Writing Courses](#)

## **Practical Skills Requirement**

Students entering must complete 6 practical skills credit hours.

A list of qualifying courses:

### [Practical Skills Courses Fall 2024-Spring 2025](#)

## **Academic Credit for Journal Participation**

J.D. students selected for the Georgia Law Review, the Georgia Journal of International & Comparative Law, the Journal of Intellectual Property Law, or the Georgia Criminal Law Review may be awarded two nonletter-graded credit hours upon satisfaction of editorial board responsibilities as determined by each journal board, in consultation with its adviser(s). All credit-granting decisions are subject to final approval by the faculty journal adviser(s).

## **Academic Credit for Advocacy Competition**

Second and third year law students may receive credit for their participation in:

- Moot Court Competition (JURI 5042)
- Mock Trial Competition (JURI 5047)
- Negotiation Competition (JURI 5044)
- Transactional Law Competition (JURI 5045)
- Hulsey-Gambrell Moot Court Competition (JURI 5046)
- International Advocacy Seminar (JURI 5041)

Students may not receive more than four credit hours total of combined competition credit towards their degree requirements.

To receive credit, the following conditions must be met:

1. The student must be a second or third year law student in good standing;
2. The student must be a member in good standing of the Mock Trial, Moot Court, or Negotiation Team(s);
3. The student must complete all program-related duties assigned by the Director of Advocacy and/or faculty coach;
4. The student generally must participate in a competition approved for credit during the semester the student is enrolled in the corresponding course:
  - Moot Court Competition (JURI 5042)
  - Mock Trial Competition (JURI 5047)
  - Negotiation Competition (JURI 5044)
  - Transactional Law Competition (JURI 5045)
  - Hulsey-Gambrell Moot Court Competition (JURI 5046)
  - International Advocacy Seminar (JURI 5041)
5. Students may not enroll in more than 18 total credit hours per semester.

## **Supervised Research and Independent Project**

A student may not receive more than 4 hours total credit toward the J.D. degree for any combination of Supervised Research and Independent Project. No more than 2 hours credit for Supervised Research or Independent Project or any combination thereof can be earned in any semester without permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Supervised Research and Independent Project assignments should be completed by the end of the semester in which credit is sought. Occasionally, additional time beyond the semester may be required. In such cases, a professor may enter a grade of I (Incomplete) and grant a one-semester extension for completion of the work. After one semester, a grade of I will convert to an F. To enroll in Supervised Research or Independent Project, the student must obtain a form from the Law School Registrar to be completed by the student and signed by the supervising professor. Upon returning the form to the Registrar, the student will register in Athena at <http://athena.uga.edu> for the appropriate course: Supervised Research (JURI 5190) or Independent Project (JURI 5510).

### **1. Supervised Research**

Supervised Research, JURI 5190 (2 credits), involves an in-depth written analysis of a legal issue under close faculty supervision. It requires significant legal research and original thinking and analysis. Students must produce a final paper of a kind and quality similar to that found in law review articles. Completion of this course should involve: (1) thesis description of topic and scope; (2) general outline of approximately two pages; (3) detailed outline with citations to each major point, including preliminary bibliography listing of all sources searched to this point; (4) textual draft with bibliography of sources consulted, whether or not cited in text; and (5) final paper including footnotes.

Supervised Research cannot involve a topic significantly explored or researched by the student previously in another context such as legal journals, moot court, paid research, law office work, or previous seminars. A student is free to use the completed project in any manner the student desires.

A professor will not supervise research outside of the area of his/her expertise, unless there is no faculty member possessing that expertise. Normally, Supervised Research will not be undertaken on a topic covered by a seminar currently being offered. A professor may not supervise, except in extraordinary circumstances, more than 7 students per academic year in Supervised Research. No faculty member may grade a Supervised Research paper where the paper was originally supervised by another faculty member, except in extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Supervision of the paper in Supervised Research generally should be undertaken by a full-time faculty member. On rare occasions, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may authorize an adjunct or visiting professor to supervise such a paper.

The thesis description should be approved by the professor prior to enrollment in Supervised Research. Once the project has been approved and the student is enrolled, the balance of the steps should be completed according to a schedule established by the faculty member.

The final paper must be submitted to the supervising professor no later than the last day of the semester, unless other arrangements have been made with the supervising professor. A successful supervised research paper can satisfy the Capstone Writing Requirement.

## **2. Independent Project**

Independent Project, JURI 5510 (1 or 2 credits), provides a flexible opportunity for independent exploration of legal issues or questions sometimes not found in any course or seminar, without following the format of a formal research paper. Projects must involve significant legal, social, or empirical research or experiences.

The supervisor of an Independent Project should be a full-time faculty member. On rare occasions, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may authorize an adjunct or visiting professor to supervise such a project. To enroll, the student must present to a faculty member a prospectus describing the project, the resources to be consulted, and the final product, if any, that will result from the student's project. The faculty member must review and approve the proposal prior to the student's enrollment.

The project must culminate in the production of a written document that is placed in the student's file. The document may be the work product itself or a description of or reflection on the Independent Project. The written product must reflect the nature of the work and document sufficient student work to warrant the credit hours awarded.

The grade for Independent Project will be based upon the originality and creativity of the project, the amount of effort expended, the extent of the learning experience, and the quality of any written work prepared by the student in connection with the project. The work must be completed and any product submitted no later than the last day of scheduled classes for the semester.

A faculty member normally will not grade Independent Projects in fields outside of his/her expertise, unless no other faculty member possesses that expertise. Faculty members are not permitted to grade an Independent Project that was originally approved by another professor. A faculty member may not, except in extraordinary circumstances, supervise more than 9 independent projects per academic year.

Independent Project credit cannot be given for work previously done in connection with law review, legal journals, moot court, paid research, law-office practice, or a course or seminar. Students cannot earn credit towards their degrees for serving as teaching assistants, whether via an independent study or through completing JURI 7771.

Except in extraordinary circumstances, Independent Project credit does not satisfy the Capstone Writing Requirement for graduation.

Beneficial educational opportunities for students come through working in legal settings and reflecting on that work under academic guidance. Creating and requiring opportunities for practical training in a legal workplace is an integral part of the law school's academic curriculum. With approval from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the independent project is used to expand opportunities for practical training in various components of the legal system and to enhance the pedagogical benefits of such training. As appropriate, the Associate Dean or supervising faculty member may confer with the student's employer or workplace supervisor to reach an agreement on creating and supporting the educational training resulting from the placement. International students holding F-1 nonimmigrant visas who are interested in getting Curricular Practical Training (CPT) approval for an independent project during summer semesters should review the CPT request procedures found [here](#).

## **Distance-Education Course Credit**

A student may count up to 29 distance-education credits toward a J.D. degree. A J.D. student who enrolls in more than 15 distance-education credits must certify that the student has researched bar-exam requirements and will be able to sit for any bar the student plans to take. LL.M students must receive permission from the Director of the Dean Rusk International Law Center to enroll in distance-education courses. Except in exceptional circumstances, LL.M students are not permitted to count more than 6 credits of distance-education courses toward their degree. Students in the M.S.L. program may take distance-education courses with the approval of their program advisors to the extent consistent with the law school's educational mission and the individual student's professional goals.

The law school will not schedule distance-education sections of required first year courses. This policy does not prevent the law school from accepting distance-education transfer credits or providing remote instruction to particular first year students in unusual circumstances. A distance-education course may be included among the list of spring 1L electives, but no first year student will be required to take a distance-education course.

## **Courses Outside the Law School**

Up to six hours of credit for graduate-level courses outside the Law School may be applied toward the J.D. degree. Registration for such courses requires permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Students must demonstrate the relevance of an outside course to their legal education and/or career plans. This privilege is not granted to first-year students. Student requests must be made to the Associate Dean in writing or by email no later than 21 calendar days before the end of the late registration/schedule adjustment period each semester. The request must include the course name, number, and description, as well as an explanation of why the student wishes to take the course and how it relates to his or her legal education and/or law career objectives. Permission will not be given to take outside courses similar to courses offered in the law school.

## **Clinic-Hour Limitation**

No student may apply more than 16 hours of credit toward the J.D. degree with credits earned in any combination of clinic or externship courses. Credits allocated to seminar time in a clinic or externship course are not subject to this limitation. Clinic and externship courses include:

- Appellate Litigation Clinic
- Atlanta Civil Externship
- Atlanta Corporate Counsel Externship
- Business Law Clinic
- Capital Assistance Project
- Civil Externship I
- Civil Externship II
- Community Health Law Partnership Clinic
- Corporate Counsel Externship I and II
- Criminal Defense Practicum I
- Criminal Defense Practicum II
- D.C. Externship
- Family Violence Clinic
- First Amendment Clinic
- Full-time (or NATO) Externship
- Land Conservation Clinic
- Mediation Clinic
- Practicum in Animal Welfare Skills I, II, and III
- Prosecution II
- Prosecution III
- Public Interest Practicum
- Summer Externships

- Veterans Legal Clinic
- Wilbanks CEASE Clinic

The Law School may offer additional clinic or externship courses from time to time. Questions about whether a clinic or externship course includes credits subject to the 16-hour cap on total credit hours needed to meet graduation requirements should be addressed to the Law School Registrar.

## **Compensated, Funded, and Private Law-Firm Externships**

For the purposes of this policy, a “qualified externship course” is one recognized as part of the Law School’s academic curriculum and overseen by a member of the Law School’s faculty. “Funding” shall be understood to include only a grant, scholarship, or stipend from a source other than the externship field placement itself.

Students may receive remuneration (e.g., an hourly wage or salary), reimbursement, or funding as part of a qualified externship course, so long as that externship is not with a private for-profit law firm.

There is a strong presumption against receiving credit for an externship at a private for-profit law firm. The Dean or the Dean’s designee may grant narrow exceptions for a qualified externship course at a private for-profit law firm located outside of the United States, for a qualified externship course at a private for-profit law firm that offers an experience that students cannot obtain through the law school’s clinics or existing externships, or for a qualified externship course at a private for-profit law firm that increases opportunities for underrepresented groups in specialized areas of law. Students may receive reimbursements from their externship field placement at a private for-profit law firm for any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses related to such field placement provided that a record of such expenses and reimbursements shall be furnished each semester to the faculty member responsible for such placement. Students may also receive external funding for externships at a private for-profit law firm, but they may not receive any other form of remuneration from that firm.

This policy shall be periodically reviewed by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and modified as necessary by the Law School faculty after a consideration of the effects of its implementation and in recognition of the policies and procedures adopted by peer and aspirational institutions addressing this issue.

## **Remunerative Employment**

Full-time law students are strongly advised that they should not work during their first year and they should not work more than 20 hours per week during their second or third years apart from work performed in conjunction with a qualified externship course as defined in the preceding section, Funding and Academic Credit.

## **Academic Performance Standards for J.D. Students**

*The following policies apply to students who matriculate **Fall 2025** or thereafter*

### **For 1Ls:**

Students whose cumulative grade point average at the end of the first year is below 2.0 will be dismissed from the Law School with no right to petition to repeat the first-year courses.

Students whose cumulative grade point average at the end of the first year is at least 2.0 but less than 2.3 will be placed on probation and required to repeat all first-year courses.

Those students may choose to repeat the first-year courses immediately or may remain out of school for one academic year and then repeat the first-year courses. Those students will have only one opportunity to successfully repeat the first-year courses and earn a grade point average of at least 2.3. Upon successful completion of the first-

year courses with a grade point average of at least 2.3, the grades from the initial attempt at the first year will be disregarded for purposes of calculating students' grade point average. Students who enroll in summer courses after the first year whose cumulative grade point average is less than 2.3 will be withdrawn and will receive a refund of summer tuition and fees.

### **For Upper-Level Students:**

Students whose cumulative grade point average after the first two semesters is at or above 2.3 are in good standing.

If any time after the first three full semesters their cumulative grade point average falls below 2.5, those students will be notified in writing that they are dismissed from the Law School. Students will not be allowed to enroll following the receipt of notice of dismissal unless readmitted (see Readmission Standards below). If the notice of dismissal is given while a student is enrolled in an academic-year or summer semester, that student will be withdrawn from enrolled courses and receive a refund for that semester's tuition and fees.

Any student readmitted as described here will be on academic probation for the first semester of attendance after readmission. During that semester, the student's cumulative grade point average must rise to at least 2.5. Failure to do so will result in permanent academic exclusion from the Law School without the ability to petition for readmission.

### **For Graduation:**

A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 is required for graduation.

*The following policies apply to students who matriculated before **Fall 2025***

### **Minimum Standard for Graduation and Good Standing**

The minimum standard of academic performance during attendance is 1.90. Any student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 1.90 is not in good standing and is subject to academic exclusion according to the procedures set forth below.

### **Standards of Performance for First-year Students**

Any student whose cumulative grade point average at the end of the first year is below 1.58 will be dismissed from the Law School with no right to petition to repeat the first-year courses. Any student whose grade point average at the end of the first year is at least 1.58 but less than 1.90 will be placed on probation and required to repeat all of the first-year courses. The student may choose to repeat the first-year courses immediately or may remain out of school for one academic year and then repeat the first-year courses. The student will have only one opportunity to successfully repeat the first-year courses and earn a grade point average of at least 1.90. Upon successful completion of the first-year courses with a grade point average of at least 1.90, the grades from the initial attempt at the first year will be disregarded for purposes of calculating the student's grade point average. Students who enroll in summer courses after the first year whose cumulative grade point average is less than 1.90 will be withdrawn and will receive a refund of summer tuition and fees.

### **Standards of Performance for 2nd and 3rd year Students**

- a. A student whose cumulative grade point average after the first two semesters is at or above 1.90 is in good standing.



- b. If at any time after the first two semesters a student's cumulative grade point average falls below 1.90, the student will be notified by mail that he or she is dismissed from the Law School.
- c. The student will not be allowed to enroll in the next semester following the receipt of notice of dismissal unless that student is readmitted (see Readmission Standards below). If the notice of dismissal is given while the student is enrolled in a semester or summer term, the student will be withdrawn from his or her courses and receive a refund for summer tuition and fees.
- d. Any student readmitted as described herein will be on academic probation for the first semester of attendance after readmission. During that semester, the student must raise his/her cumulative grade point average to 1.90. Failure to do so will result in permanent academic exclusion from the Law School.
- e. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 is required for graduation.

## **Continuous Enrollment Requirement**

First year J.D. students must complete the full first year curriculum in their first academic year (Fall and Spring semesters).

All upper level students pursuing J.D. degrees are expected to maintain continuous full-time enrollment during the academic year (excluding summer terms), from matriculation until completion of all degree requirements. Failure to maintain continuous enrollment may result in permanent expulsion from the J.D. program. Students enrolled in recognized dual-degree programs will meet this requirement as long as they are complying with the course schedules set out in those programs and agreed to by the dual-degree advisor.

Upper level students facing unusual and exceptional circumstances may request permission to be temporarily exempted from this continuous enrollment policy. Such exceptions require advance approval from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and will be granted only for good cause. Good cause constitutes things such as serious medical and health-related issues, major financial and employment issues, pregnancy, childbirth, child care, elder care, and other significant family issues, and other major personal circumstances that significantly and unusually interfere with the ability to undertake J.D. study.

Exemptions from the continuous enrollment policy will not be granted after the course withdrawal deadline for the semester for which the exemption is sought. Students seeking permission to withdraw from Law School after this deadline must contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and must comply with the University of Georgia's hardship withdrawal policy. Exemptions and hardship withdrawals may be conditioned as deemed appropriate by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

A student who fails to maintain continuous enrollment without receiving advance permission as set out above will be allowed to return to the J.D. program only if granted readmission by the Dean. In readmission cases, the applicant has the burden of justifying readmission by establishing specific, unusual and unique circumstances, not common to a large number of students or inherent in the academic process, that resulted in the student's failure to comply with this policy, including the failure to request and receive advance permission for the student's absence.

All J.D. students, including but not limited to those exempted from the continuous enrollment policy, those allowed to withdraw under the hardship withdrawal policy, those granted readmission by the Dean, and those enrolled in dual-degree programs, are expected to complete all graduation requirements no more than five academic years after the student's matriculation.

## **Dual Degrees**

The Law School offers dual-degree programs that enable students to earn both their J.D. and graduate degrees in less time than it would take to earn them individually. Applicants must apply separately to both programs. Transfer

students interested in our dual-degree programs should contact Director of Dual Degree Programs Shannon Hinson at [shinson@uga.edu](mailto:shinson@uga.edu).

Dual-degree students must satisfy all Law School requirements, though the number of credit hours required for the J.D. portion will vary among the programs. Pursuant to ABA Standard 311(d), no credit is given for coursework taken prior to J.D. matriculation. Students interested in participating in a dual-degree program should contact Shannon Hinson for information regarding the particular credit-hour requirements for their program.

Students interested in a dual-degree program should contact the non-Law School graduate program's Admissions Office directly for information about that program. Dual-degree students must typically complete their first and second years of Law School study consecutively, with the exception of those students who participate in the three-year J.D./M.B.A. program or the three-year J.D./MAcc program. Participants in the four-year programs will pay three years of Law School tuition and one year at the Graduate School rate. For more information regarding dual-degree programs, please see <https://www.law.uga.edu/dual-degrees>.

Students enrolled in dual-degree programs are strongly encouraged to meet with the Director of Dual Degree Programs before each semester's registration process.

### **1. J.D./M.Acc.**

The J.D. MAcc degree is ideal for students who have a B.A. in accounting or who had a business major with a significant emphasis on accounting courses. The program takes three years, and students graduate with both a Juris Doctor and a Masters in Accountancy – Taxation. This degree requires 74 Law School credits. Some jurisdictions, including New York, impose additional credit requirements for the bar exam. If a student plans to take the bar exam in a jurisdiction other than Georgia, the student needs to contact that jurisdiction as early as possible in the student's educational program to determine the precise requirements to sit for the bar exam and confer with the Director of Dual Degree Programs at the law school.

### **2. J.D./M.B.A.**

#### **Four-Year Program**

The J.D./M.B.A. provides preparation for students interested in careers combining law and banking, entrepreneurship, finance, international business, or other business and commercial interests. Applicants should have two years of work experience in business and have taken the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The degree requires 74 Law School credits.

#### **Three-Year Program**

This accelerated program is much like the four-year program described above, but it is very fast-paced. This program is better-suited for students with more than two years of work experience in business, and it also requires that students take either the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Students in this program will pay Law School tuition during the first year, Business School tuition during the second year, and Law School tuition during the third year. This degree requires 71 Law School Credits. Some jurisdictions, including New York, impose additional credit requirements for the bar exam. If a student plans to take the bar exam in a jurisdiction other than Georgia, the student needs to contact that jurisdiction as early as possible in the student's educational program to determine the precise requirements to sit for the bar exam and confer with the Director of Dual Degree Programs at the Law School.

### **3. J.D./M.H.P.**

The J.D./M.H.P. program, which includes an internship and thesis, is designed for students interested in the historic preservation field. Students with wide varieties of academic backgrounds and experiences are accepted for the program. Applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The degree requires 79 Law School credits.

#### **4. J.D./M.P.A.**

The J.D./M.P.A. attracts students who desire careers in public administration, including nonprofit sectors. Graduates may have careers as attorneys in local, state, or federal agencies and/or be administrators in the agencies. The program accepts students from various academic and experiential backgrounds. Applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The degree requires 74 Law School credits.

#### **5. J.D./M.P.H.**

The J.D./Masters in Public Health dual-degree will prepare graduates to address the legal needs of public health organizations and private healthcare providers at the local, state, national, and international levels while preparing them to interpret and create policies that govern and direct these same organizations through four total years of study. The program includes a required 6 credit-hour field placement or externship between the third and fourth year and a 3 hour Capstone MPH course that can be completed only during the final semester of the program. Applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The J.D. requires 88 credit hours (for students matriculating before the Fall of 2023) or 89 credit hours (for students matriculating in Fall of 2023 or thereafter), which includes J.D. coursework as well as courses completed in the M.P.H. program but given dual credit by the Law School.

#### **6. J.D./M.S. in Sport Management and Policy**

This dual-degree provides the theoretical and practical background to pursue career opportunities as a lawyer concentrating on sports issues. It is restricted to students in the Sports Management program. Applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The degree requires 76 Law School credits.

#### **7. J.D./M.S.F.P.**

The JD/Master in Financial Planning dual degree program seeks to produce graduates with an interdisciplinary skill set, capable of both practicing law and providing personal financial guidance. Graduates of this program will be better prepared for a range of career options, from estate planning, managing assets, or providing more robust services to clients already within their legal practice. During their time at UGA, dual degree students will acquire an interdisciplinary perspective that will enrich the learning environment for other students at the Law School and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

#### **8. J.D./M.S.W.**

Graduates of the J.D./M.S.W. program are prepared for careers as social service administrators, juvenile court representatives, family court judicial personnel, mediators, public policy officials, guardians ad litem, family law attorneys, and child support enforcement administrators. Students will participate in both legal and social work internships. Applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). The degree requires at least 74 Law School credits.

#### **9. J.D./M.U.P.D.**

The JD/Master in Urban Planning and Design is intended for students who wish to both practice law and perform the technical design work appropriate to a career related to urban and regional planning. Graduates of this dual program

will be well suited for careers in policymaking, regulation, and advocacy. This program requires 74 Law School credits.

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## **Part 2 TRANSFER AND VISITING STUDENT STATUS**

### **Transfer Students**

Law students at other institutions who are interested in completing their studies at the Law School are encouraged to apply for admission as transfer students. Transfer students are welcomed by our students and faculty, and have opportunities to join student organizations, journals, advocacy teams, clinics, externships, and social activities. A student who has completed the first year of full-time studies in a Juris Doctor degree program at an ABA-approved Law School may be considered for transfer admission. Transfer applications from Law Schools awarded provisional ABA accreditation will not be considered.

In making transfer decisions, the Admissions Committee relies heavily upon three criteria:

- (1) the applicant's academic record at all schools attended, including law schools and the applicant's Law School Admission Test score(s);
- (2) the reasons for seeking transfer; and
- (3) the number of places available in the class.

Transfer applicants are eligible for admission in the fall semester of their second year of Law School. A transfer student may enroll early and take summer courses if accepted for admission before the end of the summer add/drop period. No transfer applicants are admitted for the spring term.

Credit for first-year courses completed by an admitted transfer student at his/her home school will be awarded in the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs upon evaluation of the transfer student's grades and courses. Transfer credit will not be awarded for courses taken pass/fail or on any other ungraded basis (aside from courses that are analogous to Lawyering I and II for transfer students transferring in Fall 2024 or thereafter) or for any course completed with a grade lower than a C or its equivalent. The Law School will accept no more than 30 hours of credit from another Law School.

The Law School may require transfer students to take particular courses to meet graduation requirements even if the student has had a similar course at his/her previous law school. While transfer students may receive credit for courses completed at another law school, students' actual grades will not be used in calculating their grade point averages at the Law School. In addition, transfer students will not have class ranks until the end of their second year.

All transfer students are eligible to participate in the write-on competition for journal membership. The Law School has four academic journals: Law Review, Journal of International & Comparative Law, Journal of Intellectual Property Law, and Criminal Law Review. The write-on competition is used for all four publications. In mid-May, the write-on materials will be available upon request to all rising 2nd year students following the completion of their last final exam. On that date, write-on packets will be emailed to all potential transfer students who have requested one. Students considering transferring to the School of Law should contact Katie Voyles, Associate Director of Career Development and Journal Specialist, at [kmvoyles@uga.edu](mailto:kmvoyles@uga.edu) and request a write on packet even if they have not yet received an admissions decision.

Transfer students wishing to be a part of the Law School's Advocacy Program can email the Director of Advocacy for information about tryouts. Moot court tryouts begin at the end of August and mock trial tryouts begin in September. An informational meeting will take place at a mandatory orientation program held prior to the commencement of classes.

## Visiting Students

Students in good standing at an ABA-approved Law School may be admitted as visiting students. Visiting students are eligible to participate in our Washington, D.C., and Atlanta semester programs, and may request visiting status for this purpose. Admission is granted for one academic term at a time. Current Law School students seeking visiting status at other law schools must obtain permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Petitions to be a visiting student elsewhere must include an explanation of the reasons for the visit and a description of courses in which the student plans to enroll.

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## Part 3 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Atlanta Semester in Practice

The Atlanta Semester in Practice offers students the opportunity to have a full-time externship experience in the State capital while earning a full semester's worth of credits. Externship placements include federal and state governmental agencies, nonprofits, judges, prosecutors, legal aid, and corporate counsel. Students work at their placements between 30 and 35 hours weekly and participate in a two-credit externship seminar. Students will also take between one and three nonexternship courses in Atlanta, and/or participate in any distance-education courses offered by the law school. Nonexternship courses offered in Atlanta will typically include a mix of high-demand doctrinal courses, practical skills courses, and specialized seminars. In addition, students in the program are offered special networking opportunities and in-person career development services. This program operates each fall and spring semester. Additional information is available [here](#).

### Washington, D.C. Semester in Practice

The D.C. Semester in Practice provides up to 15 students the opportunity to have a full-time externship experience in the nation's capital. Student placements include federal governmental agencies, headquarters of national nonprofits, the judiciary and Capitol Hill. In addition to externing at their placements for 32 hours weekly, students participate in a two-credit externship seminar and a three-credit nonexternship course: Lawyering in the Nation's Capital. Students earn a total of 13 credits. This program operates each fall and spring. Additional information is available [here](#).

### Semester-Long Exchange in India

J.D. students in their second or third year are eligible to study for a semester at O.P. Jindal Global University in Sonapat, India. This exchange offers students access to a wide range of international law courses and professors, as well as unique professional development opportunities.

This immersive placement allows students to take courses in English, while living on campus and becoming part of an international law community. Through the tuition-exchange model, students pay their regular tuition to Georgia Law for the semester, in addition to a pre-determined fee by the host university. This information, including refund policies, is updated annually and will be communicated to student applicants. For more information, see the website at <https://www.law.uga.edu/international-exchanges>, or e-mail the Center at [ruskintlaw@uga.edu](mailto:ruskintlaw@uga.edu).

### Summer Study in Belgium/Europe

Offered in partnership with the prestigious Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, our Global Governance Summer School continues a four-decade tradition of summer study in Belgium. Participating students participate in classes and an expert's conference at the Centre, located at the University of Leuven, one of Europe's top research institutions. Summer students explore global legal practice issues, such as trade and sustainable development, peace and security, trafficking and other crimes, intellectual property, the environment, human rights and the rule of law,

and migration. Also featured are professional development trips to leading legal institutions in European cities like Brussels and The Hague.

Students often undertake the Global Governance Summer School in tandem with a Summer Global Externship. For more information, see the Dean Rusk International Law Center website at [law.uga.edu/RuskIntl](http://law.uga.edu/RuskIntl), or e-mail the Center at [ruskintl@uga.edu](mailto:ruskintl@uga.edu).

## ABA-Approved Summer Study

Many American law schools sponsor American Bar Association-approved educational programs either on their campus or in other countries. The Law School normally will accept transfer credits (but not grades) for courses taken in such programs in which students earn the grade of C or better. The accepted credits count towards the [six-credit cap of courses outside the law school](#), and thus no students may have more than six credits from an ABA-approved Summer Study applied towards their degrees. Prior approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is necessary. Students must also obtain a degree audit to ensure compliance with ABA Standard 307(d), (e), and (f). A Study Abroad Credit Approval form, necessary for international study and student financial aid, is available either online or at the Law School Registrar's Office. Students must pay a study-abroad fee and complete the credit approval form only for programs sponsored by law schools other than the University of Georgia School of Law. All forms and study abroad fees must be submitted and paid before course registration and financial aid can be completed.

## Global Externships

Georgia Law students benefit from an array of opportunities for on-the-job global practice training, including:

**Global Externship Overseas (GEO).** During summers for many years, students have undertaken 4-to-12-week funded placements abroad, at more than 70 law firms, corporate legal departments, nongovernmental organizations, and government agencies, in more than 30 countries on 5 continents.

**Global Externship At-Home (GEA).** Complementing the GEO are externships in the United States that train students in legal practice involving international, comparative, transnational, and foreign affairs law. GEAs often occur in tandem with experiential learning opportunities like Georgia Law's Atlanta Semester in Practice, D.C. Semester in Practice, and Corporate Counsel Externships.

Summertime GEOs and GEAs often are undertaken in tandem with the Georgia Law – Leuven Centre Global Governance Summer School. For more information, see the Dean Rusk International Law Center website at [law.uga.edu/RuskIntl](http://law.uga.edu/RuskIntl), or e-mail the Center at [ruskintl@uga.edu](mailto:ruskintl@uga.edu).

## Environmental Ethics Certificate

Law students may enroll in the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program for the graduate-level certificate. For a law student to receive the certificate, the student must complete, with permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, two required courses outside of the Law School, namely Ecological Concepts (EETH/ECOL 6200) and Environmental Ethics (EETH/PHIL 6220). A candidate for an environmental certificate must also enroll in an additional course in environmental ethics; law students can satisfy that requirement by taking the Environmental Dispute Resolution course (EETH/JURI 7870). The student must also attend a series of Tuesday evening seminars (EETH 6000), which is an ungraded weekly seminar and will not count as credit toward the J.D. Finally, the certificate recipient must complete two additional courses and a substantial paper about an environmental subject. Most of the classes in the Law School's environmental curriculum qualify as EECF electives. Students may satisfy the EECF required paper with the same paper that they use to satisfy the Law School's Capstone Writing Requirement, if the paper independently satisfies the requirements of each. For further information about the EECF, please call its office at (706) 542-0935, e-mail [eeep@uga.edu](mailto:eeep@uga.edu) or visit <http://www.uga-eeep.com/>



## UGA Interdisciplinary Sustainability Certificate

Law students may obtain the University of Georgia [Interdisciplinary Certificate in Sustainability](#) while meeting coursework requirements for their law degree during their second and third years. The Sustainability Certificate requires students to complete 17 credit hours of coursework: a listed anchor course (3 credits); three listed “sphere” courses with one each from the ecological, economic, and social lists (9 credits); two semesters of the certificate seminar including a [portfolio](#) requirement (2 credits); and a capstone course (3 credits). For a list of approved courses, click [here](#).

J.D. students can complete the certificate by taking eight credits of coursework outside the law school (up to six of which can be applied toward the J.D. degree) and the remaining credits via law-school courses, as follows:

- **Anchor Course & Ecological Sphere Courses:** Law students must take one qualifying anchor course and one qualifying ecological sphere course outside the law school.
- **Economic Sphere Course Options at the Law School:** Environmental Law (JURI 5280), International Environmental Law (JURI 5750), or Renewable Energy Law & Policy (JURI 4826).
- **Social Sphere Course Options at the Law School:** Environmental Law (JURI 5280) and International Environmental Law (JURI 5750).
- **Capstone Option at the Law School:** Law students may complete any two-credit Law School drafting seminar, and one of the following two-credit capstone seminars: Climate Law (JURI 5283) or Corporate Sustainability (JURI 4850). To count the capstone paper toward the Certificate, law students are required to meet with the Certificate coordinator to discuss the proposed research topic. The capstone course can satisfy both the capstone requirement for the Certificate and the J.D. graduation requirement as long as the project independently satisfies the requirements for each.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs must approve of any of the courses whose credit hours will count towards the J.D. degree. No course can satisfy more than one requirement for the Certificate. Law students must attend the Certificate seminar (without credit counted toward the J.D.) and complete its assignments to obtain the Certificate. For further information about the Certificate, contact Sustainability Certificate Coordinator Tyra Byers at [scdirector@uga.edu](mailto:scdirector@uga.edu). To apply, follow the instructions at <https://sustainability.uga.edu/certificate/students/apply/>

## Student-Practice Rule

The Law School offers second-year and third-year law students the opportunity to learn through experience in law clinics and externships. Georgia Supreme Court Rules 92 – 95 permit second-year and third-year law students to practice law in specified law settings when appropriately supervised by a licensed attorney. In part, Rule 92 says the following:

An eligible law student registered for student practice pursuant to this Rule, when under the supervision of a member of the State Bar of Georgia, may, as if admitted and licensed to practice law in Georgia, advise, prepare legal instruments, appear before courts and administrative agencies and otherwise take action on behalf of:

1. any state, local, or other government unit or agency;
2. any person who is unable financially to pay for the legal services of an attorney; or
3. any nonprofit organization the purpose of which is to assist low or moderate income persons.

To be admitted to practice in Georgia, the Georgia Office of Bar Admissions must receive three certifications, pursuant to Rule 94:

- the Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Experiential Learning must certify that the student satisfies the requirements of the rule.
- the student must certify that the student has read and will comply with the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct.

- the student must take an oath in a form prescribed by the rule and submit written documentation thereof.

Any student engaging in student practice should read the full text of the Supreme Court rules.

Under the rule, the Dean has the discretion not to certify a student for any of the reasons listed in Rule 94. Students with questions about the certification process should contact the Law School Registrar.

Students who plan to enroll in one of the clinics or externships may contact the faculty member who teaches that course for more information about student practice and certification.

For first-year students seeking certification for summer work outside of a clinic or externship course (including rising 2Ls pursuing summer work), the Law School will consider certification only for the following:

- students who have successfully completed The Law and Ethics of Lawyering, JURI 4300, as an elective during the spring semester of the first year. These students may seek certification for practice after completing the course and before the start of their summer work.
- students who have successfully completed The Law and Ethics of Lawyering, JURI 4300, during the summer following their first year. These students may seek certification only after completion of the course in early July.

The Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Experiential Learning will review each such request for certification for compliance with relevant requirements of the Student Practice Rules, including those related to supervision.

The federal student-practice rules are similar, but not identical, to the Georgia student-practice rules. The clinical professor or supervising attorney in a federal practice setting will advise students as to certification under the appropriate federal rule.

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## Part 4 CLASSES

Upper level elective courses and their descriptions can be found on the Law School's web site.  
<https://www.law.uga.edu/course-offerings>.

### Course Registration

All information pertaining to course schedules, registration dates, drop/add schedule adjustment, and registration guidelines are available online at <https://www.law.uga.edu/class-schedules-registration> and is distributed via email to students' official UGA email accounts. Students may access the University's Athena online registration system at <http://athena.uga.edu>. Students who have unpaid parking fines, library fines, health service fees, etc. will have a "flag" placed on their registration by the University. Students cannot register while a flag is on the student's record. Information regarding loan disbursements, tuition, and fee deadlines is available on the University Bursar's website at <http://www.bursar.uga.edu/>.

The Law School uses a point-allocation and application process as part of registration for upper-level courses. Current students are expected to familiarize themselves with the registration processes by reading through the materials made available on the [Class Schedules and Registration page](#) and the [JD Advising Hub](#).

Students may enroll in only one "mini-course," as designated on the course list, each semester. This, and other registration expectations and processes, are listed in the *Registration Guides* and *Registration FAQs* made available to students on the [JD Advising Hub](#).

### Class Attendance

Regular and punctual class attendance is an integral part of the learning process. Under Standard 308 of the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools, all schools must “adopt, publish and adhere to a written policy requiring regular class attendance.” In compliance with this Standard, it is Law School policy that students must attend classes regularly. Specifically, a student should not incur during a semester a number of absences in excess of twice the number of times a particular course is scheduled to meet per week. Absences in excess of this number may result in an administrative withdrawal and/or entry of an automatic “F” in a course. The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs may, for good cause, temporarily modify the Law School’s class-attendance policy.

An instructor may, but is not required to, establish his or her own more demanding attendance policy at the beginning of a particular course. Any such policy must be clearly communicated and enforced by the instructor. Professors who excuse absences for purposes like job interviews or participation in advocacy competitions should also excuse absences for service in the military reserves.

## **Auditing Courses**

Full-time students at the Law School may audit courses only under special circumstances and with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the professor teaching the course. No additional tuition charge will be assessed. Permission to audit must be in writing and provided to the Law School Registrar prior to registration in the course.

Individuals who are not full-time students at the Law School may audit a course only if the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, in his or her discretion, determines that there is sufficient reason for such audit commensurate with the general purposes of the Law School and only with agreement of the professor teaching the course. Permission to audit must be in writing and provided to the Law School Registrar prior to registration in the course. Tuition will be charged for such an audit.

## **Withdrawal from a Course/Withdrawal from School**

A student may withdraw from a course during the first half of each semester. A grade of “W” is assigned if the student adheres to the requirements for withdrawal. Grades of “Withdraw-Pass” and “Withdraw-Fail” are not permitted. Until the withdrawal deadline for a semester, withdrawal from a course is accomplished online through the University’s Athena e-withdrawal system at <http://athena.uga.edu>.

Withdrawal after the withdrawal deadline is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Information regarding the procedure for requesting permission to withdraw from courses after the withdrawal deadline is [available here](#).

## **Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule**

[https://busfin.uga.edu/bursar/bursar\\_quick\\_links/](https://busfin.uga.edu/bursar/bursar_quick_links/)

## **Drop/Add Schedule Adjustment**

A drop/add period is provided early in each semester. Courses dropped during this period will not appear on a student’s academic record. Drop/add is accomplished through the Athena online course registration system at <http://athena.uga.edu>.

Any course dropped after the drop/add period but before the withdrawal deadline will result in a “W” on the transcript. The Withdrawal Deadline is listed on the academic calendar available [here](#).

## **Class Cancellation**

If a class session must be cancelled or postponed, a notice will be posted on the door of the room in which the class is regularly taught and sent to the students via official UGA e-mail.

## **Inclement Weather**

The Law School does not conduct classes when the University closes due to inclement weather. Announcements of closings are made on Athens radio stations, Atlanta media, the UGAAlert System, official UGA email, ugaLAWalert, and on the University and Law School webpages.

## **Law School Computer Use Policy**

Instructors may restrict or prohibit the use of computers in class subject to any requirements imposed by state or federal disability law.

## **Recording of Classes**

Unless a contrary policy is announced in a particular course, electronic recording of class discussions is not permitted without the express and written permission of the instructor or without a disability accommodation approved by UGA's Disability Resource Center. Students given permission to record a class will be required to sign an Agreement for Use of Electronic Recordings.

## **Course Evaluations**

Near the conclusion of each course, students have the opportunity to evaluate the course and instructor. The primary goal of this process is improvement of instruction. Evaluations are completed anonymously. Evaluations are available to the instructor only after final grades are posted.

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# **Part 5 EXAMINATIONS**

## **Exam Rescheduling and Emergencies**

Because final exam schedules are available during registration, students are expected to take their exams as scheduled. Compliance with exam rescheduling procedures is not required if the instructor has announced an alternative exam time available to all students regardless of their circumstances. Exceptional circumstances, however, are to be handled as follows:

1. **Conflicting Exam or Other Obligation.** Students may request to reschedule an exam because of a conflict with another exam. Such a conflict exists only when a student has two exams scheduled on the same calendar day or exams scheduled on three successive calendar days. In either situation, the student may seek to reschedule one exam to another time. The fact that a student has an exam on one afternoon and another the following morning does not justify an exam change.

A student may seek relief if a scheduled exam conflicts with other very important and atypical obligations (e.g., family weddings, unique job responsibilities, etc.). The request should include the details of the important obligation that prompted the request for relief. Each case will be considered on its merits, and rescheduling will be permitted only in truly exceptional situations.

The following procedures shall be followed:

- The student must inform affected exam instructors of the conflict and ask instructors for relief. If no instructor authorizes rescheduling, the student should consult the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs immediately.
- If an instructor has granted permission to reschedule, the student must obtain an exam change form in the Registrar’s office or online, and complete and submit the form by the announced deadline that semester to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who will consider the request and arrange rescheduling if approved. Exams will be rescheduled for the first available makeup day after the regularly scheduled exam time. In exceptional circumstances the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may schedule makeups at alternative times.

2. **Rescheduling for Emergencies.** When emergencies arise during the exam period, such as personal illness, severe family illness, death in the family, etc., a student should contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs immediately to make arrangements for rescheduling, if appropriate. Because of the anonymous grading system, the student should not contact the instructor.

## Part 6 GRADES

### Blind Grading IDs

All J.D. exams, whether take-home or timed in a classroom, will be graded anonymously. Students may access their “Blind Grading ID” number in their MyGeorgiaLaw student portal. Students are assigned a new Blind Grading ID at the beginning of each semester and that Blind Grading ID should be used for every course during that term to identify the student. Blind Grading IDs will be different for each student and will be confidential. No professor will have any knowledge of a particular student’s Blind Grading ID number.

### Grading Policy

To ensure a measure of uniformity in grading policies, the faculty has instituted the following regulations:

Except as set forth below, the average grade in all courses must fall within the range of 2.90 – 3.20. The grades of non-J.D. students will be disregarded for purposes of this policy. All courses and seminars with 20 or fewer J.D. students are not subject to his policy.

Deviations from the required range of 2.90 – 3.20 in upper-level courses, including 1L elective courses, are permissible only in extraordinary circumstances. Deviations in other 1L courses are not permissible. Requests to deviate must be clearly explained in a letter from the instructor to the Dean submitted at least two business days before the Law School’s grading deadline. Instructors will have their letters reviewed by the Dean or the Dean’s designee, and based on that review, may be asked to reevaluate and adjust grade distributions. “Extraordinary circumstances” will be deemed to presumptively exist in the following situations:

- (1) courses in which the primary method of evaluation is formative in nature (e.g., clinics, practicums, simulation courses, and paper courses), and
- (2) courses originally capped at 20 in which the enrollment ultimately exceeds that number by no more than 4 students.

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

Faculty Policy stipulates that grading must be completed and course grades submitted to the Law School Registrar within 25 days after the date of the last scheduled exam. If the 25th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, faculty must submit grades on the next business day after the 25th day. This policy applies to fall, spring, and summer terms. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may extend the grading deadline by up to two business days in connection with the faculty's return from a university-wide holiday break.

## **Class Rank**

Individual class ranks for J.D. students are calculated for those in the top 25% of the class only. Ranking letters are emailed to each J.D. student in the top 25%. Grading distributions are posted online for J.D. students with the GPA distribution for the top 10%, 25%, 33%, 50% or 75% of each class. Transfer students are not ranked until the end of their 2L year.

## **Grade of Incomplete**

Students are expected to complete all coursework in the semester in which they are enrolled in the course. In exceptional circumstances only, a student may receive authorization from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs not to complete work in a course within the regular semester when that course does not use a final examination as the primary means of assessment. In such cases, the student will be given a grade of "I" (Incomplete) instead of an "F." A student can remove the "I" from the student's record by completing the required work within the time period specified by the instructor, which time period will not extend beyond the last day of the next regular semester. If a student fails to remove an "I" within the prescribed time, the "I" automatically will be changed to an "F." A student may not withdraw from a course in which the student has received a grade of "I."

## **Grade Changes and Appeals**

A grade change (other than a change from an Incomplete) will be approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs only in situations where the instructor has discovered a ministerial error such as mistaken computation or transcription. A re-reading of a single paper or small subset of papers by the instructor will not justify a grade change.

After discussing the grade with the instructor, a student dissatisfied with a course grade may file an appeal in writing with the Dean of the Law School within 30 days of posting of the grade. The assignment of grades for a course is within the broad discretion of the instructor. Accordingly, for an appeal to be successful the student must demonstrate that the grade was produced by: 1) a ministerial error by the instructor; or 2) improper or unprofessional bias of the instructor against the particular student.

## **Law-School Transcripts**

Students can access and print their unofficial law school transcripts in Athena. Official transcripts are available only through the UGA Registrar's Office. Information and links regarding transcript requests can be found at <http://www.reg.uga.edu/transcripts>. Grades and other personally identifiable academic information will not be communicated by telephone.

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## **Part 7 HEALTH AND COUNSELING**

The University Health Center (UHC) provides medical, counseling, and prevention services. All enrolled UGA students are eligible for care at the UHC. Full time-students pay a health fee each semester and are automatically assigned a primary care provider upon enrollment. Students can call (706) 542-8617 to identify their assigned primary care provider. Spouses or domestic partners of enrolled students are eligible for UHC services and may



either pay the health center fee to receive the same benefits as a full-time student, or choose to use the UHC on a fee-for-service basis. See the University Health Center website at [www.uhs.uga.edu](http://www.uhs.uga.edu) for more information, including services provided and financial/insurance information.

The Director of Student Affairs is available to discuss personal issues, challenges, and events that arise during law school including advisement and references regarding academic issues, financial assistance, and counseling services. The Director of Student Affairs is located in Hirsch Hall 212, via email at [lawstudentaffairs@uga.edu](mailto:lawstudentaffairs@uga.edu), and by phone at (706) 542-5167 during normal business hours.

The UHC Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) clinic provides mental health and counseling services for UGA students, and the law school covers all out-of-pocket costs incurred by law students who access CAPS services. The first step in accessing CAPS services is to schedule a Screening Appointment through the UHC Patient Portal or by calling CAPS at (706) 542-2273 during normal business hours (8:00am - 5:00pm, Monday through Friday). During the Screening Appointment, you and the clinician will discuss a plan to meet your needs. CAPS has a brief treatment model, so it is possible that your needs will be best served outside of CAPS. If this is the case, CAPS will assist you in identifying resources to get connected with a care provider in the community. If your needs fall within the CAPS scope of practice, you will be assigned to a CAPS clinician for further counseling appointments.

In addition to the CAPS services available at the UHC, a CAPS psychologist is available for Screening Appointments two days each week in Dean Rusk Hall. If you prefer to meet with the CAPS clinician in Dean Rusk Hall, request this when you call CAPS to schedule your Screening Appointment. These appointments provide an opportunity to discuss your concerns and to develop a plan for how to best address your mental health needs. If further appointments are needed or desired, CAPS will assist in getting you connected to the appropriate resources. You may be able to continue to see the CAPS clinician in Dean Rusk Hall for follow-up appointments depending on scheduling availability.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, you can walk-in to CAPS during normal business hours for services on the second floor of the UHC, on the corner of College Station and East Campus Roads. CAPS is also available for after-hours crisis services by calling 706-542-2273.

A more comprehensive list of Health & Wellness Resources (both on and off UGA's campus) is available in the MyGeorgiaLaw portal under the "Student Services" tab.

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## **Part 8 LL.M. PROGRAM**

### **Application Requirements**

Individuals who have earned a law degree equivalent to a J.D. or LL.B. from a foreign university are eligible to apply to study for a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree. Applicants must meet both the educational requirements for admission to practice law in the country where the law degree was earned and Georgia Law's English proficiency requirement.

Complete application requirements are published online on the LL.M. web page, which can be accessed at: <https://www.law.uga.edu/LLM>.

### **Curriculum**

The LL.M. degree is awarded upon successful completion, typically over one academic year, of 26 credit hours. All LL.M. students are required to take two courses – Legal System of the United States and Legal Writing and Research – totaling 5 credit hours. They have several options for completing the remaining 21 credit hours.

Some LL.M. students will pursue a flexible plan of study. Others will choose to focus on an area of concentration, such as:

1. Public Institutions and the Law
2. Business Law
3. Criminal Law
4. Transnational and International Law
5. Preparation for a U.S. Bar Exam

Students pursuing areas of concentration numbered 1 to 4 above will be required to earn at least 12 credit hours in the chosen area. A list of course offerings that count towards these areas of concentration will be made available to all LL.M. students. Areas of concentration will not appear on transcripts or diplomas.

Students who pursue area of concentration number 5, Preparation for a U.S. Bar Exam, will undertake a curriculum designed to meet the bar admissions requirements of a U.S. state. The [Director of International Professional Education](#) will assist interested students in planning their course of study, but students are responsible for informing themselves about bar admissions requirements. All LL.M. Students pursuing the Preparation for a U.S. Bar Examination or the Criminal Law area of concentration are required to participate in an experiential learning course, in addition to the other two required courses for the LL.M. degree.

In exceptional circumstances, and provided that course offerings permit, an LL.M. student may pursue up to two – but no more than two – areas of concentration. With regard to courses that appear on lists for two different concentrations, no more than 3 qualifying credit hours may be double-counted and thus allotted to fulfillment of requirements in both areas of concentration.

Students pursuing areas of concentration numbered 1 to 4 above may seek to complete an LL.M. essay – entailing a minimum of 60 pages, for 6 credit hours – on two conditions: 1) that the subject of the essay falls within the area of concentration, and 2) that the student is matched, at the point of admission, with a faculty supervisor. Approval must be given by the Director of the Dean Rusk International Law Center. The essay option is not available to students pursuing the Preparation for a U.S. Bar Exam concentration.

LL.M. students may enroll in classes offered at University of Georgia units other than the law school, for up to 6 credit hours, in order to attain an interdisciplinary perspective on issues of interest to them. To exercise this option, students must secure approval from both the Director of the Dean Rusk International Law Center and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

## **LL.M./MBA Degree**

Students interested in a business law career may pursue a dual Master of Laws/Master of Business Administration (LL.M./MBA) degree. Georgia Law offers this two-year dual degree in partnership with the University of Georgia Terry College of Business. An applicant thus must apply to, and be accepted into, both university units in order to study as an LL.M./MBA candidate. Students interested in pursuing this dual degree should inform the [Director of International Professional Education](#).

## **Registration Guidelines**

Admitted LL.M. students should speak with the [Director of International Professional Education](#) for counseling and assistance regarding course registration. (Note: J.D. students receive priority enrollment in [courses required for the J.D. degree](#), needed for bar examination preparation, or [required for bar admission](#). However, the vast majority, but not all, Law School courses are open to LL.M. students.)

## **Good Standing Requirement**

An LL.M. student whose cumulative GPA is above 1.90 is in good standing. If at any time an LL.M. student's cumulative GPA falls below 1.90, the student will be notified that he or she is dismissed from the School of Law. Upon receipt of the notice, the student may petition the Dean for readmission. An LL.M. student who falls below a 1.90 GPA and is dismissed may only be readmitted to the program one time. In connection with a readmission decision, the Dean may determine that the grades from the initial attempt at the LL.M. program will be disregarded for purposes of calculating the student's grade point average.

## Graduation GPA Requirement

LL.M. students must obtain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to be certified for graduation.

## LL.M. Graduates' Transfer to J.D. Studies

LL.M. students at the University of Georgia School of Law may apply for admission into the Georgia Law J.D. program as transfer students.

All applicants must submit a transfer application through [LSAC.org](https://www.lsac.org) by April 1. Applications may be submitted at any time after the student requesting the transfer has received their fall grades but no later than April 1. Application must be completed not later than April 15.

LL.M. students may not apply to transfer to the J.D. program more than one academic year after graduation with the LL.M. degree, unless the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs waives the one-year requirement based on good cause.

LL.M. to J.D. Transfer Application Checklist:

1. Create an account with [LSAC.org](https://www.lsac.org).
2. Register for the [Credential Assembly Service](https://www.lsac.org) (CAS).
3. Request all required transcripts to be sent to [LSAC.org](https://www.lsac.org).
  - US or Canadian transcripts: <https://www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jd-application-process/cas/requesting>
  - International transcripts: <https://www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jd-application-process/cas/requesting/international-transcripts>
  - UGA School of Law LL.M. transcript (available at no cost through the applicant's ATHENA account or from the UGA School of Law registrar).
4. Complete and submit your transfer application through [LSAC.org](https://www.lsac.org) by April 1. An application fee of \$50 must be paid online when applying through [LSAC.org](https://www.lsac.org). You can request an application fee waiver by emailing [ugajd@uga.edu](mailto:ugajd@uga.edu).
5. Two letters of recommendation, one being from a member of the UGA School of Law faculty who has instructed the applicant in a course at the UGA School of Law. This letter must address the applicant's potential for success in J.D. studies and likelihood of being admitted to the bar.

## Decision and Credit Transfer

Decisions on LL.M.-to-J.D. transfer applications will be made by the Georgia Law Dean or the Dean's designee, which may include a committee composed of faculty members and/or admissions personnel. If admitted to the J.D. program, students may defer admission for one year, provided there are no new character and fitness issues.

Following a positive admissions decision and receipt of the applicant's official transcript including spring semester grades, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs shall make a preliminary – and provisional – determination of the credit hours to be awarded as transfer credits. This preliminary determination will be finalized upon receipt of any additional information requested by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Information requested typically will

involve details about previously completed coursework, as well as certification by each relevant UGA School of Law instructor that the coursework completed by the applicant in the instructor's courses met or exceeded the performance standards required of a UGA School of Law J.D. student in good standing.

Transferrable credit hours may include courses taken pursuant to the UGA School of Law LL.M. program, as well as courses completed at a law school outside the United States. The assessment of credit for courses taken outside the United States shall occur in a manner required by the American Bar Association (currently, [Standard 505\(d\)](#)).

Transferred credits may not exceed 29 credit hours. Grades earned in transferred credit hours will not be included in the calculation of the transfer student's J.D. GPA. The LL.M.-to-J.D. transfer student will not be assigned a class rank until the student has completed a full year of J.D. study.

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## **Part 9 M.S.L. PROGRAM**

Candidates who have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution are eligible to apply to study for a Masters in the Study of Law degree. Complete application requirements are published online on the M.S.L. webpage, which can be accessed at [www.law.uga.edu/MSL](http://www.law.uga.edu/MSL)

The M.S.L. degree is awarded after successful completion of 30 credit hours of course work. All requirements for the degree must be completed within 3 years; in exceptional circumstances, an extension of time may be granted at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

While transfer students may receive credit for courses completed as part of another M.S.L. (or similarly named) program, students' actual grades from those transferred credits will not be used in calculating their grade point averages at the Law School. Credit for prior study in another M.S.L. program will be awarded in the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs upon evaluation of the transfer student's grades and courses. Transfer credit will not be awarded for courses taken pass/fail or on any other ungraded basis or for any course completed with a grade lower than a C or its equivalent. The Law School will accept no more than 10 hours of credit from another M.S.L. (or similar) program.

A full-time course load is nine hours per semester during the academic year and six hours during the summer semester. The maximum semester course load for any student is 18 hours per semester.

Part-time students must enroll for a minimum of 3 credit hours in at least two semesters per academic year (fall, spring, summer). Temporary exemption from this policy is available, with the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, to students experiencing unusual circumstances. An M.S.L. student who falls below a 1.90 GPA and is dismissed may only be readmitted to the program one time. In connection with a readmission decision, the dean may determine that the grades from the initial attempt at the M.S.L. program will be disregarded for purposes of calculating the student's grade point average. A student who fails to comply with the minimum hour requirement without the permission of the Associate Dean will be classified as inactive and must apply for readmission to the program.

An M.S.L. student whose cumulative GPA is above 1.90 is in good standing. If at any time an M.S.L. student's cumulative GPA falls below 1.90, the student will be notified that he or she is dismissed from the Law School. Upon receipt of the notice, the student may petition the Dean for readmission.

M.S.L. students must obtain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to be certified for graduation.

The M.S.L. degree is awarded and without reference to honors and without reference to specialization, though such specialization may be apparent from the student's course selections.

## **Curriculum**

All entering M.S.L. candidates must take the M.S.L Introduction to the American Legal System course during their first semester of study. This three-hour introductory course is available only in the fall in both Athens and Atlanta. In Athens, the course begins approximately two weeks prior to the beginning of each fall semester and continues to meet throughout the semester. In Atlanta, the course begins when fall semester courses begin. This course is designed to introduce M.S.L. candidates to the basics of U.S. law and to acclimate them to the study of law.

Students choose the remaining required 27 credit hours from the Law School's course offerings. (Note: J.D. students receive priority enrollment in courses [required for the J.D. degree](#), needed for bar examination preparation, or [required for bar admission](#). However, the vast majority, but not all, Law School courses are open to M.S.L. students.) This course work should consist of classes relevant or complementary to the student's profession or area of interest and is chosen in consultation with the M.S.L. advisor. Students also have the option of obtaining credit hours toward the degree through completion of substantial research, with the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Associate Dean's delegate, conducted under faculty supervision.

Up to 3 hours of credit for University of Georgia graduate-level courses outside the Law School may be applied toward the M.S.L. degree. Registration for such courses requires permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Student requests must be made to the Associate Dean in writing or by email no later than 21 calendar days before the end of the late registration/schedule adjustment period each semester; the request must include the course name, number, and description, as well as an explanation of how the course is relevant to the student's area of interest or profession.

## **Successful Completion of M.S.L. Degree**

Upon successful completion of the 30 credit hours of course work, graduation is authorized by the Dean of the Law School.

M.S.L. degree recipients are not eligible to sit for the Bar Examination, nor does the degree qualify them to practice law. M.S.L. credits are not transferrable into the Law School's J.D. program.

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# **Part 10 PLANNING FOR THE BAR EXAMINATION**

## **Bar Examinations**

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners

Bar examination fees must be paid as and when required by the relevant state's Board of Bar Examiners. A failure to pay such fees as required will result in your exclusion from the exam.

The Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) is a component of the bar exam in almost every jurisdiction. The Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) is also a requirement in most jurisdictions, including Georgia. The Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) has currently been adopted for use by some jurisdictions, and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT) has been adopted for use by some jurisdictions. In addition to the successful completion of the bar exam, the Georgia Board of Bar Examiners requires a passing grade on the MPRE. The forms to register for this examination are available online at <http://www.ncbex.org>.

The subjects tested on the MBE are Contracts, Civil Procedure, Torts, Evidence, Real Property, Criminal Law, and Constitutional Law. Criminal Law includes criminal procedure questions. A number of upper-level courses are subjects frequently tested on bar exams throughout the country. In planning their schedules, students should consult



the bar requirements of their state. A good source of information concerning the subjects tested on a particular state's bar exam is the National Conference of Bar Examiner s' website: <http://www.ncbex.org/>.

## **Continuing Duty of Disclosure**

All law students have a continuing duty to promptly disclose information that is responsive to the questions on their application for admission to Law School. This continuing duty extends to periods between semesters when classes are not in session. Disclosure should be made to the Law School Registrar via email at [lawregistrar@uga.edu](mailto:lawregistrar@uga.edu). Failure to disclose post-admission conduct that is responsive to the questions on the application for admission may result in revocation of admission, suspension or dismissal after matriculation, denial of certification of graduation, or revocation of a degree. Failure to disclose post-admission conduct that is responsive to application questions may also adversely affect a student's ability to obtain Bar admission.

## **Registration for Bar Examination**

Students intending to practice in Georgia are encouraged to file an Application for Certification of Fitness to Practice Law in the second semester of their second year. Application information is available at <http://www.gabaradmissions.org>. Each Georgia Bar Exam applicant must provide proof to the Bar that degree requirements have been met. The Law School Registrar's Office certifies this to the Georgia Bar automatically. Students taking a bar examination outside of Georgia must request certification by the Law School Registrar via email or letter. Requests must include the address of the bar and any required forms.

Law students are responsible for requesting an official transcript to be sent to the state bar following graduation. The law school cannot send or request an official transcript for a student.

The Law Registrar's Office does not provide copies of student transcripts from other institutions.

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## **Part 11 FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. Information regarding FERPA may be accessed at <https://reg.uga.edu/general-information/ferpa/>. Students must sign a FERPA release form in order to disclose directory information. Without a signed release form, the Law School generally cannot confirm enrollment information to employers or family, list a student's name in the graduation program, etc.

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## **Part 12 RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Consistent with its obligations under federal and state law, the Law School makes reasonable accommodations in the academic program for students with disabilities. To obtain accommodations, a student should first contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at the University of Georgia.

The Disability Resource Center is located in Clark Howell Hall.

Phone: (706) 542-8719 TTY: (706) 542-8778 Fax: (706) 542-7719

The mission of the Disability Resource Center is to promote equal educational opportunities and a welcoming academic, physical, and social environment for students with disabilities at the University. It seeks to eliminate both physical and attitudinal barriers that may exist on campus and to promote inclusion for students with disabilities in

accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended in 1998.

To qualify for services, students need to complete an intake packet and provide current documentation supporting their disability related accommodations from a qualified professional (see specific criteria on website). For more information on eligibility and services, please call or visit the DRC webpage at [www.drc.uga.edu](http://www.drc.uga.edu). This process can take some time, so please contact the DRC as soon as possible to begin the process. **Accommodations for exams must be approved by the last day of classes in the semester in which the students seeks the reasonable accommodations for them to be effective during the exam period.**

Once a student is registered with the DRC and is eligible for specific accommodations, then the student will work with the Director of Student Affairs at the Law School regarding the accommodations. Questions should be directed to the Office of Student Affairs ([lawstudentaffairs@uga.edu](mailto:lawstudentaffairs@uga.edu)).

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## **Part 13 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY (NDAH)**

All students are subject to the University's Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy (NDAH) and are expected, as a condition of enrollment, to conduct themselves in accordance with this policy. It is important that you familiarize yourselves with the University's policy, which can be accessed at <http://eoo.uga.edu/policies/non-discrimination-anti-harassment-policy>.

The Law School observes the University's Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment (NDAH) policy, which is administered and enforced by the University's Equal Opportunity Office (EOO). Consistent with ABA Standard 205, Law School policy prohibits discrimination and requires equal opportunity for applicants, students, faculty and staff with respect to race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, disability and military status. Should the EOO conclude that a claim of discrimination on the basis of gender, gender expression or military status lies categorically outside the protection of the NDAH policy, the Law School will address the matter internally based on its Professionalism Policy or supervisory authority over employees.

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## **Part 14 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

All students, including law students, are expected to adhere to the University of Georgia Student Code of Conduct. The full Code can be found online at <http://conduct.uga.edu/>.

In addition to any applicable criminal penalties, violations of House Bill 280 ("Campus Carry") may also be a violation of provisions of the University of Georgia Code of Conduct or other disciplinary policies. University System of Georgia guidance regarding these policies is [available here](#).

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## **Part 15 CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS FOR TUITION**

### **Georgia Residency**

Classification as In-State for Law School Tuition Purposes<sup>[1]</sup>\*



An independent student enrolled at the Law School as a nonresident may be classified as in-state for tuition purposes upon demonstration by clear and convincing evidence that the out-of-state domicile has been abandoned and legal residence has been established in Georgia.

There is no exact formula to ensure reclassification for independent students. Each case is evaluated according to its particular facts. The following actions, although not exhaustive or necessarily conclusive, support a claim for in-state status.

1. Living in Georgia for at least 12 months immediately preceding the first day of classes in the term for which in-state classification is sought.
2. Remaining in Georgia during periods when not enrolled as a student. For law students, this means that remaining in Georgia for the summer after the first year of Law School strengthens the case for reclassification. Summer legal employment outside of Georgia does not automatically mean that a reclassification petition will be denied.
3. Demonstrating financial independence by relying on sources of financial support from within the state of Georgia for more than 50% of the total cost of attendance is helpful to the petition for reclassification. Scholarships, including Tuition Equalization Scholarships and Tuition Reduction Scholarships, and law student loans in the student's name are independent financial support within the state of Georgia for purposes of determining legal residency. Financial support from someone outside of Georgia, from loans based on the credit of others or from trust funds created by others for the student's support are not normally included as independent financial support.
4. Paying income and property taxes as a Georgia resident, including taxes on income earned outside of Georgia. A student is not independent and, except in rare cases, will not be able to establish Georgia residency if he or she is claimed as a dependent for income tax purposes by parents or any other individual for the tax year preceding the term for which the student seeks reclassification.
5. Obtaining a Georgia driver's license and registering a vehicle in Georgia at least 12 months prior to the first day of classes for the term in which reclassification is sought.
6. Registering to vote in Georgia.
7. Opening a bank or savings account in Georgia in the student's name. (i.e. not a joint account with someone out-of-state).
8. Leasing or purchasing living quarters in Georgia in the student's name.

If you are enrolled in or considering a three-year dual degree program, please contact Shannon Hinson, Director of Dual Degree Programs ([shinson@uga.edu](mailto:shinson@uga.edu)), to discuss the classification process.

## **Petition for Classification as In-State**

Law students who intend to remain in Georgia upon completion of their legal studies should complete and submit a Petition for Classification as In-State for Tuition Purposes. The petition should be submitted to the School of Law Admissions Office by July 1 for the fall semester and November 1 for the spring semester.

## **Appeals Process**

If a petition for classification as an in-state student is denied, an appeal can be made to the Residency Appeals Committee at the address below. The appeal must be received within 30 days from the date of the denial notification.

A copy of the denial letter as well as a postal address, telephone number, and/or email address at which the student may be reached must be included, along with a clear statement of why the decision is incorrect.

Residency Appeals Committee  
University of Georgia  
102 Lustrat House  
Athens, GA 30602-1693

Fax: 706.542.3248

Following administrative review and/or hearing, the Residency Appeals Committee will make a recommendation to the President who will review the Committee's findings and recommendations, decide the case, and communicate his decision. The President's decision in residency matters is final. The School of Law Admissions Office will not be able to assist in the appeal process. Should you have questions, please call the Residency Appeals Committee at 706.542.0006.

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## Part 16 FACILITIES

### Building Hours

Unless otherwise specified, the Law School buildings (Hirsch Hall and Dean Rusk Hall) are open daily from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. After 6:00 p.m. and on weekends and holidays, the Law School is locked and alarmed, but Hirsch Hall is accessible to law students with their UGA card utilizing the Law Library entrance door. This is the only access door available to law students after hours and on weekends and holidays. Law students do not have access to Rusk Hall after 6:00 p.m. weekdays and weekends/holidays unless prior arrangements have been made with Mary Beisswenger, Law School Facility Manager. The Law Library hours are posted inside the library and on its [website](#).

Any access questions or problems should be reported to Mary Beisswenger, Office 119 Hirsch Hall, 706-542-0335, [marybeis@uga.edu](mailto:marybeis@uga.edu).

The Law School's clinic spaces are located on the 3rd and 4th floor of the Bank of America (BOA) building in downtown Athens (110 E. Clayton St.). The BOA building is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If weekend or holiday access is needed, please arrange access with the clinic directors.

### Room Reservations

Law School facilities are available for use by School of Law student organizations. Contact the Director of Student Affairs for information on planning student events. Submit requests for student events during regular business hours at least 2 weeks in advance to ensure the event is authorized and any reservation can be processed. To arrange building access for after-hours or weekends, consult with Mary Beisswenger, 199 Hirsch Hall, 706-542-0335, [marybeis@uga.edu](mailto:marybeis@uga.edu).

### Student Lockers

Lockers are assigned for all students at the beginning of each academic year.

Students must provide their own locks. Locks will be removed from lockers at the end of the spring term for cleaning. Students can request summer term lockers from the Student Affairs office.

Cash, jewelry, and other valuable items should not be stored in lockers. The Law School is not responsible for items stored in lockers.

## **Smoking and Tobacco Use Prohibited**

Smoking and tobacco use is prohibited on the entire campus. For more information on the University's policy, see [uga.edu/tobacco-free/](http://uga.edu/tobacco-free/).

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## **Part 17 COMMUNICATIONS**

In accordance with University of Georgia policy, every student is required to have an email address to which official University and Law School communications are sent. UGAMail is the official form of communications used by the Law School, and students are expected to check their account once every 24 hours. In the best interest of effective communications management, this address must reside on the University-maintained UGAMail email system. If a student chooses to forward email from his or her UGA account to another account, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the UGA account not become full and, thus, fail to forward emails. It is also the student's responsibility to check email daily.

Listserves are established for the 1L class (and one for each 1L section), the 2L class, the 3L class, the LL.M. students, the M.S.L. students, and dual degree students. While students are not authorized to post to official listservs or unsubscribe from them, voluntary student listservs exist for special purposes. LAWORG-ANNOUCE, ANNOUNCE-TO-1Ls, ANNOUNCE-TO-2Ls, and ANNOUNCE-TO-3Ls are designed to provide an outlet for student organizations to communicate with their members and the Law School community and also is an outlet for lost and found notices from students. Lawstu-trade serves as a forum for the exchange of information on such matters as housing. Both student listservs are moderated.

Law school policy concerning posting on listservs can be found [here](#).

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## **Part 18 ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

In the absence of a governing law school policy as set out in this Handbook for either the LL.M. or M.S.L. programs, the Law School reserves the right to apply the policies in this Handbook that apply to the J.D. program. In the absence of a governing law school policy as set out in this Handbook, the Law School reserves the right to apply the policies and procedures of the University of Georgia Graduate School. All students enrolled at the University of Georgia also are subject to all applicable University rules.

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## **Part 19 HONOR CODE, PLAGIARISM POLICY AND PROFESSIONALISM POLICY**

### **HONOR CODE CONSTITUTION**

**AS AMENDED SEPTEMBER 26, 2001**

In keeping with the spirit of the legal profession, knowing that upon every student at the Law School rests the duty to maintain a Code of unimpeachable conduct, and that there is a need for a system which will enable students not to condone other conduct that detracts from the integrity of our Law School, this Honor Code Constitution is hereby ordained and established.

### **ARTICLE I. JURISDICTION**

The jurisdiction of the Honor Court extends to all students of the University of Georgia Law School. The Honor Court has jurisdiction to determine whether a student defendant has violated the Honor Code in any instance in which a complaint is filed by any member of the law school community with the Honor Court Investigators or their advisor.

## ARTICLE II. HONOR COURT

- **Section 1. Purpose.**

There shall be a body known as the Honor Court. The Honor Court shall serve as a court for the trial of violations and the determination of punishment in cases of guilt.

- **Section 2. Membership.**

The Honor Court consists of a Hearing Panel and a Hearing Officer, and shall be assisted by an Investigators Committee.

- **a. Hearing Panel.** The Hearing Panel consists of five student justices, two of whom shall be chosen from the second-year law class, and three from the third-year class. In cases involving students of the first-year class, one member of the Hearing Panel must be a first-year student from a section other than that of the accused. The first-year representative shall be selected from the panel described in Article II, Section 4(a). The justices shall be nominated by the members of their respective classes, and shall be elected by a majority of those persons voting in their respective class elections by secret ballot. All justices shall serve a term of one year, and may be reelected to a second term.
- **b. Hearing Officer.** A member of the faculty appointed by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Law School shall serve as the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer shall serve a term of two years, during which time (s)he shall manage investigative and hearing procedures under Article IV. The Hearing Officer is not a member of the Hearing Panel, does not vote to determine guilt or innocence and does not participate in the private deliberations of the Hearing Panel. The Hearing Officer shall determine all procedural questions presented during Article IV proceedings. The Hearing Officer, however, cannot rule upon motions regarding probable cause determinations by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or upon any motions that require rulings on the merits of the case.
- **c. Investigators Committee.** Five students shall comprise an Investigators Committee, two of whom shall be chosen from the second-year class, and three from the third-year class. In cases involving first-year students, one member of the Investigators Committee must be a first-year student from a section other than that of the accused. The first-year representative shall be selected from the panel described in Article II, Section 4(b). The investigators shall be nominated by the members of their respective classes, and shall be elected by a majority of those persons voting in their respective class elections by secret ballot. Each investigator shall serve a term of one year, and may be reelected to a second term.
  1. **Chief Investigator.** One of the third-year investigators shall be Chief Investigator. The nominations for Chief Investigator shall be the three investigators elected by the rising third-year class. The Chief Investigator shall be elected by a plurality of all votes cast by an electorate comprised of the rising second and rising third-year classes.
  2. **Prosecutor.** In the event of a formal adjudication under Article IV, one investigator shall be selected by the Chief Investigator to serve as Prosecutor.

- **Section 3. Powers.**

The Honor Court shall hear cases alleging violations of the Honor Code; determine guilt or innocence; determine penalties; promulgate any and all regulations and procedures necessary for the efficient and fair

operation of Honor Court matters; and publish such of its conclusions and proceedings as it determines to be advisable and wise, consistent with the student's right to confidentiality if the student should elect that the trial be secret.

- **Section 4. Elections and Nominations of First-Year Representatives.**

- a. **Hearing Panel.** No later than the third week in October, members of the first-year class will submit nominations for membership on the Hearing Panel. In order to be considered, a first-year student must provide the signatures of fifty classmates that support, not necessarily exclusively, the student's nomination. Those applying to the Hearing Panel are not prohibited from also applying to the Investigators Committee, and the collected fifty signatures satisfy the nomination process for both Committees. The Hearing Panel will interview those who received the necessary signatures. Criteria that may be used by the Hearing Panel in choosing are seriousness of candidate, previous experience, and availability for meetings. The interviews will conclude within one week of their commencement. The Hearing Panel shall then select one, properly nominated, first-year student from each section to serve as a first-year representative to the Hearing Panel. If a section produces no properly nominated first-year representatives for the Hearing Panel, the Hearing Panel will have the discretion to select a representative from such section.
- b. **Investigators Committee.** No later than the third week in October, members of the first-year class will submit nominations for membership on the Investigators Committee. In order to be considered, a first-year student must provide the signatures of fifty classmates that support, not necessarily exclusively, the student's nomination. Those applying to the Investigators Committee are not prohibited from also applying to the Hearing Panel, and the collected fifty signatures satisfy the nomination process for both Committees. The Investigators Committee will interview those who received the necessary signatures. Criteria that may be used by the Investigators Committee in choosing are seriousness of candidate, previous experience, and availability for meetings. The interviews will conclude within one week of their commencement. The Investigators Committee shall then select one, properly nominated, first-year student from each section to serve as a first-year representative to the Investigators Committee. If a section produces no properly nominated first-year representatives for the Investigators Committee, the Investigators Committee will have the discretion to select a representative from such section.

## **ARTICLE III. HONOR CODE**

- **Section 1. Definitions**

- a. "Academic matter" means all matters that relate to:
  1. Any law school course;
  2. Any law school examination;
  3. Any matter for which law school credit is given or sought;
  4. Any nonelectoral competition for membership in any law journal or other student organization; or
  5. Material submitted for publication in any law journal.
- b. "Person in authority" means all faculty of the law school (including visiting and adjunct faculty), all employees of the law school with responsibility in connection with any academic matter, and all professional library staff members.
- c. "Associate Dean" means the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the Law School.

- **Section 2. A student Violates the Honor Code if he/she:**

- a. Knowingly makes a materially false or deceptive statement to a person in authority in connection with an academic matter; or
- b. Engages in conduct in connection with an academic matter either:
  1. For the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage over another student, or
  2. Under circumstances such that a reasonable law student would know that the conduct was likely to result in an unfair advantage.

- **Section 3. Examples of Honor Code Violations**

As illustrations of conduct which violates the provisions in Section 2, the following specific forms of conduct by students are violations of the Honor Code:

- a. Violation of any procedure adopted by any person in authority for an examination or any other graded material, including but not limited to:
  1. Use of unauthorized materials;
  2. Writing beyond the time limit of the examination;
  3. Communication with any unauthorized person during the examination or the preparation of the graded material; or
  4. Communication concerning the examination or preparation of the graded material with any student who already has taken or who has yet to take the examination.
- b. Purposeful destruction, mutilation, secretion, or unauthorized removal of any law school property, including library material.
- c. Purposeful invasion, including by computer, of the security maintained for the preparation or storage of examinations or other confidential information retained by the law school.
- d. Submission, except by permission of the relevant person in authority after full disclosure, of any work prepared, used, or submitted in another course or for a law journal, clinic, employer, or any other organization.
- e. Agreeing, soliciting, attempting or agreeing to commit, assist, or facilitate a violation of this Article.
- f. Failure to report a known violation of this Article within a reasonable time.
- g. Failure to provide information or testimony when requested by the Honor Court, except upon a showing of good cause.
- h. Making a false representation about one's academic record or law school activities to a prospective employer or to another academic institution;
- i. Unauthorized use of academic materials, such as library books;
- j. Unauthorized taking of another student's books, class notes, outlines, study materials or computer;
- k. Violation of the confidentiality rules created by the Honor Code Constitution.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit in any way the provisions of Section 2 of this Article.

- **Section 4. This Article does not apply to plagiarism.**

Conduct alleged to constitute plagiarism remains within the authority of the faculty.

- **Section 5. All incoming students shall sign the following pledge on matriculation.**

I, the undersigned, have read the School of Law Honor Code Constitution, and understand what is expected of me as a student, including my obligation to report violations to which I am a witness or of which I am aware.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

The pledge remains in effect until (a) graduation or (b) termination of education prior to graduation.

## **ARTICLE IV: INVESTIGATIVE AND HEARING PROCEDURES**

- **Section 1. Referral, Investigation, and Probable Cause Determination**

- a. Reporting Procedure

All students and faculty (full and part-time) who reasonably believe that a violation of the Honor Code has occurred have an affirmative duty promptly to report the violation to the Chief Investigator. A complaint may be made by any other person with knowledge of a violation, including staff members and administrators of the law school. The complaint must be in writing, signed by the complainant.

- b. Preliminary Investigation

Within three (3) days of receiving a complaint, the Chief Investigator shall assign an investigator to the case and the complaint. If the complaint alleges a violation by an upperclass student, only an upperclass student may serve as investigator. If the matter involves a first-year student, a first-year representative, not from the section of the accused, may serve as the investigator. The Investigator shall then commence an investigation within five (5) days. The inquiry shall be undertaken in a manner determined by the Investigator to be appropriate, based upon the nature of the charges, the confidentiality of the investigation, and the interest of the parties. The Investigator may interview the accused student and others. Those interviews may be tape recorded. The Investigator shall maintain the strict confidentiality of the investigation. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators have a duty to cooperate with the Investigator. The accused student may decline to be interviewed. At the beginning of an interview with the accused student, the Investigator shall advise the student of the allegations and of the student's right to decline to be interviewed and to have lay representation by anyone other than a member of the Law School faculty or staff.

- **c. The Investigators' Report**

1. Submission of Report. Not later than fifteen (15) days after the commencement of the investigation, the Investigators Committee shall submit a written report to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The report must contain a recommendation of any further action that the Investigators Committee believes to be warranted. If the matter involves a first-year student, a first-year representative, not from the section of the accused, will participate in the deliberation of the Investigators Committee. The Chief Investigator shall select one of the eligible first-year representatives as described in Article II, Section 4(b). When the Investigators Committee is required to vote on an accusation against a first-year student, the Chief Investigator shall preside, but not vote. If the Investigators Committee believes in good faith that a Hearing Panel could not reasonably find that the accused student committed an Honor Code violation, the Investigators Committee shall recommend dismissal.

2. Nature of the proceeding before the Associate Dean. Pre-hearing proceedings before the Associate Dean are strictly for the purpose of determining whether there is sufficient



evidence (probable cause) to warrant a formal charge. The proceedings need not be conducted as formal hearings.

3. Appeal. A decision by the Associate Dean to dismiss the charge or proceed with the charge is not appealable within the Law School. If the charge is dismissed, a later charge may not be brought against the same student based on the same factual episode.

#### ■ d. Actions Permitted

1. **Declination.** If the Associate Dean concludes that there is not probable cause to believe that an Honor Code violation occurred or that the accused student committed the violation, the Associate Dean shall issue a declination to prosecute. If a matter is declined, the Chief Investigator shall notify in writing the complainant (and other persons interviewed by the Investigator who of necessity learned the identity of the accused student) of the action taken. The complainant and those who have learned the accused's identity must be warned of the confidentiality of the matter and admonished not to disclose to others the student's identity. If the accused student was contacted by the Investigator during the inquiry, or if the case Investigator reasonably believes that the student has become aware of the complaint or investigation, the Chief Investigator shall notify the student of the declination.
2. **Referral to Honor Court for prosecution.** If the Associate Dean concludes that there is probable cause to believe that an Honor Code violation occurred and that the accused student committed the violation, he/she shall deliver a letter to the Hearing Officer and to the Chief Investigator, stating his/her probable cause determination. The letter must contain the name of the accused student and the specification of the Honor Code provision(s) violated, with a brief statement summarizing the specific acts or omissions constituting the violation(s).
3. **Undertake further investigation.** When the interests of justice and the parties require, the Associate Dean may order further investigation by the Investigators Committee not to exceed fifteen (15 ) days, at which time the Committee shall submit a report to the Associate Dean. At that point, the Associate Dean will either decline or refer the matter for prosecution.
4. **The case file.** In a matter closed without prosecution, a memorandum from the Associate Dean explaining this determination shall be placed in the case file. The case file containing the original complaint, tape recordings or other investigatory materials, the case Investigators' report, the memorandum decision, and copies of the notification letters sent to affected persons must be securely maintained in the office of the Associate Dean. The student's law school file may not reflect that an investigation has taken place.

#### • Section 2. Case Prosecution

##### ○ a. Notification of Student

Unless a finding of good cause has been made by the Associate Dean to extend the period, within five (5) days of the Associate Dean's probable cause finding, the Chief Investigator shall hand deliver to the accused student ("respondent") notice of the probable cause determination, along with a copy of the Honor Code Constitution. The notice must inform the respondent of:

1. The nature of the charges against the student: the specific Honor Code section(s) alleged to have been breached and summary of the specific acts or omissions constituting the violation(s);

2. The rights the accused shall enjoy during all subsequent Honor Court proceedings in the case, including:
  - (A) the right to counsel, lay or professional. A professional counsel’s role is limited to advising the accused or the accused’s lay counsel and is not to participate in oral advocacy before the Honor Court. No “person in authority” [as defined in this Constitution] employed by the Law School can serve either as lay or professional counsel;
  - (B) the right to confrontation;
  - © the right to call witnesses on his/her behalf;
  - (D) the right to present evidence on his/her behalf;
  - (E) the right to remain silent and have no inference of guilt drawn from such silence;
  - (F) the right to cross-examine witnesses; and
  - (G) the right to a public hearing.
3. The burden of the prosecution to establish the charge(s) by clear and convincing evidence;
4. The sanctions available to the Honor Court, which include but are not limited to one or more of the following:
  - (A) written reprimand
  - (B) community service
  - © loss of privileges within the law school
  - (D) failure of a course
  - (E) repeat of a failed course
  - (F) suspension or probated suspension
  - (G) expulsion.
5. The fact that any sanction imposed on the student will be noted in the student’s permanent record/transcript, and;
6. The opportunity during the ten (10) days following delivery of the letter to contact the case prosecutor (identified by name) and consent to a stated discipline, subject to Honor Court approval, thereby avoiding trial.

o b. Formal Adjudication

1. **Convening the court.** If the respondent does not respond to the invitation to consent to discipline or if no agreement is reached within the prescribed time limits, the case investigator (now “prosecutor”) shall promptly notify the Hearing Officer that the matter can be set for a hearing on the merits. Upon receipt of such notice, the Hearing Officer shall promptly convene the Honor Court. If the respondent is a first-year student, the upperclass members of the Hearing Panel shall select one first- year representative as described in Article II, Section 4(a) to join the Hearing Panel. The Hearing Panel may not select a first-year representative from the section of the accused. In matters involving first-year students, a senior member, chosen at the discretion of the upperclass members of the Hearing Panel, will not vote in the adjudication or sanction process.
2. **Notice.** The court shall set a hearing date, time, and place and hand deliver to the Chief Investigator and the respondent a conforming notice, which shall contain the names of the members of the court. Except for good cause, the hearing on the merits must be held within fifteen (15) days of the convening of the court.
3. **Disqualifications.** Any member of the Honor Court or member of the Investigators Committee may disqualify himself or herself from investigating or hearing any reported violation. The respondent shall have the right to challenge for cause members of the court. The Hearing Officer

shall rule on any challenges. A vacancy created on the Committee may, if necessary, be filled by a temporary member, selected by the Chief Investigator in consultation with the Hearing Officer. A vacancy on the Hearing Panel may be filled if necessary, by a temporary member selected by the Dean, provided that the temporary member be a member of the same class as the disqualified member. In the event that the Hearing Officer must disqualify himself/herself from involvement with the case, the Dean shall select a member of the faculty to serve as a temporary Hearing Officer.

4. **Continuance.** The Hearing Officer may continue or adjourn the hearing without prejudice if essential evidence is unavailable, or for other good cause shown.
5. **Discovery.** Upon written demand by either the prosecutor or the respondent, he or she shall be provided a list of his witnesses and copies of any documentary evidence. The list may be amended up to but not later than twenty-four hours before the date and time of the hearing on the merits. Once the list is provided, no person may testify and no documentary evidence may be received into evidence unless the name or exhibit appears on the list, or the party seeking to admit the evidence can show good cause for its exclusion on the list provided to the opposing party. The prosecution shall disclose to the respondent any evidence known to him or her that tends to exonerate the respondent or mitigate the degree of culpability.
6. **Adjudication by consent.**
  - a) Discipline by consent is an admission to one or more of the charges agreed to by the prosecutor and the respondent. The agreement must be in writing and approved by the Associate Dean and at least four (4) members of the Investigators Committee. The writing must contain the charge specifications, an admission of the conduct signed by the respondent, the sanction to be imposed, and any factors in aggravation or mitigation as determined by the prosecutor, who shall, along with the Chief Investigator, sign the agreement on behalf of the Investigators Committee.
  - b) The agreement must be submitted to the Hearing Officer, who shall promptly convene a pre-hearing conference to determine whether the Hearing Panel will accept the agreement and impose the stated discipline. The respondent (and lay advocate, if any) and the prosecutor shall attend the prehearing conference. After reviewing the proposal and the sanction guidelines and after considering arguments of the prosecutor and the respondent, the Hearing Panel shall deliberate in private and by majority vote either accept or reject the proposed discipline by consent. The Hearing Officer will announce the decision of the Hearing Panel.
  - c) If the agreement is accepted, the Hearing Officer shall sign a conforming order, provide copies to the parties and to the Dean, and deliver the Honor Court file and the original order to the Associate Dean to preserve the Honor Court case file and for prompt assistance, as needed, in implementing the sanction(s).
  - d) If the proposal is rejected, the respondent may admit the violation(s) and request a hearing on sanction only, or demand to have a hearing on the merits, which shall be heard on the hearing date previously set. At the hearing on the merits no evidence may be received or considered by the court regarding the proposed discipline by consent.
7. **Adjudication by admission.** If the Hearing Officer receives notice from the respondent that he or she intends to admit the violation(s) and requests a hearing only on the sanction, the Hearing Officer shall notify the prosecutor that witnesses may be excused from attendance at the scheduled hearing, except for witnesses that may be relevant to the sanction. The Hearing Officer shall also

notify the respondent of the hearing date the court will accept the admission and proceed to the sanction hearing, and that any witnesses relevant to the sanction need be in attendance.

8. Adjudication by a hearing on the merits.

- a) **Preservation of the record.** The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall arrange for all adjudicative proceedings to be recorded (either on video or on audiotape) and for this purpose may employ a person outside the Law School to prepare such a record under a written agreement of confidentiality.
- b) **Nature of the proceedings.** The proceedings of the Honor Court shall not be conducted as a court of law. The court's goals are to determine the truth and to act justly. Except for statutory privileges, hearings need not conform to strict rules of procedure and evidence. Nevertheless, inherent in any judicial body are notions of fundamental fairness to the parties and due process for the respondent. The Hearing Officer shall make rulings on the admissibility of evidence. The Hearing Officer shall assure that all parties have a fair chance to present their cases and that all witnesses are treated with respect. If the respondent requests a public hearing, observers may be present.
- c) **Presentation of evidence.** The prosecutor may make a brief opening statement setting forth the alleged violation(s) and the essential facts intended to be established at the hearing. The respondent or his or her attorney or lay advocate may make a brief responsive statement. The prosecutor shall then call witnesses and introduce exhibits and documentary evidence. The respondent or his or her advocate may ask questions of these witnesses and may present other evidence and witnesses. The Hearing Officer shall administer an oath to all witnesses. The respondent may testify but is not required to testify. The Hearing Panel may not draw inferences from the silence of the respondent. Members of the court may ask questions of witnesses following the examinations by the parties. The Hearing Officer may disallow questioning that is repetitive, irrelevant, cumulative, or harassing. Upon completion of the presentation of the evidence, the prosecutor and the respondent or his or her lay advocate may make closing statements.
- d) **Deliberation and verdict.** The Hearing Panel shall privately confer and deliberate upon their verdict, which shall be voted by a secret ballot. Four of the justices must find evidence of the respondent's violation(s) to have been proven by clear and convincing evidence before a verdict against respondent can be rendered.
- e) **Sanction hearing.** When the Hearing Officer reconvenes the hearing and announces the Hearing Panel's findings, the hearing is concluded and the proceedings ended if the charges were not proven. If the Hearing Panel finds one or more of the charges true, it shall then receive evidence in aggravation or mitigation of the presumptive sanctions. The prosecutor has the first opportunity to offer evidence in aggravation or mitigation. The respondent may then present his/her mitigation evidence. Both parties may make sanction recommendations to the court. Regardless of whether the respondent has remained silent throughout the proceedings, the respondent and his or her lay advocate may speak to the court regarding the sanction.
- f) **Deliberation and imposition of sanction.** In private deliberations the Hearing Panel shall determine the appropriate sanction(s), mindful of any presumptive sanctions and of any factors in aggravation or mitigation that warrant departure from them and which in their sound discretion they may do. The sanction imposed shall be appropriate in light of the gravity and willfulness of the violation. A combination of sanctions may be imposed. Four of the justices must concur in the sanction(s). When sanction(s) have been agreed upon, the hearing will reconvene and the sanction(s) will be announced and the hearing concluded. If

the hearing was closed to the public, the complainant and witnesses may be informed of the decisions. The court, over the signature of the Hearing Officer, shall promptly prepare a written report of its factual findings, its conclusions as to what violations of the Honor Code occurred, factors in aggravation and mitigation, if any, and the sanction(s) imposed. The original report shall be delivered to the Associate Dean, for prompt assistance, when needed, in implementing the sanction(s). A copy of the report shall be hand delivered to the respondent by the Hearing Officer. If the sanction arose from a consent to discipline, the sanction must be implemented forthwith. In all other cases no implementing action may be taken if a timely appeal is filed or until the time for filing an appeal has passed.

## **ARTICLE V: APPELLATE PROCEDURES**

- **Section 1. Filing and the Appellate Panel.**

Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the court's report, a respondent may file an appeal with Dean of the Law School. The respondent's appeal can be based on the inappropriateness of either: 1) the finding of guilty or 2) the sanction imposed. The prosecutor can file an appeal based on the inappropriateness of the sanction. The Dean shall appoint an appellate panel of three faculty members to decide the appeal. The appeal may include a supporting memorandum and/or a request for oral argument. Both the respondent and the prosecutor have a right to appear before the faculty appellate panel. Both the prosecutor and the respondent may file a responsive memorandum within fifteen (15) days of the filing of the other party's memorandum. Oral arguments are limited to twenty (20) minutes each.

- **Section 2. The Record on Appeal.**

The appellate panel shall be provided with and shall review as necessary the record on appeal, which shall contain:

- a. the charging letter from the Associate Dean;
- b. all correspondence between the parties and the Honor Court or hearing court;
- c. all motions and memoranda filed by the parties;
- d. the videotape or audiotape of the hearing on the merits;
- e. all exhibits received into evidence;
- f. the written report of the court; and
- g. the appellate memoranda, except
- h. no documents related to a proposed discipline by consent that was refused by the hearing court may be part of the appellate record.

- **Section 3. Appellate Standard.**

The appellate panel shall decide the appeal based upon its review of the pertinent portions of the record, any appellate memoranda received, the arguments of the parties, any presumptive sanctions, and the requirements of the Honor Code and its constitution and procedures and shall affirm the factual findings and conclusions unless they are clearly erroneous. The appellate panel may not disturb the recommended sanction(s) unless it is convinced that the recommendation constitutes a clear abuse of discretion. If the appellate panel reverses the finding of a violation or the sanctions, it may order a new trial, dismiss the charge(s), modify the findings, conclusions, and sanction(s) imposed, or affirm the action of the hearing court. Two-thirds of the members of the appellate body must agree on the action to be taken, and the written opinion of the appellate panel shall be delivered to the Dean, Associate Dean, Hearing Officer, prosecutor and the respondent within ten (10) days of the panel's decision. The Associate Dean shall promptly facilitate implementation of the sanction(s) as no further appeal is available within the Law School. The respondent shall be notified, however, of the opportunity to appeal to the President of the University.

## ARTICLE VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

### • Section 1. **Records and Reports.**

1. Regardless of the decision on the merits, the record of the case shall be maintained in the office of the Associate Dean after termination of the proceedings. The record may be consulted by the Dean, Associate Dean, the Honor Court, or the Investigators Committee, or the Prosecutor for any relevant purpose.
2. When a matter has been formally adjudicated and finally resolved, regardless of the decision on the merits, the Hearing Officer shall
  - a) Prepare a report of the matter containing the name of the student, the specific sections(s) of the Honor Code alleged to have been violated, a summary of the relevant facts, the final decision on the merits and, if a conviction was obtained, the sanction(s) imposed. This report shall be presented to the Dean for retention;
  - b) Prepare a redacted version of the report. The redacted version shall be identical to the report, except that it shall omit the name of the student;
  - c) Post the redacted version of the report in appropriate public places in the law school and file a copy with the Law Library to be made available to the student body; and
  - d) Transmit the redacted version of the report to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for retention.
3. When a matter has been formally adjudicated and finally resolved and a student is found guilty of a violation of the Honor Code either after a trial or by a product of an adjudication by consent:
  - a) the report, with its findings and conclusion, shall be placed in the student's permanent file; and
  - b) the faculty shall be notified that a student has been adjudged guilty of a violation of the Honor Code. A copy of the report placed in the student's permanent file shall be made available in the Dean's Office for inspection by faculty members. Faculty members, upon inquiries from prospective employers, may reveal:
    - a) the fact that a student has been found guilty of an Honor Code violation;
    - b) the extent of the sanction imposed; and
    - c) his or her recommendation on hiring the student.

### • Section 2. **Record Disclosure.**

Neither the content nor the existence of any disciplinary action may be disclosed, nor may the name of the accused or convicted student be disclosed, except as noted above and when required by law or order of a court; when required, consistent with law by the Dean or Associate Dean, by the Honor Court, or by the Investigators Committee; or when the student has signed a waiver of confidentiality.

### • Section 3. **Calculation of Time Periods.**

In the calculation of any time periods referred to in these rules, weekends, law school holidays, and the day from which the time period begins to run may not be included in the calculation of the time period.

### • Section 4. **Summer Session.**

If a quorum of the Investigators Committee or Honor Court is unavailable to consider a case during the summer session, the matter may be postponed until such quorum is available.

### • Section 5. **Finality and Exclusivity of Sanctions**

Any sanctions imposed under this Honor Code Constitution (either through adjudication by hearing, by admission or by consent) shall constitute the final action of the Law School. The Faculty may not later refuse to graduate the respondent solely because of the sanctions or because of the events from which they arose. However, if the Faculty has other information relevant to its decision on graduation, the Faculty may consider the sanctions and the underlying events together with that other information in deciding whether to recommend the respondent for graduation.

## **ARTICLE VII. ENACTMENT**

This Constitution shall become effective upon approval by a majority of those students voting in an election, with fifty percent of the student body being a quorum, and approval by a majority of those tenure-track faculty members voting at a called faculty meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

This Honor Code Constitution may be amended in the following ways:

- a) by a majority of the Hearing Panel where this proposal is ratified by a majority vote of those members of the student body casting ballots in a called election and by a majority of the tenured and tenure-track faculty voting at a called faculty meeting; or
- b) by initiative petition signed by 100 students enrolled in the Law School and ratified by a majority vote of those members of the student body casting ballots in a called election and by a majority of the tenured and tenure-track faculty voting at a called faculty meeting; or
- c) by a majority of those tenured and tenure-track faculty members voting at a called faculty meeting and ratification by a majority of the student body casting ballots in a called election.

## **FACULTY POLICY ON PLAGIARISM**

While the Honor Code is designed primarily to govern situations in which students observe or detect other students acting inappropriately, the Law Faculty has adopted the following policy to cover situations where a faculty member concludes that a student is guilty of plagiarism:

- **A. Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at the University of Georgia Law School. Plagiarism is the submission of another's work as one's own. It includes:

1. use of another's exact words without use of quotation marks and acknowledgement of that use in a footnote or endnote;
2. use of another's organizational scheme without acknowledgement of that use in a footnote or endnote;
3. either close paraphrasing of the work of another without attribution or submission of a work which is largely a paraphrasing of another's work without attribution.

Each student is obliged to be aware of the policy against plagiarism and lack of awareness of the policy does not excuse a violation of it. No student shall be permitted to graduate while charges of plagiarism are pending against that student.

- **B. Options for Faculty Member Who Believes Plagiarism Has Been Committed**

Upon discovering what is believed to be plagiarism on written work submitted by a student in a course, a faculty member may:



1. Assign a grade to the written work based on the faculty member's determination of plagiarism. This determination and the explanation thereof shall be expressed in writing and transmitted to the student with a copy to the dean; or
2. Refer the matter to the Honor Court which will deal with the matter according to its Constitution. A student found guilty of plagiarism by the Honor Court may appeal to the dean for review of the penalty assessed.

• **C. Institutional Response to a Faculty Member's Finding of Plagiarism**

1. Upon receiving notification from a faculty member of his or her determination of plagiarism, the dean, upon finding probable cause that plagiarism has been committed, shall appoint a committee of five tenure-track or clinical faculty members to conduct a hearing to determine whether plagiarism has been committed by the student. A faculty member who does not feel capable of rendering a fair decision in a particular case shall refuse to serve on the faculty committee.
2. At the hearing, the faculty member will introduce evidence relevant to the question of whether plagiarism has been committed. The student is entitled to be represented by counsel of his or her choice, to introduce relevant evidence and to confront and cross-examine any witnesses against him or her.
3. To support a finding of plagiarism at least four members of the committee must find plagiarism beyond a reasonable doubt. A finding of plagiarism by the committee in accord with the procedures established by this policy shall be final and binding on the dean and the student.
4. The committee shall file with the dean a written report on its proceedings and its findings. If plagiarism has been found by the committee, the report shall include a recommended sanction. The presumptive sanction shall be a one- semester suspension, but the committee may recommend a different sanction, either more or less severe. Such sanctions include, but are not limited to, expulsion, suspension for a longer period, probation or remedial activity.
5. The final determination of the appropriate sanction for plagiarism shall be made by the dean. It may be more or less severe than any sanction recommended by the committee. This determination shall be expressed in writing and provided to the student within 14 days of the filing of the committee's report with the dean. The committee members and the complaining professor shall receive copies of the dean's determination of sanction. The dean's determination of sanction may be appealed to the provost of the University.
6. In response to appropriate inquiries, the law school shall make available to appropriate bar officials the written committee report and the dean's final determination of sanction.

• **D. Decision in Favor of the Student**

In situations where:

1. the dean finds insufficient probable cause to impanel a faculty committee; or
2. a faculty committee appointed under this policy fails to find plagiarism has been committed; or
3. the Honor Court fails to find plagiarism has been committed; the dean shall assign to another faculty member the task of entering a course grade for the originally accused student.

• **E. Definitions**

1. “Faculty Member” means any individual assigned to teach a course offered by the University of Georgia Law School.
2. “Student” means any person enrolled in a course offered by the University of Georgia Law School.

## **FACULTY POLICY ON PROFESSIONALISM**

Professional conduct is expected of all students enrolled at the Law School. Unprofessional conduct will not be tolerated. In some cases, unprofessional conduct will trigger an investigation by law enforcement, University officials, the honor court or a faculty committee. In other cases, conduct may not trigger an investigation but nonetheless be unprofessional. To help students understand the importance of professionalism, the faculty has adopted the following statement which, along with this policy, will be published in the Student Handbook:

- Professional behavior is the behavior expected of a student who is training to become a member of the legal profession – a profession that is governed by high ethical standards and even higher aspirational goals of professionalism.
- The practice of law is a profession requiring specialized knowledge and skills. As such, it is restricted to those who dedicate themselves to attaining such knowledge and skills in order to competently serve the best interests of their clients and the public generally.
- But knowledge and skills are merely the tools of the lawyer. A lawyer must be honest, dignified, civil, courteous, respectful, prepared and dependable.
- The Law School’s expectation of its students’ professional behavior is embodied in the Law School Student Oath taken by each new student at orientation:
  - As a student entering the University of Georgia School of Law, I understand I am joining not only an academic community but am embarking on a professional career.
  - I acknowledge that my conduct, inside and outside of the law school, reflects on the entire University of Georgia Law School community, past, present and future.
  - I will conduct myself with dignity and civility and will treat all fellow students, staff, faculty, alums, and employers with courtesy and respect.
  - I promise to live up to the highest standards of the legal profession and uphold the highest standard of academic honesty and ethical practice throughout law school and the remainder of my professional career.

Unprofessional conduct can result in the Law School’s refusal to certify (or de-certification of) a student under a state’s court rules or acts and also may result in reporting of the unprofessional conduct to state bar (or other licensing) authorities in connection with the graduate’s application for membership. Documentation related to unprofessional conduct may also result in reprimands which are placed in a student’s file and reported to bar or other licensing authorities.

When this policy is invoked to address concerns about discrimination or lack of equal opportunity on the basis of gender, gender expression or military status under ABA Standard 205, we will employ remedial measures approximating those employed by EOO under the University’s NDAH policy.

## **PART 20 LAW SCHOOL POLICY ON FREE EXPRESSION**

The University of Georgia School of Law encourages a robust exchange of ideas in accordance with the First Amendment. To that end, student organizations may plan events in accordance with the content-neutral time, place,

and manner restrictions outlined by the [University](#) and in the law school's student organization handbook (available on eLC for student organization leaders).

Moments of disagreement or even offense may naturally arise as diverse ideas are exchanged. While these moments may be uncomfortable, they are also educational. Attempts to prevent invited guests from speaking will be subject to discipline under the [UGA Student Code of Conduct](#) and/or the [School of Law Faculty Policy on Professionalism](#).

Students who disagree with the speaker may pose questions of the speaker as part of any open question-and-answer period provided by the organizers, and students may arrange for their own invited speakers or events, consistent with the content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions outlined by UGA and law-school policies, to present their views.

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## **PART 21 STUDENT COMPLAINTS**

### **Student Complaints Related to ABA Compliance**

The University of Georgia School of Law is approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654, [312-988-6738](tel:312-988-6738). As an ABA-accredited Law School, the School of Law is subject to the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools. ([http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/standards.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/standards.html)). Under ABA Standard 510, any student at the Law School may bring a formal complaint to the Law School administration “of a significant problem that directly implicates the school’s program of legal education and its compliance with the ABA Standards.”

Students seeking to file a formal complaint related to the program of legal education and compliance with the ABA Standards must do the following:

1. Submit the complaint in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The complaint may be made by email, U.S. mail, or personal delivery. The complaint must be signed.
2. Describe in detail the behavior, program, process or other matter that is the subject of the complaint, and explain how the matter implicates the Law School’s program of legal education and compliance with ABA Standard(s), even if a specific Standard is not cited.
3. Provide the name, official Law School email address, and street address of the complaining student for further communication about the complaint.

When the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs receives a student complaint, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The Associate Dean will acknowledge receipt of the complaint in writing within 10 business days. Acknowledgment may be made by email, U.S. mail, or personal delivery.
2. Within two weeks of acknowledgment of the complaint, the Associate Dean, or his or her designee, will provide a written response to the substance of the complaint or informing the student that additional investigation is needed. The written response to the complaint will specify what steps are being taken to address the complaint. If further investigation is needed, the student will be provided with information about what steps are being taken to investigate the complaint and an estimated date for the completion of the investigation by the Law School.
3. After the student receives the written response to the complaint, a dissatisfied student may appeal the resolution of the complaint to the Dean of the Law School. The appeal must be filed within 10 business days.

Any decision made on appeal by the Dean will be final.

4. A copy of the complaint and a summary of the process and resolution of the complaint must be kept in the office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for a period of ten years from the date of final resolution of the complaint.

## **Other Complaints**

Other complaints should be directed [here](#).

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1. \*In-state classification for tuition purposes is governed by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The information contained in this Handbook is for independent students enrolled in the School of Law only. It is subject to change. Refer to the Board of Regents Policy Manual for current complete information regarding Georgia residency for tuition purposes at the University of Georgia. [↩](#)