



School of Law

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

University of Georgia School of Law Mentorship Program Resource Guide

The University of Georgia School of Law is dedicated to providing the tools students need as they undertake the journey of learning to study the law and applying that knowledge in their chosen profession. While that journey is stimulating and fulfilling, it can also be challenging and difficult. Almost all law students, no matter how qualified and prepared they are for the task, struggle at times to master the skills required.

The University of Georgia School of Law Mentorship Program is designed to help students get the most from their legal education. Each student is assigned a faculty mentor, an alumni/alumnae & professional mentor, a peer mentor, and a Career Development Office (CDO) counselor. This mentoring team is available as a resource for questions about preparing for class and navigating law school generally; professors and teaching assistants also are available to students for course-specific support.

This guide will help you understand the programs and opportunities available to students at the School of Law.

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Curriculum and Courses

- [Juris Doctor Degree Requirements, 1L Curriculum, and Required Course Information](#)
- [Master of Laws \(LLM\) Degree Requirements and Curriculum](#)
- [University of Georgia School of Law, Complete List of Course Offerings and Course Concentrations](#)
 - Not all of the nearly 170 courses listed are offered each year
 - To view course concentration information, click on the concentration you are interested in from the Course Concentrations menu, and then click the red “Search for Courses” button to view that concentration’s courses.
 - Students are not required to complete any course concentration and no certificate or special degree designations are applicable for completing a course concentration. They are designed as a helpful reference for students interested in a particular area of law.

Dual Degree Programs

- The University of Georgia School of Law offers dual degree programs that enable students to earn both the law and graduate degrees in three or four academic years rather than the five it would take to obtain them individually.
- Applicants must apply separately to both programs, preferably at the same time. A 1L who did not apply to the other program may apply for the dual degree by making a timely application for admission to the new program during their 1L year. Interested students should speak with Shannon Hinson regarding dual degree options.
- The following dual degree programs are currently offered. More information available regarding each JD program is available here: <https://www.law.uga.edu/dual-degrees>
 - [JD/Masters in Accountancy - Taxation \(MAcc\)](#)
 - [JD/Master of Business Administration \(MBA\)](#)
 - [JD/Master of Historic Preservation \(MHP\)](#)
 - [JD/Master of Public Administration \(MPA\)](#)
 - [JD/Master of Public Health \(MPH\)](#)
 - [JD/MS in Sport Management & Policy \(MS\)](#)
 - [JD/Master of Social Work \(MSW\)](#)
 - [JD/Master of Urban Planning and Design \(MUPD\)](#)
 - [LLM/Master of Business Administration \(MBA\)](#)

Clinics, Externships, and Experiential Learning Programs

- The University of Georgia School of Law's 18 different clinical, externship and experiential learning offerings teach students about the law and being a lawyer through work on real problems in the real world.
- Students work alongside experienced attorneys, take seminars that develop their lawyering abilities and knowledge of the law, and encounter the ethical and practical realities of service to clients and to the public.
- Clinics, externships, and experiential learning opportunities are available to students after the completion of the first year.
- Current experiential learning opportunities include:
 - [Appellate Litigation Clinic](#)
 - [Atlanta Semester in Practice](#)

- [Business Law Clinic](#)
- [Capital Assistance Project](#)
- [Civil Externship](#)
- [Community Health Law Partnership Clinic](#)
- [Corporate Counsel Externship](#)
- [Criminal Defense Practicum](#)
- [D.C. Semester in Practice](#)
- [Environmental Practicum](#)
- [First Amendment Clinic](#)
- [Jane W. Wilson Family Justice Clinic](#)
- [Mediation Practicum](#)
- [Prosecutorial Justice Program](#)
- [Practicum in Animal Welfare Skills](#)
- [Public Interest Practicum](#)
- [Summer Externships](#)
- [Veterans Legal Clinic](#)
- [Wilbanks Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation Clinic](#)

Academic Support

- The [Academic Enhancement Program \(AEP\)](#) was created to help students adapt to the unique demands of law school. AEP conducts a series of workshops scheduled to coincide with the times students are likely to have concerns about particular topics. Workshops target skills that cut across the curriculum, such as how to prepare for and manage classes, how to outline and create review materials, and how to successfully prepare for and take exams
- AEP also provides one-on-one counseling to students who would like more individualized assistance.
 - Contact Allison Hale (ahale@uga.edu), director of the program, for more information or to make an appointment.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Student-Run Organizations

- The School of Law has a variety of student organizations, ranging from academic interest groups, to affinity groups, to social clubs.
 - A full list of current School of Law student organizations can be found here: <http://www.law.uga.edu/georgia-law-student-organizations>
 - Each organization's page contains contact information for current officers under the "Leadership" tab.

Journals

- Membership on the journals is limited to 2nd and 3rd year J.D. students who demonstrate outstanding legal writing and academic abilities.
- Members are selected based on a combination of grades and performance on an annual legal writing exercise which takes place after the conclusion of spring exams.
- Current Journals:
 - [Georgia Law Review](#): Published quarterly since 1966, the Georgia Law Review provides insightful legal scholarship and commentary from faculty members, educators, members of the judiciary and legal practitioners.
 - [Georgia Journal of International & Comparative Law](#): Created in 1971, the Georgia Journal of International & Comparative Law is the pre-eminent forum for academic discussion on global legal issues, theories and developments.
 - [Journal of Intellectual Property Law](#): Created in 1993, the Journal of Intellectual Property Law is the nation's oldest student-edited journal on intellectual property law. It features articles by students, scholars, judges and practicing attorneys on topics like trademarks, patent law, trade secrets, entertainment and sports law, copyrights and Internet law.
 - [Georgia Criminal Law Review](#): Created in 2022, this innovative journal focuses on issues of criminal law.
- Journal students are eligible to receive credit for qualifying journal work, and should consult their journal's adviser for details.

Advocacy

- Advocacy programs are open to 2nd and 3rd year law students. 1st year students must participate in the Richard B. Russell Moot Court Competition and may participate in the J. Ralph Beard Closing Argument Mock Trial Competition.
- Participating 2nd and 3rd year students may receive credit for their work with the advocacy programs.
- The School of Law's accomplished [Moot Court](#) and [Mock Trial](#) programs focus directly on developing critical oral and written advocacy skills. Participants deliver opening statements, conduct witness examinations and present closing arguments in the presence of a judge and jury.
 - Interested students can contact Kellie Casey, Director of Advocacy (krcasey@uga.edu) for more information.

International Opportunities at the Dean Rusk International Law Center

- [Global Externship Overseas \(GEO\) and Global Externship At-Home \(GEA\)](#)

- Students are placed in corporate legal departments, nongovernmental organizations, and government agencies, in more than 30 countries on 5 continents.
- Opportunities in the United States that train students in legal practice involving international, comparative, transnational, and foreign affairs law are also available.
- [Summer Study in Belgium/Europe](#)
 - Offered in partnership with the prestigious Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, our summer study opportunity continues a four-decade tradition of summer study in Belgium.
 - Participating students will have the opportunity to participate in coursework at the Centre, located at Leuven University, one of Europe's top research universities. 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 Europe.
- [Dean Rusk International Law Center Student Ambassadors](#)
 - Law students interested in international, comparative, transnational, or foreign affairs law may be invited to apply to serve as paid Dean Rusk International Law Center Student Ambassadors, who to support the Center through research and administrative assistance.

Career Development

- The University of Georgia School of Law provides comprehensive support services and [resources](#) to help current students and alums explore and discover their career options and goals, prepare for interviews, perfect resumes, locate professional opportunities, and obtain jobs.
- Students are encouraged to begin interacting with the Career Development Office from the start of their first year in law school, and continue to work closely with the office throughout law school. During mid-fall of the first year, the Career Development advisors begin [individual job counseling](#) to assist and encourage each student along their career paths.
- The [career curriculum](#) at our law school continues year-round and addresses the full range of jobs available to lawyers.
- [University of Georgia School of Law Employment Statistics](#)

Bar Passage

- Most students take the Bar Examination the summer after they graduate from law school, and the [Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination](#) before they graduate from law school.
- The Georgia Bar Examination covers the following, subject to change by the Supreme Court of Georgia office of Bar Admissions and/or National Conference of Bar Examiners:
 - Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) Subjects: Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, Torts.
 - Georgia Essay Subjects: Business Organizations, Commercial Paper, Family Law, Federal Practice & Procedure, Georgia Practice and Procedure, Non-Monetary Remedies, Professional Ethics, Secured Transactions, Trusts, Wills and Estates, plus all MBE subjects.
 - Multistate Performance Test (MPT: "Closed universe" practical problem using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes and other reference material supplied by examiners.
- For information about the bar examination, including information on other states' bar examinations, see the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) Bar Admission Guide, available at www.ncbex.org.
- Georgia Law also provides graduating students with the opportunity to participate in the Bar Exam Success Team (BEST) program. BEST is a program designed to give students an extra nudge toward success. In the months before the July Bar exam, students may choose a partner or ask to have one chosen for them. Participation can range from a simple text to see how a partner is doing, taking practice exams together, or just talking to keep from feeling overwhelmed. The program simply asks that partners do their best to keep each other at ease and accountable.
 - Contact Allison Hale (ahale@uga.edu), director of the program, for more information or to make an appointment.

Wellbeing

At times, the adjustment to law school can be overwhelming and stressful. While it is normal to be challenged and to experience stress, it is important that all members of the law school community help students stay balanced and well by encouraging them to seek the support and help that they need as they navigate the challenging (and rewarding) experience of being a law student.

Mental and Emotional Health

- Mental health services are available to all University of Georgia students through the University Health Center's Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS). CAPS provides individual counseling, relationship counseling, and group counseling, substance abuse/addiction, and crisis intervention services. *The School of Law covers all student costs associated with CAPS services.*
- CAPS can be contacted at 706-542-2273 during normal business hours, and outside of normal business hours for a mental health crisis.
- The School of Law provides free mental health screenings twice per week in Dean Rusk Hall.
 - These screenings are provided by CAPS counselor Dr. Erin Higgenbotham
 - To schedule a screening with Dr. Higgenbotham at the Law School, students should call CAPS at 706-542-2273, identify themselves as a law student, and request to see Dr. Higgenbotham at the law school.
 - Students may also see any clinician at the CAPS clinic in the University Health Center (UHC)
- Through the School of Law student portal, students have access to a list of [mental health and wellness resources](#) that are law-student specific or available at UGA. All of these resources are available at little to no cost to the students.
- The Director of Student Affairs, Casey Graham (casey.graham@uga.edu) is available to meet with students to discuss personal matters and provide references to additional resources.

Physical Health

- The [University Health Center](#) (UHC) provides medical care to all University of Georgia students.
- When students enter UGA, they are automatically assigned to a primary care provider (PCP) in a primary care Medical Clinic. UHC has four primary care Medical Clinics composed of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and support staff, and they work as a team much like a doctor's office. This enables each patient to return to the same provider and team for continuity of care.
- The teams are designated by color and consist of the Medical Clinic Gold, Medical Clinic Blue, Medical Clinic Green, and Medical Clinic Red.
- Students can call 706-542-8617 to identify their assigned PCP and Medical Clinic team.
- [The Ramsey Student Center](#) is available to all full-time students at no cost. The facility houses a pool, gymnasium, climbing wall, weight-training room, and other exercise resources.

Calendars and Schedules

Events

- School of Law events are listed on the events calendar at www.law.uga.edu/event-calendar.
- This calendar is kept up-to-date and includes student organization events, lectures, Career Development Office programming, alumni programming, and much more!

Academic Calendar

FALL SEMESTER 2022		
16-Aug	Tuesday	Classes Begin
16-Aug to 22-Aug	Tues.-Mon.	Drop/Add for Classes
5-Sep	Monday	Labor Day (school closed)
10-Oct	Monday	Midterm
24-Oct	Monday	Withdrawal Deadline
22-Nov*	Tuesday	Classes End
23-Nov to 28-Nov	Wed. – Mon.	Reading Days
29-Nov	Tuesday	Exams Begin
9-Dec	Friday	Exams End
*Operate a Monday schedule on Tuesday, November 22		
<p>Note: To complete ABA-required class hours before the Thanksgiving break, the School of Law does not observe UGA Fall Break on October 28, 2022.</p>		

SPRING SEMESTER 2023		
10-Jan	Tuesday	Classes Begin
10-Jan to 17-Jan	Tue.-Tue.	Drop/Add for Classes
16-Jan	Monday	MLK Day (school closed)
2-Mar	Thursday	Midterm
6-Mar to 10-Mar	Mon. – Fri.	Spring Break
23-Mar	Thursday	Withdrawal Deadline
25-Apr*	Tuesday	Classes End
26-Apr to 1-May	Wed. – Mon.	Reading Days
2-May	Tuesday	Exams Begin
12-May	Friday	Exams End
20-May	Saturday	COMMENCEMENT
*Operate a Monday schedule on Tuesday, April 25		

SUMMER TERM 2023		
22-May	Monday	Classes Begin
22-May to 26-May	Mon.-Fri.	Drop/Add for Classes
29-May	Monday	Memorial Day (school closed)
19-Jun	Monday	Juneteenth Holiday (school closed)
23-Jun	Friday	Withdrawal Deadline
4-Jul	Tuesday	July 4 Holiday (school closed)
13-Jul	Thursday	Classes End
14-Jul	Friday	Reading Day
17-Jul	Monday	Exams Begin
19-Jul	Wednesday	Exams End

Schedule of Classes and Exams

- All class schedules, exam schedules, book lists, and course lists currently available are found at <http://www.law.uqa.edu/class-schedules-registration>.

Talking to Your Mentee

Breaking the ice can be hard. Here is a list of topics likely to be on your mentee's mind, and some suggestions about how to engage these issues.

1L Year

During the 1L year we seek to ease students' transition into the legal profession by providing them basic information about the legal profession, law practice, legal education, and preparing for a job search.

- Welcome to the Profession
 - Discuss what law practice is and the purposes of the legal profession;
 - Discuss the role of lawyers and the judiciary in our society;
 - Discuss how to keep balance in one's life during law school;
 - Discuss the importance of mental health and resources available (Georgia Lawyers Assistance Program, CAPS);
 - Discuss the pitfalls of substance abuse;
 - Discuss the Student's preparation in law school, including the use of study aids and study groups;
 - Stress the importance of seeking help early and often if experiencing difficulties academically, in personal life, or with health and wellbeing.
- Research and Writing
 - Discuss the purposes of memoranda, pleadings, motions, orders, and opinion letters;
 - Discuss relevant issues surrounding legal writing, such as techniques for the most effective legal writing – how to avoid common mistakes causing pleadings to be rejected, how to effectively use sample legal pleadings and forms – and techniques for efficient research, etc.
- Career Overview
 - Discuss, to the extent knowledgeable, differences between large firm, small firm, government, public interest, business, in- house and nonprofit practice, non-traditional legal positions, and alternatives to practicing law;
 - Discuss the student's long-term career goals and ways to achieve those goals;
 - Discuss different career paths and identify resources for exploring options;
 - Discuss course selection and how that relates to job preparedness;
 - Discuss the importance of soft skills (interpersonal, common sense, communication);
 - Discuss how finding a job after graduation starts now!
- Ethics
 - Discuss broadly the ethics rules attorneys must comply follow;
 - Discuss recurring ethical issues the Mentor encounters in practice;
 - Discuss a real life ethics situation in which the Mentor has been involved.
- Introduction to the Legal Community
 - Discuss the American Bar Association, Georgia Student Bar Association, and any other relevant groups;

- Discuss Continuing Legal Education requirements and ways to satisfy those requirements;
 - Discuss extra-curricular activities and group memberships that are relevant to understanding the legal community;
 - Discuss the importance of diversity and inclusion and their value in the legal community;
 - Discuss major private and public legal entities, including large firms, the judiciary, and large government offices with in-house counsel.
- Professionalism
 - Discuss the role of professionalism in an attorney's career;
 - Discuss the consequences of a lack of professionalism;
 - Discuss the "unwritten" customary rules of civility and etiquette among lawyers and judges in the community;
 - Discuss establishing a reputation and how reputation can impact an attorney's practice.
- Financial Responsibility:
 - Discuss the importance of understanding student loans, their interest and repayment rates, etc.;
 - Discuss the importance of keeping debt low;
 - Provide references to resources covering the management of student loan debt (accessgroup.org).

2L Year

The 2L we seek to educate students about interacting with clients and other attorneys and to focus on a more specific career path.

- Networking
 - Discuss the importance of networking to one's legal career;
 - Discuss specific examples of how the Mentor's networking has helped his or her career;
 - Discuss the pitfalls and benefits of social networking;
 - Evaluate the student's social networking;
 - Discuss how the resources of the Career Development Office can be helpful.
- Interacting with Partners and Senior Associates
 - Discuss how new associates and interns should act to maximize their chances of succeeding during their first year at a job;
 - Discuss ways new associates and interns can develop a friendly, yet professional, relationship with supervisors.
- Career Paths
 - Discuss what the student's career goals were before law school, during his or her first year, and currently, identifying how and why the goals have changed in the wake of grades and changing interests;
 - Discuss resources available to the Student to pursue his or her current goals;
 - Discuss reconciling job expectations with actual experience and maximizing career satisfaction.

- Ethics
 - Discuss common malpractice and grievance traps and ways to avoid them;
 - Discuss the role of the State Bar of Georgia's Office of the General Counsel, the grievance and investigation process, and malpractice insurance;
 - Discuss potential resources for dealing with complicated ethical issues, including conflicts of interests;
 - Discuss practices to maintain client confidentiality.

- Case Evaluation
 - Discuss the Mentor's process for evaluating and engaging clients;
 - Discuss the best ways to evaluate a potential case and how to decide whether to accept a proffered representation;
 - Discuss specific examples of times when the Mentor misevaluated a case and what the Mentor learned from this experience.

- Practical Aspects of Working in a Law Environment
 - Discuss roles and responsibilities of paralegals, secretaries and other office personnel and how to establish good working relationships with others in the same office who are support staff, colleagues, or senior attorneys;
 - Discuss office politics and common pitfalls to avoid while working in an office;
 - Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a solo practice, public interest practice, business, and the role of in- house counsel;
 - Revisit the importance of mental health, wellness, and the pitfalls of substance abuse and how they affect the workplace environment.

3L Year

In the 3L year we try to bridge the final gap between law school and the legal profession. Discussions focus on job searching and transitioning into practice.

- Job Searching & Managing Law School Debt
 - Discuss job-search strategies, distinguishing the effective and less effective;
 - Discuss practical ways to manage law school debt.

- Client Development
 - Discuss how client development is the lifeblood of law practice and how it affects an attorney's prospects for promotion;
 - Discuss methods of client development that have been successful for the Mentor and discuss other techniques for business development, including any relevant ethical concerns and best professional practices.

- Client Communication
 - Discuss the importance of client communication and how to maintain good ongoing communication, including the use of retention and fee agreements, keeping clients informed about matters, confirming things in writing, being on time, etc.;
 - Discuss proper legal counseling techniques, and duties and responsibilities of advising clients;
 - Discuss techniques for dealing with an unreasonable, dishonest, or otherwise difficult client;

- Discuss the responsibilities of the client and the lawyer in decision-making and the best ways to involve a client in his or her case.
- Life Balance Issues & Time Management
 - Discuss techniques for finding a balance between career and personal life;
 - Discuss the Mentor's non-legal formal and informal extracurricular activities and how they are unique from law practice;
 - Discuss good stress management techniques, as well as the temptation to abuse substances to manage stress;
 - Discuss good time management skills and techniques.
- Welcome to Law Practice
 - Discuss the Student's short-term and long-term goals moving into law practice;
 - Discuss how the Mentor-Student relationship transitions from law school to practice.

Potential Mentorship Activities

Mentor Visit

- Mentee visits mentor's workplace;
- Mentee shadows mentor for the day;
- Mentor explains what their typical day is like and how they manage work flow.

Courthouse Tour

- Tour a courthouse together;
- View a courtroom and discuss the judge's chambers, technology, where the parties sit, and precautions to take when discussing a case in the courthouse.

Networking Meeting

- Attend a Bar Association meeting, or an alumni event together;
- Discuss and practice networking together. Visit the Mentor's Office;
- Discuss support staffs' roles, research resources, billing systems, and electronic and hard-copy document management.
- Attend a professional or University of Georgia Sports Game.
- Attend a meal together and discuss the etiquette of meals with colleagues and potential employers.

Professional Development

- Attend a CLE opportunity together.
- Attend a speaker event together.