

## The University of Alabama School of Law

Box 870382

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Phone: 205.348.5440; Fax: 205.348.5439

E-mail: admissions@law.ua.edu; Website: www.law.ua.edu

### ■ Introduction

The University of Alabama School of Law, the only public law school in Alabama, offers students a nationally recognized, progressive legal education. The law school has served as the training ground for state and national leaders in the legal profession, business, and government. Law students are provided with an abundance of cultural, academic, and athletic opportunities through the university. The curriculum is traditional but diverse. The law school is student-centered; faculty and administration are accessible to students. Although the faculty's first priority is teaching, the professors are actively engaged in scholarly research and writing. Alabama is accredited by the ABA and the AALS.

### ■ Library and Physical Facilities

The law school building, which sits on 23 acres of the University of Alabama's campus in Tuscaloosa, was designed by Edward Durell Stone, who was the architect for the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the US Embassy in New Delhi, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, to name a few. Construction on a new wing and renovations to the existing building are complete. The wing includes new classrooms, the clinical offices, a cafeteria, a career services suite, meeting rooms, and a 24-hour computer lab. The Bounds Law Library provides users with a substantial research collection of Anglo-American and international legal materials. The library includes student study carrels, the Hugo Black Study, the Howell Heflin Conference Room, and the Payne Special Collections Room. The school is on a wireless network.

### ■ Special and Summer Programs

Clinical programs enable law students to gain valuable practical experience in interviewing clients, preparing cases, and participating in courtroom presentations. During the second and third years, students can choose to participate in the Elder Law, Domestic Violence, Civil, Community Development, Capital Defense, or public defender clinics.

The externship program offers students practical experience while receiving credit. Externships are available during the summers and the second and third academic years. The law school's Public Interest Institute awards grants to encourage students to participate in the area of public interest and honors students who perform public interest work. The institute also has a full-time director to assist students.

The joint JD/MBA program offers select students an opportunity to earn both an MBA and JD. Students may select from programs designed for them to earn both degrees within three or four years. The graduate program for international students provides international lawyers an opportunity to earn an LLM degree. The law school also offers a part-time LLM in Taxation Program for JD degree holders.

The law school's two summer programs at the University of Fribourg in Fribourg, Switzerland, and the Australian National University in Canberra, the capital of Australia, provide a unique international experience. Students may earn

four to five credit hours in the Switzerland program and five credit hours in the Australian program. Both programs include a course surveying the host country's national law and a comparative doctrinal course. Summer school is open to students who have completed the first year.

### ■ Admission

A student must obtain a bachelor's degree at an accredited institution before enrolling, but may apply during his or her senior year. Applicants must take the LSAT, preferably in June or October in the year preceding enrollment, and register for LSDAS. Transcripts must show all schools attended. Application materials are available in the summer each year and accepted as early as August. March 1 is the application deadline. Applications are processed on a rolling basis; thus, applicants are encouraged to submit competitive applications early. The two most significant factors for admission are the undergraduate GPA and LSAT score. However, the law school believes that the law school experience is enriched by a diverse group of students. The Admissions Committee also considers other factors, such as honors, activities, unique work or service experience, difficulty of undergraduate courses, writing ability, trends in academic performance, leadership roles, travel experience, exceptional talents, career achievements, graduate school performance, and history of overcoming adversity. Written letters of recommendation are not required, but are encouraged. The law school recommends that letters be submitted to the LSDAS. Students are admitted only for the fall semester and only for full-time study.

### ■ Student Activities

A broad range of student activities adds to the students' law school experience. Student organizations represent diverse interests. These include the Student Bar Association, Black Law Students Association, Public Interest Law Association, Civil Rights Law Students Association, Dorbin Association (women's support group), Law Students for Choice, Gay Straight Alliance, Environmental Law Society, International Law Society, Just Democracy, Labor and Employment Law Society, Law Democrats, Law Republicans, Business Law Society, Criminal Law Association, Defense Lawyers Association, Future Trial Lawyers Association, Christian Legal Society, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, and Latin American Law Association.

The School of Law also offers numerous writing opportunities. The *Alabama Law Review*, a nationally recognized law journal, is edited by students and devotes substantial space to national and state issues. The *Journal of the Legal Profession* and the *Law and Psychology Review* are also student-edited law journals.

Moot court and trial advocacy teams have enjoyed exceptional success over the years. The law school sponsors teams in several moot court, specialty, and trial advocacy competitions. The moot court and trial advocacy teams have won many team and individual awards in both regional and national competitions.

## ■ Expenses and Financial Aid

The majority of students enrolled in the School of Law finance their legal education through loans, savings, earnings, or contributions from their families. Applicants are considered automatically for first-year scholarships, which are typically based on factors such as GPA and LSAT performance, and may be based on other factors such as economic need. As part of the scholarship program, outstanding nonresident students may receive a nonresident tuition waiver. Scholarships sometimes are renewable during the second and third years—depending upon funding, the student’s need, and whether the recipient maintains stated levels of academic achievement. Following acceptance by the law school, each admitted student who applies for federal aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) receives a financial aid packet from the university’s Financial Aid Office. Information on loans can be obtained by contacting Student Financial Aid, the University of Alabama, Box 870162, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0162. Phone: 205.348.6756; [www.financialaid.ua.edu](http://www.financialaid.ua.edu). Applicants should complete the FAFSA form as soon after January 1 as possible, and may apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## ■ Career Services

The Career Services Office assists students in their efforts to find employment. The office provides individual career counseling, group presentations, speaker programs, and library and database resources. Seminars are presented on résumé writing, interviewing techniques, job-search techniques, judicial clerkships, and nontraditional legal jobs, to name a few. Extensive on-campus interviewing occurs. The law school also participates in job fairs in Atlanta, New York City, Chicago, and Washington, DC. The employment rate within nine months of graduation was 98 percent for the Class of 2005.

## ■ Housing

The University of Alabama maintains residence halls and units for students; however, most law students live off campus. The cost of living in Tuscaloosa for a single law student ranges from approximately \$500 to \$1,100 per month. For information on university housing, students must contact the Office of Residential Life, the University of Alabama, Box 870399, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0399. Phone: 205.348.6676 or e-mail: [reslife@sa.ua.edu](mailto:reslife@sa.ua.edu).

## Applicant Profile

### The University of Alabama School of Law

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

LSAT Score	GPA								
	3.75 +	3.50–3.74	3.25–3.49	3.00–3.24	2.75–2.99	2.50–2.74	2.25–2.49	2.00–2.24	Below 2.00
175–180	Good Possibility				Possible				
170–174	Good Possibility				Possible				
165–169	Good Possibility				Possible				
160–164	Good Possibility			Possible					
155–159	Possible								
150–154									
145–149									
140–144									
135–139									
130–134									
125–129									
120–124									

 Good Possibility

 Possible

 Unlikely