

North Carolina Central University School of Law

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■ Introduction

The North Carolina Central University School of Law was established in 1939. The School of Law is located in Durham, North Carolina. North Carolina Central University is one of the 16 constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina system.

The School of Law has been accredited by the North Carolina State Bar Council and the ABA since 1950. Today, NCCU School of Law is one of the most affordable and diverse in the country. The School of Law offers two programs leading to the Juris Doctor degree: a full-time day program and the only ABA accredited part-time evening program between Atlanta, Georgia, and Washington, DC. The School of Law participates in an inter-institutional agreement with Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that permits students to enroll in electives at any member school with no increase in tuition.

■ Facilities, Library, and Technology

The School of Law recently completed an \$11 million addition and renovation. The Albert L. Turner Law School is now a state-of-the-art facility that provides the law school community with an attractive, comfortable, and technology-friendly environment in which to work and study.

The School of Law provides a seamless integration of technology throughout the facility. The entire building is wireless and provides software for students who use laptops to take exams. There are two computer labs for student use. All classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art multimedia resources, including smart boards, video and teleconferencing capabilities, and computers with Internet access.

The School of Law has several group study rooms, a moot courtroom, and a Great Hall. The Great Hall is used for receptions, meetings, conferences, and is equipped with the same multimedia resources found in the classrooms.

The law library, with more than 352,022 volumes and volume equivalents, provides the resources needed to support the Juris Doctor program, the JD/MLS and JD/MBA dual-degree programs, and the legal community. There are nine public access terminals in the law library that provide access to the library and electronic resources, the Internet, and e-mail. The law library is a selective North Carolina and United States government depository and has a special collection in civil rights law.

■ Special Academic Programs

- **Joint-degree Options**—There are two joint-degree programs available to Day Program students. The joint-degree JD/MBA Program allows students who are interested in a career in law and business to receive both degrees in four years. The joint-degree JD/MLS Program allows students who are interested in a career in law librarianship to simultaneously pursue both degrees. Students must apply and be accepted to each program separately.
- **Evening Program**—The Evening Program is a four-year, year-round program that offers a unique opportunity for motivated professionals to pursue a legal education while maintaining their current daytime work commitments.

- **Academic Support Program**—The Academic Support Program is available to assist students with the rigors of law school. The support program consists of a first-year, noncredit writing lab; tutorials; academic success workshops; and individual counseling and guidance sessions. In addition, a skills enhancement clinic is offered to second- and third-year students and workshops on bar preparation are offered to third-year students.
- **Faculty Advising Program**—Each student is assigned a faculty advisor who is available to discuss questions or problems related to the School of Law experience, career choices, and personal problems that might affect academic performance. They also advise students on taking appropriate classes and monitor their progress.
- **Clinical Program**—The award-winning Clinical Program operates year-round from a state-of-the-art model law office. The clinical experiences currently offered at the School of Law are Alternative Dispute Resolution, Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation, Family Law, Small Business Planning and Development, Juvenile Justice, and a General Externship Program, making it the most comprehensive program of any law school in the state. Under the supervision of a licensed attorney, clinical students represent real clients with real legal issues.
- **Pro Bono Program**—The Pro Bono Program provides opportunities for law students to volunteer on supervised projects with nonprofit public interest law organizations, government agencies, and private attorneys representing clients on a free or reduced-fee basis. The program also features two in-house student-led projects, the NCCU Law Innocence Project and VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), as well as an opportunity to work with the Durham Public Schools through the Street Law program.

■ Admission

Admission to the School of Law is highly competitive. Approximately 2,000 applicants compete for approximately 150–180 seats in the Day Program, and 35–40 seats in the Evening Program. Students are admitted only for the fall semester. Since applicants are more than just numbers, selection for admission is based upon a thorough evaluation of all factors in an applicant's file: Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score, writing sample, undergraduate school grades, recommendations, and personal statement. Careful consideration is given to an applicant's professional experience, volunteer or community service, unusual achievements, special circumstances, honors, economic hardship, undergraduate degree, undergraduate college, graduate degree, graduate school, and grade trends. Because it is presumed that Evening Program students will have full-time employment, the Admissions Committee places greater weight on the quantifiable performance predictors for applicants to the Evening Program. Electronic applications for admission are accepted from October 1 through April 15 through our website at www.nccu.edu/law or the Law School Admission Council's website at www.LSAC.org. Please note that our application cycle will be changing to October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 for applications received for fall of 2008.

Please note: Prospective applicants should contact 919.530.7173 or www.nccu.edu/law for information. For applicant status, contact 919.530.5243 or sbrownb@nccu.edu.

■ Performance-based Admission Program (PBAP)

As part of its commitment to the school's mission, North Carolina Central offers prospective students opportunities to gain admission through its Performance-Based Admissions Program (PBAP). The PBAP enables applicants whose numerical predictors fall below the presumptively admissible range to demonstrate their ability through a rigorous two-week, noncredit program in the spring. The Office of Admissions selects PBAP participants based on a number of factors, including but not limited to: a history of below-average standardized test scores followed by academic achievement, work experience, a significant time lapse between the undergraduate degree and law school application, and students who come from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Students who successfully complete PBAP are then offered admission to NCCU's Day Program. A number of students who entered the Day Program through PBAP have gone on to successfully matriculate through law school, and are now doing outstanding work as lawyers.

■ Student Organizations

The *North Carolina Central Law Journal* is devoted to a broad range of legal topics submitted by diverse authors, including legal scholars, attorneys, and law students. Students are selected for membership based upon GPA and performance in the annual Law Journal Writing Competition.

The Moot Court Board consists of upper-class students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in appellate skills through the Appellate Advocacy class and intraschool competition.

The Trial Advocacy Board consists of student teams who participate in mock jury trial competitions. The board has gained regional and national recognition for its excellence in trial advocacy.

Other student organizations include the Student Bar Association, ACLU, American Trial Lawyers Association, Black Law Students Association, Christian Legal Society, Environmental Law Society, Federalist Society, Hispanic Law Student Association, Innocence Project, Intellectual Property

Society and Trademark Moot Court, Native American Law Student Association, Outlaw Alliance, Public Interest Law Organization, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Women's Caucus, and chapters of the legal fraternities of Phi Alpha Delta and Phi Delta Phi.

■ Career Services

The Office of Career Services offers a range of career planning and placement services, including career counseling, interview preparation, résumé writing workshops, firm and résumé referral banks, and an on-campus interview program. Graduates find employment in law firms, corporations, state and federal government agencies, public interest organizations, the judiciary, and the military.

■ Financial Aid

For information about financial aid, please visit our website at www.nccu.edu/law/admissions/financial.html or contact the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid at 919.530.6180.

■ Tuition and Expenses

NCCU School of Law provides one of the most cost effective legal educations in the country.

For information on tuition, fees, and expenses, please visit our website at www.nccu.edu/law/admissions/expenses.html or contact Student Accounting at 919.530.5071.

■ Housing

Limited on-campus housing is available for single law students. Write the Department of Residential Life, North Carolina Central University, PO Box 19382, Durham, NC 27707, or call 919.530.6227.

Applicant Profile Not Available