MERCER LAW
Your journey to become a Mercer lawyer begins here—getting to know the people, programs and places that make Mercer Law distinctive among its peers. What distinguishes us from other law schools? The deliberate choice to be smaller, the innovative curriculum that focuses on preparing you for practice, the excellent and accessible faculty and staff, and the close-knit culture that makes learning enjoyable and success attainable.

WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST IN MERCER LAW SCHOOL AND HOPE YOUR JOURNEY WITH US THROUGH THESE NEXT FEW PAGES COMPELS YOU TO LEARN MORE. GET TO KNOW US.
FROM THE DEAN

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Mercer Law School. Choosing a law school is a big decision. In addition to acquiring the skills and knowledge you will need as an attorney, you will form lifelong relationships during your time as a law student. That has always been a strong point for Mercer Law. It certainly has been true for me - throughout all the years since I graduated from Mercer Law and practiced law, ran for political office, and led institutions of higher education. In this viewbook we provide information about what makes Mercer Law especially distinctive.

Your entire legal education will occur in an atmosphere that fosters genuine, meaningful relationships between faculty and students. Our unusually small classes in your first-year allow for intensive personalized feedback. Mercer Law features an innovative curriculum that provides the intellectual depth and essential skills for practicing law, including nationally recognized programs in legal writing, experiential education, and ethics and professionalism. Through our clinics and a broad variety of externships, more than two-thirds of the student body earns academic credit for work in law practice settings and judges’ chambers.

As a graduate of Mercer Law School myself, I can attest that the exceptional education you receive here will not only prepare you to practice, but will also help you build a successful legal career and meaningful life.

I invite you to explore these pages to learn in detail what makes Mercer Law School a distinctive and special place in which to earn your legal education. I hope you will visit Macon and experience first-hand the vibrant and welcoming Mercer Law Community.

Best wishes,

Cathy Cox, ’86
Dean and Professor of Law
I had a great first-year experience filled with challenges, networking, and new friendships. During my first year, I became involved in extracurriculars and attended events that helped me find my passions and develop a direction for my legal career. I love the community I found at Mercer. The students have a high level of support and respect for one another, and the faculty is dedicated to our success. For example, I had a professor who stayed up texting me at 1 a.m. to answer my questions as I prepared for an upcoming exam. The quality of the professors and level of attention and care they give each student helped me immensely. The professors bring their experiences into the classroom and use their stories not only to teach us about the law, but also to teach us how to be lawyers—advice that is invaluable.

— Gretchen Connick, ’18, George Woodruff Scholar, from Cypress, Texas
Mercer Law is one of only two schools to be a two-time recipient of the prestigious ABA Gambrell Professionalism Award for excellence and innovation in ethics and professionalism throughout the curriculum.

Mercer’s Black Law Student Association has won regional chapter of the year for the past three years.

The Governor of Georgia, a Georgia Supreme Court Justice, and several Judges of the Georgia Court of Appeals are alumni of Mercer Law School.

The Habeas Project: Mercer Law School’s Habeas Project is the only program in Georgia to handle non-capital, post-conviction cases on a strictly pro bono basis. Mercer students have helped with more than 70 cases and have won relief for more than half of their clients in representation of pro se litigants in criminal or habeas cases pending in the Supreme Court of Georgia.

The Law Abroad
Mercer Law students have the opportunity to study abroad throughout the world. Additionally, select students are invited to participate in the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights in the spring semester. We also offer a winter intersession in Puerto Rico allowing students to spend two weeks in the Caribbean learning about the island’s Spanish heritage while taking a two-credit hour class.

2/3 of students participate in externships in which they gain real-world experience by working in nonprofit, government law or corporate counsel offices, or by clerking in judges’ chambers.

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017:
94% of Mercer Law’s licensed graduates from the Class of 2017 were employed 10 months after graduation.

152
Median LSAT

97%
Median GPA

of the student body receives financial aid

MERCER LAW SCHOOL WAS THE FIRST ABA ACCREDITED LAW SCHOOL IN GEORGIA.
It is the people of Mercer Law who both challenge and support each other as students become lawyers. The relationships forged during law school become lifelong professional relationships. The supportive community of people committed to your intellectual and professional development will provide the foundation for a career of service and fulfillment.

Semester in Atlanta

Mercer Law offers a Semester in Atlanta for students to participate in expanded externships in the city during the third-year, as well as to take additional law courses offered on Mercer’s Atlanta campus. As a result, it is possible for some third-year students to take their entire semester course load in Atlanta. It is also possible to take some courses in Atlanta and some courses in Macon.
The integration of our supportive environment and our innovative curriculum is seamless and significant. Law school provides a foundation upon which lawyers build successful careers and meaningful lives. At Mercer Law, that foundation includes rigorous intellectual training anchored by nationally recognized programs in legal writing, ethics and professionalism, and experiential education.

**Experiential Education Program**
Almost two-thirds of Mercer Law students participate in clinical training through our highly regarded Experiential Education Program. Students work on real cases and gain the practical skills they need once they graduate by working in non-profit, government law or corporate counsel offices or by clerk ing in judges’ chambers. For example, students in the Habeas Project help to represent people who have been wrongfully imprisoned, offering a legal lifeline that could lead to a new trial.

**Ethics and Professionalism**
Mercer is the first law school in the nation to require a first-year course in legal ethics that forms a foundation for ethical reflection throughout your legal education. Mercer is also one of only two law schools in the country to have twice won the prestigious American Bar Association Gambrell Professionalism Award for excellence and innovation in teaching ethics.

**Legal Writing Program**
Mercer Law’s Legal Writing Program provides students with the essential legal research and writing skills they need to be prepared to practice right after graduation. We offer more courses than most law schools in the essential skills of legal research and writing, including the nation’s first Certificate in Advanced Legal Writing, Research and Drafting. Employers recognize that when they hire a Mercer Law graduate, they are hiring a lawyer who is highly trained in these skills.

**International Initiatives**
Mercer Law School offers a full array of international law courses and other opportunities for students. Our curriculum contains courses in both public and private international law, comparative law and immigration law. Additionally, Mercer Law is one of a select group of institutions, and the only law school, that participates in the programs offered by the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights. Students may apply to attend a one-week program at Merton College, Oxford to study human rights and humanitarian law.

**TOP RANKING**
Mercer Law’s Legal Writing Program has been ranked in the Top 10 in the nation since rankings began.

“Quality, efficient and persuasive legal writing is perhaps the most important critical legal skill a young lawyer can bring to the practice upon graduation from law school.” — Chris Clark, ‘89 Clark & Smith Law Firm, LLC.
“Participating in the Lawson Competition and in Moot Court has allowed me to apply the skills I learned in class at Mercer. My 1L summer I clerked for a Superior Court Judge and my 2L summer I worked with Balch & Bingham in Atlanta and Jones Cork in Macon. Conducting legal research, brief writing and delivering oral arguments have undoubtedly made me more successful in the classroom and in my summer jobs.”

— Jena Lombard, Class of 2018, Lawson Moot Court Competition Winner

“Each legal writing course offers multiple opportunities to receive individualized feedback and to revise work. With small classes, students receive personal attention to gain confidence in legal writing so that Mercer Law graduates are client-ready.”

— Karen Sneddon, Professor
Advocacy
Mercer has developed an oral advocacy program that is well-respected nationally and that provides our students opportunities to refine their advocacy skills and learn leadership and teamwork. The Mercer Advocacy Council, which is made up of second- and third-year students, includes teams that compete in numerous national competitions each year and organizes intra-school competitions for first- and second-year law students. Students work closely with faculty and alumni coaches and compete in various forms of oral and written advocacy, including Moot Court, Mock Trial, Client Counseling and Negotiation. Mercer teams are frequent winners of regional competitions, receiving both individual and team recognitions such as Best Oralist, Best Brief, Best Advocate, and Regional Champions.
During the first year of law school, students complete a uniquely designed professional development series that helps them explore a broad range of career opportunities, teaches them how to seek and apply for employment, and prepares them to navigate successfully a professional environment. Beyond the first year, the Career Services Office continues to build on those skills with a variety of workshops to help second- and third-year students secure interesting and fulfilling employment over summers and after graduation and to prepare them to succeed in those jobs once secured.

The Career Services Office actively works to connect students with employers nationally who seek to recruit candidates for permanent positions, summer jobs and part-time employment throughout the school year. The Office sponsors an on-campus interview program, a number of regional job fairs, and resume forwarding and other job posting opportunities. The Career Services Office also participates in and makes available to students a number of national job fairs, fellowship programs, and a wide range of other summer and post-graduation employment opportunities both in and outside of Georgia.

Consisting of experienced professionals with JD degrees and a number of years of law practice and career counseling experience, our Career Services Office is committed to the professional development of each individual student. Through individual counseling, educational programming and other resources, the Office empowers students and alumni to actively seek and develop satisfying and fulfilling careers.
Mercer Law alumni have expertise spanning numerous practice areas and, whether as part of their daily practice or as a commitment to pro bono service, they frequently are engaged in advocacy on behalf of the most vulnerable individuals in our nation.

Mercer Law alumni practice all over the country, and beyond, in a wide range of careers. They practice in law firms of all sizes, serve as in-house counsel for corporations, represent local, state and federal agencies, practice in the public interest for nonprofit and other community organizations, and serve in military JAG offices, political offices and other leadership positions.

Mercer Law alumni have led Georgia’s top public service positions by serving in the following roles: State Bar of Georgia President Robert J. Kauffman (’88), Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson (’69), Governor Nathan Deal (’66), Georgia Court of Appeals Presiding Judge Sara L. Doyle (’94), and State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division President John R.B. Long (’06).

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Redefining Success

For Mercer lawyers, law is not simply a way to make a living but rather a way to make a life. If you want a career that demands mastery of knowledge and skills in the service of others, you might have what it takes to become a Mercer lawyer.

Mercer Law’s mission is not just to teach students law. It is to teach students the skills and practical sense to become excellent lawyers, and that requires much more than learning a trade or passing exams. It requires students—future lawyers—to develop their knowledge and abilities fully so they may improve the justice system, serve clients selflessly, and advance the ideals of the profession.

Many years ago, Mercer decided to chart a new course in legal education. Traditionally, legal education had emphasized legal doctrine and legal theory. Law graduates did not expect to find out where the courthouse was, how to counsel a client or how to write an appellate brief until after law school. Mercer saw over 20 years ago that too many lawyers never really learned how to practice law. Mercer resolved that no Mercer lawyer would enter the profession without a solid grounding in skills, including research, analysis, and communication skills. It is those skills that lawyers draw upon every day of their careers. Mercer’s award-winning Woodruff Curriculum took the lead among law school curricula across the country in implementing skills training for all students. Mercer’s legal writing (research, analysis, and written and oral advocacy) and trial practice programs still lead the nation.

Justice Sandra Day O’Connor might have had Mercer Law School in mind when she said that as professionals, lawyers must have a commitment to develop one’s skills to the fullest and to apply that responsibility to the problems at hand.”

Mercer Law’s leadership in curricular innovation has continued. Good lawyers hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct. Mercer’s approach to teaching ethics and professionalism was recognized in 2005 and again in 2014 by the American Bar Association with a national award for innovation and excellence.

In a groundbreaking recent study of legal education, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching pointed out the importance of integrating the knowledge, skills, and ethical components of becoming a lawyer. Mercer has been leading the way in providing just this kind of legal education and will continue to do so. We agree with the authors of the study that “the calling of legal education is a high one—to prepare future professionals with enough understanding, skills and judgment to support the vast and complicated system of the law needed to sustain the United States as a free society worthy of its citizens’ loyalty.”
Macon
A city where the living is easy
Located in the heart of Georgia, Mercer Law’s hometown of Macon is a flourishing Southern metropolis with a soul unmatched by any other. With proximity to the bright lights of Atlanta and the beaches of the Georgia and Florida coasts, Macon boasts regal historical landmarks, a trendy arts and culture scene, legendary rock and soul music, lively local hangouts, and a little something for everyone.

Macon has mouth-watering local dining options, ranging from farm-to-table steaks to world-famous hot dogs and from up-scale seafood to the tastiest Southern cooking. There’s always a place to go, a band to see, or an event to attend. Students enjoy checking out College Hill Corridor’s Second Sunday concert series, Bragg Jam’s Concert Crawl that features over 80 bands performing at 20 venues, and Mercer’s athletic events, as it is the only private university in Georgia to field an NCAA Division I athletic program as part of the Southern Conference.

Macon is the seat of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia and the home of a thriving and active legal community, including the main office of the United States Attorney and office of the federal defender for the district. This environment provides Mercer Law students a full range of opportunities needed to prepare for a career in any field of law, anywhere in the world. Additionally, with Mercer’s Semester-in-Atlanta program, many students and graduates easily find externships and employment options in the Atlanta area.
Macon provides limitless outlets for outdoor recreation and leisure, including the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail, Amerson River Park, Lake Tobesofkee, riding stables, mountain bike trails, multiple public parks, and a dozen golf courses.

Mercer Law School’s historic spire overlooks downtown Macon – a city with more cultural events than many cities of similar size. You’ll find historical theaters, international festivals, great food and shopping, all in an easy-to-navigate city.
Both Fun & Good

Mercer Law School has won the Attorney General’s Legal Food Frenzy for four years, competing against all other law schools in the state, to help provide food for the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank.

Student Life

It’s hard to imagine a law school with a more robust student-life atmosphere. From the absolutely serious to the downright fun, Mercer Law students work and play with a purpose that feeds both their heads and their hearts.

And often the work they do benefits people other than themselves. Like the annual gala by Mercer’s Association of Women Law Students that raises thousands of dollars each year for local charities. Or the annual scholarship funds raised each year by Mercer’s Black Law Students Association (BLSA) to support local high school students aspiring to become lawyers. Or the conservation and recycling efforts by the Environmental Law Society to help promote sustainable living. And then there’s the jaw-dropping student Talent Show sponsored by Phi Alpha Delta and BLSA that leaves students amazed by their classmates’ extraordinary versatility. With more than 30 student organizations, the list of student activities is extensive: from guest speakers to golf tournaments to black-tie and gown socials.

The Student Bar Association facilitates many of the student activities. SBA officers are the student-elected representatives of the law school. The SBA provides a number of opportunities to work with administrators and faculty to advance Mercer Law, as well as assist the surrounding community. Each year, the SBA works with Rebuilding Macon to rehabilitate a home for a needy Macon resident.

The Mercer Law Review is another signature aspect of student life at Mercer Law. Founded in 1949, the Mercer Law Review is the oldest continually published law review in Georgia. The law review is edited and published by some of Mercer Law School’s top students, who sponsor the annual Law Review Symposium attended by legal scholars from across the country.
As a top provider of legal education, Mercer Law School is selective in admissions. Our process aims to select students from the applicant pool who will contribute to our academic community during their three years of legal education and, ultimately, to society and the legal profession.

At Mercer Law School, we consider many factors in evaluating an applicant’s potential in law school and potential for becoming a competent and ethical attorney. Some of those factors include:

- LSAT score
- Grade-point average
- Grade trend
- Undergraduate course of study and institution
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Contributions to undergraduate campus or community through service and leadership
- Extracurricular activities
- Military service
- Work experience
- Graduate and professional programs

We accept applications between September 1 and March 15 from prospective students wishing to begin their studies in the fall semester. Applicants are encouraged to complete their admissions file by January 1 in order to receive the timeliest consideration for admission and scholarship. A complete file includes an application, two letters of recommendation, and a personal statement. You must have a LSAT score before your file will be reviewed. Acceptance and scholarship decisions begin in December. All transfer and transient applicants should apply and complete their file by July 1.

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.

Financial Aid

At Mercer Law, 97% of first-year students are awarded some form of financial aid by our professional financial aid staff. Our financial aid professionals at Mercer Law are committed to providing students with up-to-date financial aid programming, counseling, and resources from day one through graduation and beyond. We provide students and alumni with guidance in the areas of planning for law school, obtaining scholarships and federal loans, managing debt, and repayment of educational loans. Our staff navigates the complex world of federal lending so that our students enjoy greater ease of access to federal funding.

Throughout the year, students and alumni may take advantage of professional financial literacy speakers who will discuss topics related to personal finance, budgeting, educational loans, repayment of educational loans, and life beyond law school. We also provide unparalleled repayment counseling for all third-year students through individual meetings with a series of federal loan repayment experts.

George W. Woodruff Scholarship

Four members of the entering class are designated George W. Woodruff Scholars. This prestigious scholarship covers tuition as well as a $5,000 annual stipend for books and living expenses. To be considered for this scholarship, your Woodruff Scholarship essay and admissions application must be completed and received by January 15. For more information and to obtain a copy of the scholarship application, visit our website at www.law.mercer.edu.

We encourage you to contact the Admissions Office if you have questions or would like to arrange a visit, attend a class, have a tour, and meet with faculty and students.

admissions@law.mercer.edu
(478) 301-2605
Founded: 1873: One of America's first law schools

Location: Macon, Georgia

University Affiliation: Mercer University

Accreditation: Nationally accredited by the American Bar Association; First ABA-accredited law school in the state of Georgia

Nationally Recognized Programs: Legal Writing, Ethics and Professionalism, Moot Court and Mock Trial Advocacy, Experiential Education

Degrees Granted: J.D. (Juris Doctor), J.D./M.B.A

Certificates: Advanced Legal Writing, Research and Drafting, Corporate Finance, Practice Management

Clinical Programs: Habeas Project, Judicial Field Placement, Public Defender Clinic, Externships, including Semester in Atlanta

Employment: 94% of Mercer Law's licensed graduates from the Class of 2017 were employed 10 months after graduation

Enrollment: Approximately 395 students

Financial Aid: 97% of the first-year students received financial aid

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