Mercer’s Woodruff Curriculum helps students develop essential problem-solving, counseling, and trial and appellate advocacy skills. It also helps ensure that they acquire the level of understanding of law and the legal system needed to excel in any of the various forms of legal practice that they may choose to enter—law firm, legal aid office, in-house corporate counsel, government legal employment, etc.

All students take research and writing courses during at least four semesters of law study, and many take a research or writing course each term. Mercer is the first law school in the nation to offer a Certificate in Advanced Legal Writing, Research, and Drafting. Students are selected for the Certificate Program through an application process. In 2003, in recognition of Mercer’s nationally known Legal Writing Program, the Legal Writing Institute selected Mercer as its host school. The Legal Writing Institute is the world’s largest organization of lawyers, judges, and law professors devoted to improving legal writing.

Joint JD/MBA Program

Mercer’s School of Law and Mercer’s School of Business and Economics offer a joint program leading to both the Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration degrees. An applicant to the program should indicate on the application to the law school his or her intent to also apply to the School of Business and Economics. The applicant must be admitted separately to each school.

Business Certificate Program

Students in good standing in the Walter F. George School of Law may choose to take up to three graduate courses in the School of Business and Economics without applying for admission to the MBA program. Currently, two specific combinations of courses can be taken for a Certificate in Practice Management or a Certificate in Corporate Finance.

Special Programs

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 public service.

The Law and Public Service Program offers students the opportunity to earn academic credit while helping to represent clients in one of the law school’s clinics, such as the Habeas Project or Public Defender’s Clinic, in judges’ chambers through the Judicial Field Placement Program, and summer externships through various agencies. Students may also be selected as fellows through the Public Interest Fellowship Program. After completing the fellowship, the fellows are offered a one-time loan forgiveness grant conditional on their making a two-year commitment to a public interest employer in Georgia after graduation.

Since 1985, the National Criminal Defense College (NCDC) has held its Summer Trial Practice Institute every year on the Mercer Law School campus. NCDC conducts two, two-week

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Admission

Mercer University’s Walter F. George School of Law accepts applications between September 1 and March 15 from prospective students wishing to begin their studies in the fall semester. Applicants must have completed a bachelor’s degree prior to law school enrollment. They must register with the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) and take the LSAT, preferably in the summer or fall before application is made. Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation, an application fee, and a personal statement candidly discussing their strengths and weaknesses as prospective law students.

LSAT scores and undergraduate GPA figure significantly into the admission decision, but the Admissions Committee considers an array of other factors in arriving at an overall judgment of the applicant’s likely contribution to the educational enterprise and his or her potential for success in the profession. Such factors as the applicant’s employment history, community and military service, advanced degrees, leadership ability, personal hardships, and other relevant background information will be evaluated.

Library Facilities

The Furman Smith Law Library is the primary resource center of the law school. The law library and computing facilities are accessible to students 24 hours a day. The library’s collection of over 350,000 volumes is enhanced by a wide array of online services. Students are able to access network resources from any of the numerous network drops and wireless access points throughout the law school. In addition, each first-year student receives a laptop computer to use during his or her legal education at Mercer Law School. The law library staff of 15 includes 5 professional law librarians who teach legal research courses and provide superior service to students, faculty, and the legal community.

Curriculum

Mercer’s Woodruff Curriculum and the atmosphere of the law school work together to provide students with a thorough intellectual foundation, strong practical skills, professional relationships, and a commitment to ethical behavior. Mercer is one of a few select schools in the country to receive the prestigious Gambrell Professionalism Award from the American Bar Association. The award cites the depth and excellence of the Woodruff Curriculum and its serious commitment to professionalism.

The Woodruff Curriculum helps students develop essential problem-solving, counseling, and trial and appellate advocacy skills. It also helps ensure that they acquire the level of understanding of law and the legal system needed to excel in any of the various forms of legal practice that they may choose to enter—law firm, legal aid office, in-house corporate counsel, government legal employment, etc.

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trial skills sessions for nearly 200 public defenders and criminal defense attorneys from across the country.

**Student Activities**

At Mercer University’s Walter F. George School of Law, excellence is measured by more than what happens inside the classroom. You will find a broad array of activities outside the classroom that have been designed to engage the members of our academic community and enable our students to stand out once they enter the professional world.

In Mercer’s moot court and mock trial programs, students improve their written and oral advocacy, negotiation, and client counseling skills. Recently, Mercer Law’s Moot Court program was ranked among the top 20 in the nation, based on our record of wins in national competitions. In addition, Mercer Law’s Mock Trial Team won the 2009 ABA National Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition.

The Mercer Law Review (the oldest continually published law review in Georgia) has been edited and published quarterly by law students since 1949. Students may also gain editorial experience in connection with the Journal of Southern Legal History, which is published by the law school.

In addition to moot court and Law Review, Mercer offers its students the opportunity to participate in over two dozen student organizations where they can gain valuable leadership and relationship-building experiences.

**Financial Aid**

Mercer awards over $3 million in scholarship aid every year to students whose academic records, LSAT scores, and personal achievements demonstrate the potential for outstanding performance in the study of law. The priority deadline for scholarship consideration is January 1.

Two of our most prestigious scholarships are the George W. Woodruff Scholarship (full tuition plus a $5,000 stipend) and the Walter F. George Foundation Public Service Scholarship (full tuition plus a $6,000 summer community service stipend). In order to be considered for the George W. Woodruff scholarship, you must have your admission application and scholarship application completed and received in our office no later than January 15. The Woodruff Scholarship application may be found online at www.law.mercer.edu/admissions. Click on the scholarships link. You may also apply online through LSAC’s website, LSAC.org.

In addition to scholarship aid, students may qualify for student loans, and work-study is available after the first year of law school.

**Career Services**

Mercer Law School has an active career services office. Alumni and faculty members support students in their efforts to find satisfying employment. The office assists students in obtaining permanent, summer, and part-time employment.

Services of the office include arranging on-campus interviews with employers, career-planning seminars, and off-campus interviewing consortia. Individual career counseling and résumé and cover-letter writing workshops also comprise much of the work of the office. An extensive library of career resources is available for student use.

The Office of Career Services reports that 83.02 percent of the Class of 2009 was employed or pursuing LLM degrees within six to nine months after graduation.
APPLICANT PROFILE GRID

Mercer University—Walter F. George School of Law
This grid includes only applicants who earned 120–180 LSAT scores under standard administrations.

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<th>GPA</th>
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<th>3.50–3.74</th>
<th>3.25–3.49</th>
<th>3.00–3.24</th>
<th>2.75–3.00</th>
<th>2.25–2.50</th>
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Apps = Number of Applicants
Adm = Number Admitted
Reflects 99% of the total applicant pool; highest LSAT data reported.