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University of North Carolina School of Law



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Overview^{2, 3}

UNC School of Law was founded in 1845 and is part of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the nation's first state-supported university. The School of Law was approved by the American Bar Association in 1928.

Carolina Law prepares outstanding lawyers and leaders to serve the people and institutions of North Carolina, the nation and the world. Home to numerous centers and initiatives, the school offers strong expertise in civil rights, banking, environmental law, intellectual property, entrepreneurial and securities law, critical studies, bankruptcy and constitutional inquiry.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁴

11.9:1

Admission Criteria⁵

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	159-163	3.28-3.68
Median*	161	3.50

The above LSAT and GPA data pertain to the 2013 entering class.

*Medians have been calculated by averaging the 25th- and 75th-percentile values released by the law schools and have been rounded up to the nearest whole number for LSAT scores and to the nearest one-hundredth for GPAs.

Admission Statistics⁶

Approximate number of applications	1485
Number accepted	664

Percentage accepted	44.7%
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The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades⁷

Class Ranks

UNC School of Law no longer provides class ranks for individual students, with the exception of the top 10 students in each class. Students and employers receive information about the grade-point-average cutoffs for the top 10 percent, top third and top half of each class.

The University of North Carolina School of Law uses the following grading scale:

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0

An A+ (4.3) may be awarded in exceptional situations (e.g., an A+ should not be awarded as a matter of course to the top student in each class, but only if the top student's performance is exceptional compared to the next student in the class). There is no D-; a failing grade is F (0.0).

In certain cases, students can receive an "Incomplete" in a course. Some courses are designated as Pass/Fail courses but students may not change a graded course to a Pass/Fail course.

Grade Normalization (Curve)⁸

First-Year Curve

First-year classes are subject to a mandatory curve. The curve has two aspects: a mean requirement and a distributional requirement. All first-year courses are subject to the mean requirement. In addition, a distributional requirement applies to the large-section first-year courses.

Distribution Requirement

Percent	Grade
35% (31-39%)	A, A-

55% (51-59%)	B+,B,B-
10% (6-14%)	C,C+

- A deviation of 4 percent is permitted in each letter grade category.
- A grade of A+ is considered part of the 35 percent of grades to be awarded in the A to A- range.
- Grades below C will be considered part of the 10 percent of grades to be awarded in the C+ to C range.

Mean requirement

In research and writing sections, the mean has a permissible range from 3.300 to 3.500. In other courses, the class grade mean is 3.250, with a permissible range from 3.200 to 3.300.

- A grade below a C is considered a 2.0 for purposes of determining the required mean.
- An A+ is counted based on its actual value (4.3) for determining the required mean.

Upper-Class Mean

In upper-class courses, the mean GPA should ordinarily fall within a relatively narrow target band, varying by no more than .1 in order to ensure fair treatment of all students. In small-enrollment upper-class courses (fifteen or fewer students), a variance of .3 is permitted. In upper-class writing courses, the mean GPA is somewhat higher, and a variance of .2 is permitted. The bands for upper-level offerings are as follows:

Type of Class	Target Band
Courses (Small-15 or fewer students)	3.1-3.4 mean GPA
Courses (Larger-more than 15 students)	3.2-3.3 mean GPA
RWEs and Wes	3.4-3.6 mean GPA

Faculty members are permitted to deviate from these bands by ratcheting upwards or downwards if the mean GPA of students in the course is higher or lower than the overall mean GPA for upper-class students. For example, if the average GPA of upper-class students is 3.305, but the average GPA of the students in a Federal Jurisdiction class is 3.390 (.085 above the overall mean), the professor MAY but is NOT required to raise the class mean by .085-awarding grades in Federal Jurisdiction pursuant to a mean of 3.200-3.385, rather than 3.2-3.3. Similarly, if a Corporate Tax course draws a class with a mean GPA that is .085 lower than the overall upper-class mean, the professor MAY but is NOT required to ratchet the mean for that course downwards by .085 (3.115-3.300).

Honors⁹

Honor	Criteria
Order of the Coif	top 10% of graduating class
Highest Honors	any student achieving a 4.0 or higher
High Honors	top 10% of graduating class

Honors	top one-third of graduating class
Dean's List	top 50% of class in any semester

Awards¹⁰

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
Pro Bono Publico Awards	For outstanding pro bono service

Journals

The **North Carolina Law Review** is a student-operated journal that publishes outstanding legal scholarship and furthers the intellectual climate of the University of North Carolina School of Law. Through its collaboration with the legal community, the Law Review provides timely and thought-provoking commentary for people of North Carolina and the nation. The Law Review belongs to the entire School of Law community and accepts the responsibility of enhancing the school's reputation and academic environment.¹¹

The **North Carolina Banking Institute Journal** is a student-edited legal journal that focuses on banking issues. NCBI was formed in 1996 by a dedicated group of UNC Law students, UNC Law faculty, and attorneys. NCBI continues to thrive with approximately 300 law schools, law firms, and financial institutions subscribing to the journal.¹²

The **North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation** is a student-run legal journal. ILJ focuses on international law, international trade, and commercial regulation. ILJ publishes four issues each year featuring articles written by leading scholars, respected practitioners, and ILJ staff members. ILJ also hosts an annual symposium on an important issue in international law.¹³

The **North Carolina Journal of Law and Technology** was founded in 1999 and focuses on the many intersections between law and technology. JOLT covers issues in intellectual property law, cyberspace law, environmental law, criminal law, health law, privacy law, and any other subject area where the sciences and law converge. JOLT publishes one print and one online edition at the end of each academic semester. Both editions feature full-length professional articles submitted to the journal, as well as student-written comments and recent developments prepared by our staff.¹⁴

The **First Amendment Law Review** is the only legal journal in the country dedicated to the First Amendment. FALR also publishes Symposium Editions, which cover the breadth of topics relating to the First Amendment. A recent edition explored issues in net neutrality. FALR does not apply any strict page or footnote requirements to professional papers, but considers each submission on a case-by-case basis. While strong preference is given to professional pieces, the editorial board considers student-written articles.¹⁵

Moot Court¹⁶

One of the most recognized student groups at the Carolina School of Law is the Holderness Moot Court Bench. Moot Court is an important part of the school's culture and offers law students a voluntary competitive organization to develop skills in legal research, written preparation, and oral advocacy. The Moot Court Bench sponsors the annual Gressman-Pollit Awards for oral advocacy in conjunction with the UNC Law Research and Writing Program. Members also coordinate the annual

J. Braxton Craven Competition, a constitutional law competition recognized as one of the most prestigious appellate advocacy competitions nationwide. The Carolina Moot Court program consists of nine competition teams: Client Counseling, Negotiation, Invitational Negotiation, Civil Rights Appellate Advocacy, International Law Appellate Advocacy, Environmental Law Appellate Advocacy, Intellectual Property Law Appellate Advocacy, Corporate Appellate Advocacy, and National Appellate Advocacy.

Clinical Programs¹⁷

Carolina School of Law understands the value of clinical work as part of a well-rounded legal education. The school's clinical offerings are sufficiently broad to allow students to work in a variety of legal areas and enhance a number of skills: civil rights, consumer, juvenile defense, community development, domestic violence, housing, human rights, family, immigration, and policy work with legislators and non-governmental organizations. Students represent clients with a wide range of legal problems and handle litigation, transactional and policy matters from beginning to end.

Students have the opportunity to reflect on the practice of law, to consider how to balance the demands of the clinic with other law school and personal commitments, and to develop the foundation for a meaningful professional life. Their law school education is greatly enhanced by the bonds they develop with their clients, and the knowledge they gain about the relationship between law and social justice. For many students, clinical legal education is the most meaningful experience during law school. Clinics include:

- Civil Legal Assistance Clinic
- Community Development Law Clinic
- Consumer Financial Transactions Clinic
- Domestic Violence Clinic
- Immigration Clinic
- Youth Justice Clinic
- Intellectual Property Clinic

Placement Facts¹⁸

Starting Salaries (2012 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$72,000 - \$145,000
Private sector - Median	\$115,000
Public service - Median	\$57,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	44.9%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	72.3%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed In	Percentage
Law Firms	46.6%
Business and Industry	19.9%
Government	11.2%
Judicial Clerkships	13.1%

Public Interest Organizations	3.4%
Academia	5.8%
Unknown	0.0%

Externships/Internships

Externships¹⁹

At Carolina Law, the Externship Program is designed to augment traditional classroom instruction by engaging students in the examination of legal doctrines and practice in the context of actual social and business problems and concerns. Students participate in real-life lawyering experiences with practicing lawyers and judges in the community who serve as on-site mentors. Students are placed with one of the program's 130 Externship partner sites including: judges at federal and state levels; local district attorneys and public defenders; the North Carolina Department of Justice; non-profit organizations such as Legal Aid, the Center for Civil Rights and the Southern Environmental Law Center; and in-house counsel, such as IBM, Blue Cross, Blue Shield and RTI.

The Summer Program

The summer program offers 50 placements, both at judicial and non-judicial sites. First- and second-year students interested in summer placement earn 5 pass/fail credit hours during the 7 week session and are on-site 32 hours per week. Externs attend class on Friday mornings during the summer session. Participation in the Summer Program is via a lottery in late November. There are no mandatory course requirements for enrolling in the Externship Program; however, individual externship placement sites may specify prerequisites.

The Semester in Practice Program

The Semester in Practice program offers full-time, semester long externships with partner government agencies and public interest organizations in Washington DC, New York City, Atlanta and North Carolina. The program is designed as a capstone experience for students interested in a particular area of practice who are willing to spend the full semester off campus and externing full-time with the host organization. Students are trained and mentored by on-site supervisors at the host organization. In addition, the Externship Program's faculty supervisors guide and facilitate the student's exploration of their experience through virtual classroom discussion, journal writing and individual conferences.

Participating sites in Washington DC include the Department of Justice, Environmental Enforcement Division; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Comptroller of the Currency; the FCC; the Department of Health and Human Services; and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Students also have the opportunity to extern with the New York City and Atlanta offices of the SEC, the Atlanta office of the EPA, the Atlanta office of the CDC, the New York City office of EarthJustice, and with the Southern Environmental Law Center in Asheville and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Internships²⁰

UNC Office of Technology Development Internship Program

The Office of Technology Development (OTD) facilitates the process by which new discoveries

lead to useful products that benefit society, attract industry research collaboration, and stimulate local and regional economic development. OTD accomplishes these objectives by leveraging UNC intellectual property to find private sector partners to license, or form startup companies to develop, UNC technology. OTD typically handles approximately 125 novel technologies yearly, generating over 50 patent filings, 30 license agreements and 3-5 startup companies. The OTD internship program is an eight-month position for graduate students and/or post-doctoral fellows who wish to learn more about intellectual property and technology commercialization. Interns participate in a formal training series covering the basics of technology transfer, conduct market assessments and direct marketing efforts for select technologies, and gain exposure to ongoing negotiations between OTD and industry partners.

Berkman Summer Internship Program

Each summer the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University welcomes a group of talented and curious students as full-time interns - Berkterns! - who are passionate about the promise of the Internet. Students represent all levels of study, are being trained in disciplines across the board, and come from universities all over the world to tackle issues related to the core of Berkman's research agenda, including law, technology, innovation, and knowledge; the relationship between Internet and civic activity; and technology, law, and development. Summer interns jump head first into the swirl of the Berkman universe, where they become deeply involved in research projects. In addition to joining research teams, summer interns participate in lectures with Berkman Center faculty and fellows, engage each other through community experiences like weekly interns discussion hours, and attend Center-wide events and gatherings with members of the wider Berkman community. As well, each year interns establish new channels for fun and learning, such as organizing topical debates, establishing reading groups and book clubs, producing podcasts and videos, and hosting potlucks, cook-offs, and BBQs.

World Intellectual Property Organization Internship

The WIPO Internship Program is open to students and young professionals from any region in the world that have a background in intellectual property or other related fields of interest, such as science and technology, finance, human resources, economics, communications, IT, translation, or international relations.

National Association of Record Industry Professionals - Music Industry Intern

This internship is perfect for students looking to break into the business side of the music industry. Students assist with the following: copyright, contracts and legal documents, digital distribution, contacts with people in the music industry, press contacts & press releases, scheduling performances, royalties, film & television placement, music publishing, promotion, merchandise sales, distribution, MySpace & web promotion, recording, contact with music organizations, music conferences, and radio.

Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

This program is designed to provide students with in-depth exposure to professional television production during an eight-week summer period in Los Angeles. The program provides more than 40 industry-wide internships to college and graduate students from across the country, and has been hailed for more than a decade as one of the top ten internships in the country.

Student Organizations²¹

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) - Carolina Law Chapter
- American Constitution Society (ACS)
- Asian American Law Students Association (AALSA)
- Attorney General Staff
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Broun National Trial Team
- Carolina Health Law Organization
- Carolina Intellectual Property Law Association (CIPLA)
- Carolina Law Ambassadors (CLA)
- Carolina Law Republicans
- Carolina Law Soccer Club
- Carolina Public Interest Law Organization (CPILO)
- Carolina Street Law
- Carolina Teen Court Assistance Program
- Child Action
- Christian Legal Society
- Community Legal Project (CLP)
- Conference on Race, Class, Gender and Ethnicity (CRCGE)
- Consumer & Commercial Law Society
- Critical Legal Studies Assembly (CLSA)
- Death Penalty Project
- Domestic Violence Action Project (DVAP)
- Education Law and Policy Society
- Entrepreneurial Law Association (ELA)
- Environmental Law Project (ELP)
- Federalist Society
- First Amendment Law Review
- Hispanic/Latino Law Students' Association (HLLSA)
- Holderness Moot Court
- Honor Court
- Immigration Law Association
- Innocence Project®
- International & Comparative Law Organization
- Jewish Law Association (JLA)
- Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Appellate Advocacy Team
- Labor & Employment Law Association
- Lambda Law Students Association
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- National Lawyers Guild
- Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)
- North Carolina Banking Institute Journal
- North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation (ILJ)
- North Carolina Journal of Law and Technology (JOLT)
- North Carolina Law Review
- Parents As Law Students (PALS)
- Sports and Entertainment Law Association
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Bar Association

- The Middle Eastern Law Student Association (MELSA)
- Transactional and Corporate Law Association
- UNC Media Law Society
- Veterans Military Advocacy Student Organization
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Women in Law (WIL)

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