



10-14-2020

## Law Students FAQ from 6 Ft. Together Portal

University of Georgia School of Law

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# STUDENT FAQ

new updates

Please also be sure to check the [Reopening FAQ](#) for specific information about the health and safety measures that will be in place in Fall 2020.

An archive of all official law school messages that have been emailed to students since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic can be found [here](#). An archive of all official University messages can be found [here](#).

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## **Reminder: Face coverings will now be required**

*Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions—will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Face coverings will not be required when alone in an enclosed office or study room, in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met, or for students in their own residence hall rooms or suites. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Repeated refusal to comply with the requirement may result in discipline through the applicable conduct code for faculty, staff, or students. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons; students seeking such an accommodation should contact Ms. Cat Ashe ([cashe@uga.edu](mailto:cashe@uga.edu)) in the Disability Resource Center*

## Fall 2020 Classes & Exams:

**UPDATED 8/7** **Where can I find the Fall 2020 class schedule and what changes have been made?** The Fall 2020 & Spring 2021 course lists and course schedules are available [here](#). You will also find the Fall 2020 book list and updated exam schedule, as well as a tentative Spring 2021 exam schedule at that link.

A law school working group has been making adjustments to the fall schedule designed to enhance our ability to practice social distancing. The revised schedule is basically the same one we have been using since March, with adjustments that increase time between classes and stagger start and end times. These changes should reduce congestion in hallways between classes and space out demand for facilities like restrooms, where social distancing rules limit capacity.

The major changes are:

1. We have shifted from the 60 minute instructional blocks we normally use to 65 minute blocks. This has the effect of modestly lengthening the school day. A class that would have started at 3:00 under the original schedule will now start at either 3:30 or 3:35.
2. Start times for a number of classes have been staggered, usually by pushing them back five minutes. If two classes in Rooms A and B were scheduled to start at the same time, one will now start five minutes later to decrease the number of students entering or exiting at the same time. Similar efforts were made to stagger start and end times for other classrooms sharing a hallway.
3. First year Legal Research and Legal Writing classes have been rescheduled to facilitate rotation of the 1L class by subsections. As a result, only half of the 1Ls will need to be on campus for instruction any particular day.
4. A few instructors agreed to teach starting at 8:00 a.m. to allow more efficient use of our largest classrooms.

This revised schedule may look unfamiliar at first because of the larger variety of start and end times. However, we believe our community can adjust to the new schedule quickly, and that all of us will benefit from more effective distancing in hallways and shorter lines for restrooms and the café.

**UPDATED 8/7** **How will classes work in Fall 2020?** Consistent with University System of Georgia guidance, the law school has been planning for in-person instruction with

social distancing this fall, as well as the backup contingency that courses might need to migrate fully online at some point during the semester.

The method of instruction will ultimately vary depending on the particular class and the professor. In some smaller classes, instructors are planning to meet in person throughout the semester unless required to move online. Other faculty are planning various ways to offer excellent instruction to the entire class while bringing different groups of students into the classroom at different times. This may involve “hyflex” instruction, in which some students are in the classroom and others participate by Zoom. Other instructors plan to use “hybrid” or “flipped classroom” approaches, in which students receive pre-recorded instructional materials and then rotate through the classroom in pre-divided sections for in-person discussion and application. Based on University guidance, some courses will occur fully online.

First year students will rotate through classrooms for in person instruction with their legal research/writing subsections. For upper level courses divided into sections, students will generally be grouped alphabetically.

For information about how your specific classes will operate, please check updated syllabi in the [syllabus repository](#) in the MyGeorgiaLaw Portal or contact your professors directly.

**UPDATED 8/7 What about attendance?** As you know, the law school’s attendance policy stipulates that students who miss more than two weeks of class can face consequences including administrative withdrawal or failing a course. We recognize the need to be flexible with that policy in light of the current public health situation. While instructors will still monitor attendance, students who make a good faith effort to follow University health and safety protocols should not have to worry about being penalized under the attendance policy.

If you need to self-isolate or quarantine, please contact your instructors and [Casey Graham](#). Attend classes through Zoom if this is an available option and you are able to do so. Otherwise, ask the professor if there is a video of the class you can review or if they have another suggestion for making up missed content. You can also reach out to your professors directly to discuss specific circumstances which may affect your ability to attend class.

**UPDATED 8/7 How will grades work in Fall 2020?** The law school will apply our ordinary grading policy as described in the [Student Handbook](#).

**UPDATED 10/14** **What technology will I need for the 2020-2021 Academic Year?** As part of the law school's reopening planning process, the Technology & Training working group has been diligently assessing the technology in our classrooms and facilities to ensure that we are prepared to deliver high-quality instruction in a hybrid/online format. To that end, they have prepared the following equipment recommendations so that you can successfully navigate this learning environment. ***If you have any tech-related questions (or concerns about access to necessary technology), please contact [lawit@listserv.uga.edu](mailto:lawit@listserv.uga.edu) so that we can assist you before classes get started.***

Minimum Operating System:

- Mac OS X with Mac OS 10.10 and higher
- Windows 7 and higher

Mac OS or Windows OS Hardware Requirements:

- Minimum: 1 Ghz Single Core
- Recommend: Dual Core 2 Ghz or Higher (Intel or AMD equivalent)

Strongly Recommended:

- Laptop bought within the past 2 years, PC or Mac
- Headset with microphone
- Internet speed of at least 10Mbps (most cable providers have at least 25Mbps)

**UPDATED 10/14** Sufficient:

- Laptop bought within the past 4 years, PC or Mac. **More robust older laptops may also be sufficient. Test with Zoom to ensure you will have a smooth experience.**  
No Chromebooks.
- Earbuds or Headphones
- Internet speed at least 4Mbps (typical 4G cell phone or DSL speeds)

Basic Tips for Better Results while Using Zoom:

- Always wear a headset or headphones – this will help prevent audio glitches and unwanted noise.
- If your connection is shared, make sure no one else is downloading or streaming at the same time (Connections over 25Mbs are much less vulnerable to this)
- If your connection becomes unstable, turning off video and using audio only will help
- Most modern cell phone and tablet cameras and mics are just as good as laptops. If you are connected to your wireless network (so you don't use all your

data), this would be a good substitute if your laptop's performance is unsatisfactory.

- The closer you are to your microphone, the better you will sound. Headsets are the best way to achieve this.
- Separate USB webcams are an option to improve performance and cost less than a new laptop (around \$50)

**UPDATED 8/7** **What can I do if my internet access is not reliable enough for online classes?** Please contact Casey Graham by email at [casey.graham@uga.edu](mailto:casey.graham@uga.edu). Additionally, Comcast has a low-cost "[Internet Essentials](#)" program available by application. The [Georgia Department of Community Affairs](#) & [Complete College Georgia](#) have also provided some information on internet access during COVID-19.

## Clinics and Experiential Learning Programs:

**UPDATED 8/7** **How will clinics and externship placements work in the fall?** As with other aspects of law school and life, COVID-19 will impact clinical and experiential learning, creating some challenges but also raising new opportunities for innovation. For each of the externship programs (civil externships, corporate counsel externships, ATL/DC semesters in practice, criminal defense practicum, prosecutorial justice program, and capital assistance project), students will be able to earn course credit for remote placement hours, or a combination of remote and in-person hours, as applicable. In the rare event that a placement cannot accommodate either in-person or remote work, the student may defer the externship, or (if possible) move to an alternative placement after consulting with their professor. Students working in any of the in-house clinics (Community HeLP, Family Justice Clinic, First Amendment, CEASE, PAWS, Mediation Practicum, PiP, Business Law Clinic, Appellate Litigation Clinic, and Veterans Legal Clinic) will engage in a combination of in-person and remote work. Please feel free to reach out to your clinic professor with any questions or concerns. Students seeking accommodations from any face-to-face work in clinics or externships should contact [Casey Graham](#).

# Library Services

**UPDATED 8/7** **How will the library operate during Fall 2020?** The library hours will be the following:

- Monday-Thursday, 7am-9pm
- Friday, 7am-7pm
- Saturday, 9am-5pm
- Sunday, 1pm-9pm

Library staff will be monitoring the number of patrons in order to reduce density. While in the library, please maintain social distancing and only utilize designated seats. Both for reasons of de-densifying the building and as a courtesy to classmates, students are encouraged to use the library on days when they are scheduled to have in-person classes. Please see this [video](#) which provides an overview of library operations during Fall 2020.

**UPDATED 8/14** **How can I obtain reference and research assistance?** Virtual reference assistance is available Monday through Friday, from 9 AM to 5 PM. Services include email, video conference, and [chat](#). Please contact [lawref@uga.edu](mailto:lawref@uga.edu) for more information or to schedule a consultation.

**UPDATED 8/14** **What if I need to request library materials? What about books that I already have checked out?** If you have questions related to [course reserves](#), borrowing or returning materials please contact [lawcirc-l@listserv.uga.edu](mailto:lawcirc-l@listserv.uga.edu). Scanning and electronic delivery, or postal delivery, are available. For items checked out from Spring or Summer 2020, all due dates were extended to August 31. Please return them by that date with no fines. For most regular circulating items, we encourage you to use the ["request item" feature in the online catalog](#). Items will be checked out for you, and you will be notified to pick them up at a table near the circulation desk. Please return all items at the drop box outside the library entrance. All regular items will be quarantined for 96 hours.

**UPDATED 8/14** **Are there any library resources that can help me prepare for my course work?** Yes! See list below:

**West Academic Study Aids Online** provides access several study aid series including: Acing series, Black Letter Outlines, Career Guides, Nutshells, Law Stories series,

Concise Hornbook/Hornbook series, Law School Legends Audio series and Sum and Substance Audio series.

- Go to: <https://0-subscription.westacademic.com.gavel.law.uga.edu/>
- Click on Create an Account
- After you have made an account or if you already have an account you can go to directly to <https://subscription.westacademic.com> and Sign In with your West Academic Study Aids Account. This way you will not have to use the UGA authentication every time. For more assistance see these Guides for Access per Browser: [Firefox](#), [Safari](#)

**CALI** provides access to more than 1,000 interactive tutorials on legal topics.

- Go to: <https://www.cali.org/>
- Login or Create New Account with your @uga.edu email and the following keycode:
- Students: GEOUN1stu83

UPDATED 6/18 **Does the library have any resources to help me cope with stress?** Yes. See the new Mindfulness Resources tab at the top of the [6 Feet Together Community Hub](#). Another helpful resource is: [Moving Law School Online: Resources for Students](#).

## Student Events:

**UPDATED 8/7 What's happening with student organization events?** Requests for student events must be submitted via [this form](#). All student orgs are encouraged to hold virtual events, but if you feel strongly that your event needs to occur in-person, please contact [Morgan Tickerhoof](#) or [Casey Graham](#) to discuss.

Student events will be listed on the law school's [calendar](#) and included in the 10 day digest emails that go out every Monday. The National Association of Law Student Affairs Professionals (NALSAP) is also maintaining a [student organization events calendar](#) which will allow law students across the US & Canada to publicize events and find opportunities to attend events remotely.

Please contact [Morgan Tickerhoof](#) if you have any other questions related to student organizations.

## Student Services:

**What if I'm really struggling or know someone in crisis?** Part of community building means looking out for each other. Even if 90% or 95% of us are doing well (or as well as can be), we need to look out for the entire team. We can't overcommunicate this enough - *if you're worried about a fellow student, please let [Casey Graham](#), [Amanda Fox](#), [Morgan Tickerhoof](#), or your "go to" person at the Law School know.*

### **UPDATED 8/7 Are there any resources available to help with financial hardships?**

Starting in Fall 2020, the law school will be offering MAX by AccessLex®, an innovative personal finance program created exclusively for law students. The MAX program is designed to take into account the busy schedules of law students and offers quick and flexible *online modules* on a variety of subjects relevant to your life. The program also offers *webinars* on special topics, and *one-on-one financial counseling with a certified financial coach* is available for all students at UGA Law. There are also *scholarships* offered for completing program components. [Sign up](#) today to get started!

If you have financial need as a result of an emergency, please consider applying to the [law school emergency fund](#). If you are experiencing food insecurity, the law school has a food bank and we are also offering a [virtual food bank](#). The professional clothes closet is also available - please contact [Amanda Fox](#) for more information.

**What should I be doing with this extra time now that so many things are cancelled?** In this new world of "social distancing" there may be additional time on your hands. It is more important than ever to take care of yourself. Go outside, get fresh air, [work out or do yoga at home](#), practice mindfulness, start a new hobby, call your parents/friends/family, or pick up a language (recommendation: Duolingo). Definitely focus on your studies, but find balance and things that bring you joy during this unexpected time. Be sure to practice social distancing and comply with local, state, and national guidance, but also make sure you are taking care of yourself.

**Can I access the law school buildings and/or law library?** Please see the [Reopening FAQ](#) for details on building and law library hours, as well as usage policies.

### **UPDATED 8/7 Will I have access to a locker during the 2020-2021 school year?**

Lockers are available by request only to allow us to better space out locker assignments to allow for social distancing. The deadline to request a locker was Friday, July 31. If

you missed the deadline and would like to see if any more lockers are available, contact [Casey Graham](#). *PLEASE NOTE: there is always the possibility that we may need to pivot to online instruction at any point in the semester. Keep this in mind as you decide which items to store in your locker. You will be responsible for ensuring that your materials are in your possession in the event that campus buildings close to students.*

**What if I need mental health services?** UGA's Counseling & Psychological Services clinic (CAPS) is currently open and taking new clients. Here is what they are currently providing:

- ALL clinicians are available for crisis counseling and consultation with students by phone and secure message during regular business hours (by calling CAPS at 706-542-2273). Students cannot currently be seen in-person.
- After-hours crisis services are available as usual – two clinicians after-hours on-call 24/7/365 by calling the UGA police dispatch at 706-542-2200 and asking to speak with the on-call clinician.
- In addition to crisis intervention, CAPS clinicians are providing Telebehavioral Health (TBH) services - counseling via Zoom.
- Clinicians are scheduling phone screenings and assigning students to therapists if their needs fall within the CAPS and TBH scope. If your needs fall outside the scope of the CAPS clinic, they will provide assistance in getting connected with another care provider.
- The clinician assigned to the law school, Dr. Erin Higgenbotham, continues to devote time each week to providing remote services to law students.
- To get started with CAPS, call 706-542-2273 and request to schedule a Telebehavioral Health Screening. *You do not have to schedule this screening with Dr. Higgenbotham - feel free to schedule with whomever is available at a time that fits with your schedule.*
- Please be sure to let CAPS know that you are a law student so that you can be assigned to Dr. Higgenbotham (if you'd like to meet with her) and so that any fees you incur can be charged to the law school.
  - Please note that you can see *any* CAPS counselor. You do not have to see Dr. Higgenbotham if you prefer to see someone else, or if there is another counselor whose schedule works better with yours.
- Please note that CAPS services are available for students who are currently in Georgia. If you are not currently in Georgia, or if telebehavioral health services do not work for you, you can still contact CAPS and they will assist you in identifying a care provider in your area.

**\*\*\*The law school continues to cover any out-of-pocket costs incurred by law students who access CAPS services\*\*\***

The University System of Georgia has also announced [expanded physical and mental health resources](#) for students enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). *Please note that these offerings are also available to students who are not enrolled in SHIP for \$40 per visit.*

**BOTTOM LINE:** MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU. Accessing those services may be a little trickier than usual, but please do not let that deter you. If you need assistance in this area, please reach out to [Casey Graham](#).

**What if I need something else or have a question not listed here?** Contact [Casey Graham](#), [Amanda Fox](#), [Morgan Tickerhoof](#), or your “go to” person at the law school and we’ll get you what you need! Also check the [Health & Wellness Resources](#) page in the MyGeorgiaLaw portal for a more comprehensive list of resources available at the law school, through UGA, and in the Athens community.

## Career & Job Concerns:

**Job postings are continually updated! Please be sure to check [LawDawgDash](#).**

**UPDATED 8/11** **How will this affect employment opportunities?** It’s very difficult to definitively answer this question because employers are taking a varying approach based on their particular needs and circumstances. Some employers are interviewing and making offers. Others are taking a very cautious approach and have not made final decisions regarding long-term hiring plans.

As you know, the vast majority of students find employment in small firms. These firms rarely have recruiting personnel and hire when the need arises. Some have begun hiring new associates while others are waiting to move forward. Some government agencies have continued hiring while others facing budget cuts have slowed their hiring activities. As we learn more we will share it with students and will continue to post jobs as they become available.

The law school is conducting virtual “OCIs” which will allow employers to interview students via video. If selected by employers, students can do these videos from home or in rooms designated by the CDO. More details about these interviews will be distributed once interview schedules have been finalized.

**UPDATED 8/11** **What should we do about our job search?** We strongly recommend you continue applying to jobs, reaching out to attorneys, and otherwise implementing the same search strategy you had before the COVID-19 outbreak began. Check the LawDawgDash job board often. We will continue to post opportunities as they become available and new opportunities may have very short deadlines if an employer has an urgent need. Regardless of how long social distancing requirements last or what happens with the economy, you will not have success unless you actively apply to jobs and continue your networking efforts. While it's important you acknowledge the challenges our country and the world are currently facing when you reach out to attorneys, building and strengthening relationships will always be the best way to find career success.

**UPDATED 8/11** **What is the law school doing to help with our job search?** The CDO is currently exploring ways to provide virtual networking opportunities. More details on virtual specific events will be announced soon. This is also an ideal time to strengthen your LinkedIn presence and to contact attorneys you have already met. The CDO is actively advising students through appointments on LawDawgDash and via email. If you are anxious about your job search, speak to a CDO advisor to make sure you are considering all of your available options.

**What if I have more questions about career-related matters?** Contact [CDO!](#) We are all still fully available and happy to assist with anything you need.