

## **Juris Doctor and Master of Public Administration Joint Degree Program**

The Cumberland School of Law of Samford University and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Alabama at Birmingham offer coordinated Juris Doctor and Master of Public Administration degrees.

### **Program Goals**

The goal of both schools is to draw upon their respective teaching and research resources in the fields of law and public administration to:

- Train graduates for leadership roles relating to policy formation; and
- The promotion and delivery of public and nonprofit entities.

### **Program Requirements**

The Juris Doctor degree requires 90 hours of coursework and the Master of Public Administration degree requires 42 semester hours. Twelve hours of MPA courses can be applied to the JD degree in accordance with the policies of Cumberland and Samford; the University of Alabama at Birmingham will accept 12 hours of transfer credit for Cumberland courses that are successfully completed. The 12 hours of Cumberland courses that may be applied to the MPA degree must come from Cumberland courses that are approved in advance by the student's advisors at both UAB and Samford. Students must complete 30 hours of public administration courses in residence at UAB. Students with no prior full-time public administration or non-profit experience must complete one 3-hour externship at either UAB or Cumberland. If the externship is completed at UAB, the student will take an additional 27 hours of coursework at UAB. Students may elect a thesis or non-thesis option. If the student elects to write a thesis, 6 hours of thesis credit may be applied in lieu of 2 MPA courses and the student's oral defense of the thesis will be in lieu of the written comprehensive examination. **This is a coordinated dual degree program; graduation from one program is contingent upon completion of all requirements for graduation from the other program.**

### **Program Admission Requirements**

Students who have completed the first year of the Cumberland curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 may apply for admission to the UAB Master of Public Administration program using their LSAT score in lieu of the GRE or GMAT. **Once admitted, continuing eligibility requires that students maintain a law school GPA of at least 2.0 for each semester (not cumulative) in order to continue in the program.** Failure to earn a 2.0 during any semester will result in suspension from the program. A student may reapply to the program only after obtaining a GPA of at least a 2.5 during a subsequent semester. Failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 in the Master of Public Administration curriculum will result in probation. According to UAB procedures, students on probation who fail to reestablish good academic standing within the next 2 regular terms of graduate study at UAB will be dismissed from the MPA program and, thus, from the joint degree program as well.

### **For Further Information**

For more information contact the [MPA assistant program director](#) at UAB: [Brannon P. Denning](#), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Cumberland School of Law; or [Pattie C. Harris](#), Director of Law Student Records at the Cumberland School of Law.