



SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

CUMBERLAND

SCHOOL *of* LAW



ADMISSION FACTS & STATS

THE ADMISSION PROCESS

What do I need to provide when I apply?

Application

- Cumberland's application is found at samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/apply.
- Disclose any criminal/academic misconduct, even if it has been expunged.
- There is no application fee.

Law School Admission Test score (LSAT)

- The LSAT is offered eight times annually in August, September, October, November, January, February, April and June. The June LSAT is the last administration we accept for the admission cycle.
- Cumberland receives all LSAT scores, however we will give weight to your highest score during review.

Letters of Recommendation

- Cumberland requires two recommendations, ideally from two different sources (academic, professional, personal, etc.). If you plan to start directly after your bachelor's degree, we suggest using two academic recommendations.

Transcripts

- Send transcripts from all higher education institutions from which you received a grade.
- Transcripts are collected by LSAC and sent electronically with your application.

Personal Statement

- Share why you are pursuing law school and, specifically, Cumberland.
- Do not regurgitate your résumé and transcripts. Write about something original.
- Be honest, but not too honest or controversial.
- Follow provided guidelines and proofread well. You typically want to stay between 2-3 pages, double-spaced.
- Use your personal statement as an opportunity to fill in blanks that we don't see on the application. Give us a chance to get to know you.

Résumé

- If possible, seek the advice of a career development professional and try to stay between 1-2 pages. Be efficient with your space.
- Opt for a traditional, professional résumé template (avoid colored paper, pictures, stylized fonts, etc.).

Addenda

- Use the addenda for other information you want to share, such as explanations for academic/criminal misconduct, drastic changes in LSAT scores or withdrawal/failure/changes in undergraduate grades and courses.

THE ADMISSION PROCESS

What GPA/LSAT scores do I need to be admitted?

- There is no set formula for weighing GPA/LSAT scores, and there is no score "cut-off."
- The median scores vary from year to year, depending on the applicant pool.
- The admission committee considers all of the items included in your admission package, such as your personal statement, letters of recommendation, résumé, addenda, the difficulty of your course work/major, leadership roles, civic engagement, volunteer activities, etc., in addition to your GPA/LSAT scores.

When do I need to apply and when will I hear back?

- Cumberland's application is available on Sept. 1 each year. The deadline to apply for fall 2023 is May 1. Pay attention to application deadlines as they can change from year to year. We suggest submitting your application by Dec. 31 to beat the rush.
- When you submit your application, you will receive an email that contains instructions on how to check the status of your application.
- If you apply before December 31, you will typically receive a decision within four to six weeks of completing your application.
- If you apply after December 31, a decision may take longer due to application volume.

How do I submit my application?

- All application materials are compiled and submitted electronically through the Law School Admission Council's (LSAC) website, lsac.org.
- The Credential Assembly Service (CAS) is provided by the LSAC and is required by Cumberland. For a small fee, the service assembles a report containing your transcript, LSAT scores and letters of recommendation and disseminates this report electronically to law schools of your choosing.

TOP 10 TIPS TO CONSIDER WHEN APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL

Advice from Top Law School Admission Officers Across the U.S.

1 Don't feel like you have to know someone "important" when applying to law school. It is not necessary to know a lawyer, judge or anyone in the field of law. Many law school applicants have no direct connection to anyone affiliated with law, and they are amazing applicants and students.

2 You are valued, and you are welcome. Law schools need students. Be your own advocate. Asking questions and seeking assistance from law school admission officers reflects positively on you as an applicant. It is a myth that applicants are supposed to know all the relevant information. Most don't. We can't support you if we don't know what you need, so please engage. We are happy to help you with the law school admission process and beyond.

3 Study for the LSAT. This means more than picking up a book a couple times each month. You should treat it like a class, because most law schools award scholarship offers based on merit credentials—your cumulative undergraduate GPA and LSAT score. Plan to commit to studying for at least three months, five days a week, for one and a half to two hours each day (give or take), and take full, timed practice exams each weekend. Statistically, you will lose three to five points from your average practice exam, not your one-time high score, so plan for that when setting your target score. Study like you can only take the LSAT once so that you know you did everything you could—no regrets. Your work can greatly determine your scholarship.

4 Do your research. Apply to your top schools because you never know until you try. However, be practical and realistic about admission and potential scholarship. If you are admitted to a school but see that you are below the 25th percentile on LSAT/GPA, it is not realistic to ask for a full-tuition scholarship or just short of one. Comprehensive research on your schools will help in a variety of ways and will make you more confident in your final decision.

5 Seek help from others. Once you have your application materials put together, use a campus writing center, career center or prelaw adviser to help review your personal statement and résumé for grammar and content. If you do not have access to such resources, have a friend or colleague help. Even the most polished applicants cannot spend too much time looking at final application documents because, inevitably, they will miss an error or typo.

6 Attention to detail is essential, especially when attaching documents to your digital application. Most candidates apply to multiple schools, even if you say that a school is your first choice. If you mention a particular school in your personal statement or optional documents, be sure to upload the correct file. A personal statement that references another law school can derail an otherwise solid application.

7 Plan, strategize and allow ample time for each step of the application process. There are no shortcuts. Complete the application and attach everything that is required of you. Provide complete explanations when required in the form of an addendum. And, lastly, study for the LSAT. Don't take it to see how you might do. It never turns out well.



8 Present yourself professionally throughout the entire process. Law is a profession, and individuals should not be applying with the email address: e.g.: "hotsexybod@.....com." We wish that isn't a real email address on a former application, but it is. Obviously, the advice goes way beyond one's email address. It extends to all interactions with admission offices and all contents of the application. Your professional reputation is solidified quickly when applying and matriculating to law school. Guard your reputation.

9 Keep an open mind when it comes to determining your best fit for law school. Many times, students think one school is what they want on paper, only to be introduced to another option and it being an even better fit. Sometimes your best fit for law school is not the first law school you ever considered.

10 Great law schools exist across the United States. There are 199 American Bar Association-accredited law schools in total. Choose a law school where you like the culture and community, you sense it will help you reach your professional goals, and you think you can thrive, do your best work and feel supported. Be driven by the right things and not the wrong things when ultimately making your law school selection.

MAP OF THE GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA

Birmingham

Birmingham is the legal hub of Alabama. In recent years, the city has made an international name for itself by having a vibrant food culture with an outstanding music and performing arts scene. Downtown Birmingham boasts an incredible restaurant scene, new loft-style apartments and a multitude of entertainment and recreational venues such as the Lyric and Alabama Theatres, Barons Baseball, Railroad Park, Top Golf and City Walk Bham.

Homewood

Homewood, a small municipality just south of downtown Birmingham, is home to Samford's campus. This area features a walkable shopping, dining and entertainment district, as well as a multitude of upscale and affordable living options. Lakeshore Trail, a popular running and walking trail, spans the distance of campus and beyond.

Mountain Brook

Mountain Brook is a local municipality adjacent to Homewood and Samford's campus. The Birmingham Zoo, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Jemison Trail and numerous walkable shopping and entertainment villages are highlights of the popular area.

Vestavia Hills

Vestavia Hills, just south of campus, is a popular location for affordable student living and boasts numerous dining options, from casual to fine, as well as ample shopping such as The Summit outdoor mall.

Hoover

The city of Hoover is home to many recreational facilities such as The Hoover Met Sports Complex, which hosts the annual SEC Baseball Tournament. This suburban area offers many amenities such as affordable shopping, dining and entertainment.



STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Cumberland School of Law provides a welcoming, collegial environment to study the law, and we take pride in providing a multitude of offerings for students to become involved. Whether it's academic or social organizations, public service or wellness groups, there's no shortage of ways to immerse yourself in the Cumberland School of Law culture on your way to pursuing your "why."

A few of those opportunities include:

- The pre-1L summer program
- Eight joint degrees, including one with our own Master of Laws (LL.M.) program
- Four live-client clinics, include the Cumberland Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic (C-VETS)
- Two established journals, the *Cumberland Law Review* and the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*
- Nationally recognized trial advocacy program
- The Center for Children, Law and Ethics
- Study abroad programs
- More than 35 student organizations
- Career Development Advisory Board
- Regular wellness activities
- Opportunities to connect with alumni across the globe
- And more...



PLAN YOUR VISIT

If possible, we suggest that you visit your top schools, aiming for early to mid-fall or spring semester. This allows you to experience the law school on a typical day, avoiding the exam period, to discover if the law school is the right fit for you.

When you are ready, we would love the opportunity to show you what Cumberland has to offer. Our visits can be tailored to you, but typically include a tour with a current student, sitting in on a 1L class, and meeting with an admission counselor. We look forward to sharing more about our Cumberland School of Law community and helping you pursue your why.

Request more information or schedule your visit



"I chose Cumberland because of the community environment as well as the opportunities to serve others in many areas. I knew from the moment I stepped foot on campus that I would be encouraged and pushed to excel. Each day I am reminded why I chose Cumberland because of the constant support and community that my classmates, faculty and staff provide. Cumberland has been a huge blessing in my life, in more ways than I can count, and will provide some of the fondest memories of my life."

- Elena Cassinelli, third-year student





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