“The pre-1L summer program allows students a chance to get acquainted with the campus, meet other students in a small class environment and get a jump start on learning how to succeed in law school. Additionally, I was able to have more one-on-one time with the instructors because of the smaller class sizes and learn how to study effectively and outline before the fall semester started. Another great perk to the smaller class sizes is that you are able to establish friendships with other students in the program. Those connections will last a lifetime.”
– J.R. Thomas ’19

“I took the summer courses because I knew nothing about law coming in. I gained valuable skills like reading a case, briefing a case, having class discussions and learning general writing tips. I gained my closest friendships during the summer. During orientation, we had people to sit with and talk to and knew the layout of the school already. The classes prepared me to go into my first semester of law school with confidence. I also learned the importance of establishing relationships with the faculty. I so appreciate that I took the summer classes and would recommend them for anyone who feels unsure about their first semester.”
– Jessica Farmer, third-year law student

Cumberland School of Law offers a unique summer program to our incoming first-year students. Summer school eases students into law school and exposes them to law school exams before their full course load in the fall. They have the opportunity to learn about the law, Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library, Samford University and Birmingham over the summer before the rest of the class arrives. The classes are small, usually around 10-20 students, and this one-on-one introduction to law school helps students establish early friendships, relationships with professors, effective study habits and outlining skills. Students who participate in Cumberland’s pre-1L summer program give high praise for their “readiness quotient” when tackling a full course load in the fall.
Pre-1L Summer Courses

Law 697 B: Legal Process
Professor Mike Debow

Legal Process focuses on the “common law” aspect of the U.S. legal system. At the time the British colonies in America declared their independence from Great Britain, the newly constituted states decided to continue to use British “common law.” In this course, students explore the significance of this fact by looking at the judicial foundations of the law of property, contract and tort—the areas which make up the bulk of the first-year curriculum. Along the way, students contrast case law with legislation. A textbook is used to support the discussion and curriculum. In addition, students read significant online material. The course begins at the end of May (the mini-term) and concludes with a written exam at the end of June.

Law 624 B: Public Law Process
Instructor Lynn Hogewood

Public Law Process offers an overview of the process of statutory construction, including case analysis, case briefing and legal research. The course also includes an introduction to criminal procedure and administrative procedure. Students are introduced to legal research using Cumberland School of Law’s Beeson Law Library and online research services such as LexisNexis and WestLaw. Representatives and librarians give students information and access to the online research systems at the beginning of the summer program. Thus, students begin law school with their passwords and accelerated online skills. Research librarians introduce students to “the books,” library computer research aids and e-services for legal writing. Pertinent portions of a textbook and other selected readings will support the discussion and curriculum. This course meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from the end of May through July to conclude the course with the exam at the end of July.

Credits

Students enrolled in the summer program must take both classes and will receive a total of five elective credits. These courses will not change the classes taken in the first year, but summer grades will be included in the 1L GPA and class ranking.

HOW TO ENROLL

To enroll in the pre-1L summer program, admitted students should pay their first seat deposit in full and notify the Office of Admission by May 15, 2020. Closer to the start of school, the Office of Student Records will enroll interested students in the classes. The summer classes begin on May 27, 2020. Legal Process concludes on June 24, 2020, and Public Law Process concludes on July 29, 2020.

COST

$1,360 per credit hour = $6,800 (five credit hours)

Summer tuition is due in full by June 5, 2020.

Admitted students who participate in pre-1L summer courses will have their second seat deposit of $500 waived.

If you have questions concerning financial aid for the summer courses, please contact graduate financial aid adviser Douglas Johnson at 205-726-2905 or djohns17@samford.edu.

BOOKS

In May, enrolled students will be contacted via email regarding required books and materials.