

**Comprehensive Program Review
College of Law
Georgia State University
November 2021**

The following programs are critical to the institutional mission and thus MEET the institution's criteria for retention.

There are three degree programs offered by the College of Law. The Juris Doctor (J.D.) is the primary program for the College. The College has leveraged this program to offer a Master of Laws (LL.M.) program for graduates of foreign and U.S. law schools to advance their legal careers and to offer a Masters of Jurisprudence (M.J.) program for non-lawyers.

J.D. Program

The J.D. program remains the primary program for the College of Law. As it has since its inception, the College has a full-time and part-time J.D. program. Enrollment has increased over the last years, with enrollment of 616 (FA 2017), 632 (FA 2018), and 656 (FA 2019). The acceptance rate for applicants has remained under 30% and the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles for LSAT scores and undergraduate GPAs have remained the same or increased over recently years. Overall bar pass rates and employment remain high. (see required ABA Standard 509 Information Report <https://law.gsu.edu/about/disclosures-509-aba-employment/>).

LL.M. Program

The College's LL.M. continues to have more foreign trained lawyers, with less than 5 domestic trained lawyers at any given time. Enrollment has remained relatively consistent, with enrollment of 23 (FA 2017), 21 (FA 2018), and 26 (FA 2019). Student satisfaction with the program remains high. Our bar pass rates overall remain consistent with the national rate for LL.M. students.

M.J. Program

The College's M.J. program has not yet launched. Original plans to launch the health law M.J. were deferred twice – once because delays in receiving ABA acquiescence hampered recruitment and most recently due to the pandemic. The College took advantage of the pause to alter the curriculum to allow for more overlap between concentrations, and now intends to launch with concentrations in health law and education law in Fall 2022.

Provost/VPAA Signature and Date _____

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Provost/VPAA's Designee Signature and Date Michael Galchinsky 11/10/2021

Appendix: 2021 Academic Program Review Action Plan
College of Law
Georgia State University

The College of Law received the Academic Program Review (APR) Review Report on March 3, 2021. While the reviewers concluded that “the strengths of the GSU COL exceed any concerns [the reviewers] may have about potential areas of weakness,” we take seriously the reviewers’ constructive critique and identify below specific steps to respond to them.

Major Findings of the Current Review

1. Opportunities to Diversify the Faculty

Although not a concern raised in discussions with the committee, the reviewers acknowledged the need to diversify the faculty and suggested ways to do so. In particular, the reviewers recommended that the College be more deliberate in diversifying the pool of adjunct faculty, including taking advantage of online opportunities. The reviewers also encouraged the College to identify markers of true potential success to criteria that could allow for the creation of a more inclusive pool.

2. Curricular Innovation/Online Learning

In response to questions about whether the College could benefit from curricular changes with a specific emphasis on online learning, the reviewers identified a few areas for potential improvement. These include:

- Increasing opportunities to incorporate transactional skills into the curriculum
- Reconsidering whether to require Evidence as a required course
- Critically evaluating where online courses might be useful

With respect to the latter, the reviewers suggested that the College might take advantage of online courses from faculty at other schools, while also offering some of the College’s classes in which the College has considerable strengths to students at other law schools as a way of increasing revenue and national recognition.

3. Allocation of Resources

The committee was asked to identify revenue-neutral suggestions for building upon the strengths of the College and addressing concerns. The committee concluded that some parts of the College may be overstaffed, whereas critical areas, specifically Student Affairs and the Center for Professional Development & Career Strategies, are “woefully understaffed.” The reviewers suggested that some of these concerns may be addressed with a “shared services model” of administrative support.

4. Revenue Generation

The reviewers suggested that the College had multiple opportunities for additional revenue generation, pointing to both the LLM program and the as yet unlaunched MJ program. With respect to the latter, the reviewers recommended that the College expand the program beyond health law. It urged the College to work to encourage staff and faculty to embrace a revenue generation mindset.

5. Overall Progress Toward Strategic Plan

The reviewers found that the College had made substantial progress on Goals 1 (education) and 2 (research) of the College's strategic plan for 2014-2020. (Development of a new strategic plan had been deferred because of the dean's search and the delay of the university's strategic planning process.)

Consistent with the committee's recommendations regarding the curriculum, the reviewers reiterated the concern that the required curriculum remains largely litigation-based and that transactional skills are relegated to simulation courses. The reviewers also suggested the College could better integrate the existing curriculum and improve its advising program.

With respect to Goal 3 (hub goal), the reviewers encouraged the College to renew and expand its community partnerships and continue to capitalize on the law school building, its location, and its technology to fulfill this goal. Goal 4 (international) remains an area where more strategic planning and progress is needed. Finally, with respect to Goal 5 (actively responding to changes in legal education and markets), the reviewers recognized the challenge, given the significant changes adopted during the pandemic that likely will persist, but also note the need for faculty buy in to benefit the College as a whole.

Action Plan for the Coming Cycle

1. Diversifying the Faculty

- a. The Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs will work with faculty and alumni to identify potential adjuncts to meet curricular needs with a goal of developing a diverse pool of faculty for hiring in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- b. The Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development will work with the Faculty Development Committee to develop a plan for mentoring diverse adjunct faculty or others in the community who may be interested in pursuing a career in academia for implementation in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- c. The Dean's Advisory Committee will develop a proposal regarding criteria for hiring and methods for evaluating candidates that reflect best practices in inclusive hiring, beginning with materials collected and prepared by the College's Human Resources Officer for interim dean Wolf for implementation in the 2022-2023 academic year.

2. Curricular Innovation/Online Learning

- a. The Dean will work with the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute, the Development Office, and relevant faculty to explore the feasibility of establishing an Entrepreneurship Clinic at the College of Law within the next 24 months.
- b. The Curriculum Committee will evaluate the curriculum in light of the Review Report and make appropriate proposals to the Dean and the faculty for implementation by the 2023-2024 academic year.

3. Allocation of Resources

- a. The Dean, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration, and the Human Resources Officer will critically assess each vacant position as it arises to evaluate whether the position meets current needs or whether adjustments should be made as to responsibilities or department to further the needs of the College. This is an ongoing activity that has already begun.

4. Revenue Generation

- a. Relevant faculty and staff will work to finalize curriculum for the M.J. program in light of recently approved changes, as well as work with Admissions, Communications, members of the Online Strategies team and others to move forward with recruitment of an M.J. class of at least 10 students for the launch of the program in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- b. The Director of the LLM program will evaluate the LLM program to determine whether and how to grow the program and make a proposal to the Dean by Fall of 2023.

5. Overall Progress Toward Implementation of the Strategic Plan

- a. When the College moves forward with strategic planning (likely in 2022-2023), the Strategic Planning Committee will consider and respond to the reviewers' comments in the APR report regarding progress and gaps in meeting the College's 2014-2020 strategic goals.



6/28/2021

Leslie Wolf, Interim Dean

Date



21 July 2021

Wendy Hensel, Provost and Senior Vice President

Date