

**Law Student Exit Survey
Fall 2016, Spring and Summer 2017
George Mason University**

Congratulations on your impending graduation from George Mason University! Your satisfaction and evaluation of your educational and student life experiences at Mason are important to us and will be used in educational planning. This survey will allow you to provide important feedback to Mason faculty and administrators. While the survey is not anonymous, be assured that your responses are confidential. Data will be analyzed and reported by groups only and at no time will individual responses be linked with your name.

The survey is administered online through Qualtrics. This instrument is not to be filled out.

Part I. Background Information

1. When did you first start your law study at George Mason University?

- a. ____ 2010 or earlier c. ____ 2012 e. ____ 2014 g. ____ 2016
b. ____ 2011 d. ____ 2013 f. ____ 2015

2. Did you begin law school at Mason or elsewhere?

- a. ____ Started here b. ____ Started elsewhere and transferred here

2.1. (If selecting b to Q2) Which law school were you enrolled in prior to coming to Mason?

3. Among the law schools that you considered, was Mason your:

- a. ____ First choice c. ____ Third choice or lower
b. ____ Second choice d. ____ Only choice

3.1. Why did you choose Mason? Select all that apply.

- a. ____ Cost d. ____ Academic programs g. ____ Other, please specify: ____
b. ____ Scholarship e. ____ Ranking
c. ____ Location f. ____ Reputation

4. How many years elapsed between earning your undergraduate degree and enrolling in Mason Law School?

- a. ____ Less than 2 years c. ____ 4-5 years
b. ____ 2-3 years d. ____ 6 years or more

4.1. If you did not come straight from college to law school, what did you do in the years between?

Select all that apply.

- a. ____ Worked c. ____ Military service e. ____ Not applicable
b. ____ Graduate education d. ____ Other

5. Did you pursue your law degree primarily:

- a. ____ Full-time b. ____ Part-time

5.1. Did you take advantage of Mason's flexibility to switch back and forth between full-time and part-time programs during any semester?

- a. ____ Yes b. ____ No

6. What was your primary employment status while at Mason Law School? (Do NOT include unpaid internships.)

- a. Full-time job
- b. Part-time legal job
- c. Part-time non-legal job
- d. Worked occasionally
- e. Did not work

6.1. Did you complete unpaid internships, paid internships, or internships for academic credits during your fall, spring, or summer semesters?

- a. Yes
- b. No

6.2. (If selecting a to Q6.1) How many of these internships did you complete? _____

7. Did you receive financial support that does not have to be repaid from any of the following sources? Select all that apply.

- a. Teaching assistantship (e.g. legal writing fellow)
- b. Research assistantship or equivalent
- c. University scholarship
- d. Non-University scholarship
- e. Employment benefit (e.g. tuition assistance)
- f. Summer Public Service Stipend
- g. Family
- h. Other, please specify: _____

8. How much educational debt from attending law school do you expect to have upon your graduation?

- a. None
- b. \$1 - \$20,000
- c. \$20,001 - \$40,000
- d. \$40,001 - \$60,000
- e. \$60,001 - \$80,000
- f. \$80,001 - \$100,000
- g. More than \$100,000

Part II. Law Program

9.1. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about **full-time faculty** in your law program:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	NA*/Don't know
Faculty					
The courses I took were well taught.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty was knowledgeable in subject taught.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty were willing to meet with me to discuss my academic performance.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty in the Law School worked with students to ensure successful transfer of knowledge and development of students as professionals.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
There is access to open and ongoing communication with faculty regarding student needs, concerns and suggestions.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
There are ample opportunities outside the classroom for interaction between students and faculty.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty are open to and encouraging of divergent opinions and exchanges during class.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty are committed to a true expression of ideas, even if the student(s) disagree with them.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK

9.2. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about adjunct faculty in your law program:	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	NA*/Don't know
Faculty					
The courses I took were well taught.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty was knowledgeable in subject taught.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty were willing to meet with me to discuss my academic performance.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty in the Law School worked with students to ensure successful transfer of knowledge and development of students as professionals.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
There is access to open and ongoing communication with faculty regarding student needs, concerns and suggestions.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
There are ample opportunities outside the classroom for interaction between students and faculty.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty are open to and encouraging of divergent opinions and exchanges during class.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Faculty are committed to a true expression of ideas, even if the student(s) disagree with them.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK

9.3. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about students in your law program:	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	NA*/Don't know
Students					
There are students from different social, cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds at the Mason Law School.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
There is a high level of intellectual discourse among students in the program.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Student peers are considerate and respectful of my cultural, political, and religious affiliations.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK

9.4. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements about academics in your law program:	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	NA*/Don't know
Academic Experiences					
My program was intellectually challenging and stimulating.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
My program provided me with the academic and professional knowledge to embark on my professional legal career.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
Courses listed in the catalog are offered frequently enough for timely completion of the degree requirements.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
There are a wide range of courses to choose from.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
The writing program has helped me to improve my legal writing skills.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
The Law School encourages the ethical practice of the law.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
The Law School has given me sufficient support to succeed academically.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK

10. Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate:	Have done	Currently doing	Plan to do	Do not plan to do	NA*	(If "Have done" or "Currently doing") How many times?			
						Once	Twice	Three times	> Three times
Clinics	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Externship	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Unpaid internship	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Paid legal or law related positions (not paid fulltime work).	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Paid fulltime work	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Volunteer work outside of any structured unpaid internships – legal or otherwise	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4

Work on a legal research project for a faculty member or center outside of course/program requirements or independent studies	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Serve on the George Mason Law Review/other law journal	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Serve on a moot court team	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Serve on the Trial Advocacy Association	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Be a legal writing fellow	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4
Participate in other law student organizations	4	3	2	1	NA	1	2	3	4

10.1. If you were unable to participate in any of the above or would have liked to have participated in more, what was your greatest impediment to doing so? _____

Part III. Communication

11. Which communication methods did you use to stay informed about courses, events, or career information? Select all that apply.

- a. _____ Listservs d. _____ Flyers g. _____ Symplicity
b. _____ TWEN e. _____ Twitter h. _____ Personal Outreach
c. _____ School Monitors f. _____ Facebook i. _____ Other, please specify: _____

12. What are your recommendations for the best way to communicate to students about academic, career, and social information?

Part IV. Use of Services and Satisfaction

Services at Mason Law School:	13.1 How often have you used the services?					13.2 (If selecting used) How satisfied are you with the services?			
	Didn't use	1 time	2-3 times	4-5 times	> 5 times	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
<i>Academic Advising</i>									
Faculty advising	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Individual Academic Counseling (in person or via phone or electronic communication)	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Group Academic Sessions	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Pre-registration Meetings	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
<i>Mentoring</i>									
Mentoring (e.g. supporting professional development)	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
<i>Career Counseling and Support</i>									
Optional career counseling meetings (in person or via phone or electronic communication)	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Career information events	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Recruiting Programs	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Mock Interviews	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Alumni Mentor Program	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Off-Site Bar Association Events	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Other career or professional development services	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Job Fairs	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Stipends for career fairs or offsite events	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1

14. Comments on the above experiences:

15. How satisfied are you with the following services/facilities on the <u>Arlington</u> campus:	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	NA*/Didn't use
Health services	4	3	2	1	NA/DU
Law school computing resources	4	3	2	1	NA/DU
Campus lounge facilities	4	3	2	1	NA/DU
Campus bookstore	4	3	2	1	NA/DU
Campus food services	4	3	2	1	NA/DU
Campus parking – availability of parking	4	3	2	1	NA/DU
Campus parking – ease of entry/leaving parking facility	4	3	2	1	NA/DU
Campus parking – pricing of parking	4	3	2	1	NA/DU
Financial Aid Office	4	3	2	1	NA/DU
Records Office	4	3	2	1	NA/DU

**not applicable*

16. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements:	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	NA*/Don't know
Overall, I have a strong sense of belonging to Mason Law School.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
I would recommend Mason Law School to prospective students.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK
If I were starting over, I would enroll at Mason Law School again.	4	3	2	1	NA/DK

**not applicable*

Part V. Future Plans

Bar Exam Preparation

17. I plan to take the following bar exam: _____

18. Did you attend the following while at Mason Law School? Select all that apply.

- a. ____ Bar information sessions offered by Career and Academic Services
 b. ____ Legal Fundamentals course

19. What additional bar programming or support would you have attended? _____

20. To what extent do you agree that your academic course work has prepared you to successfully take the bar exam?

- a. ____ Strongly Agree b. ____ Agree c. ____ Disagree d. ____ Strongly Disagree

21. What commercial bar preparation course do you intend to take? _____

22. Will you primarily attend lectures:

- a. ____ In person b. ____ via webcast/online

23. Will you study in:

- a. ____ Arlington b. ____ In another state

24. How many hours per week will you work while studying for the bar exam?

- a. ____ 0 d. ____ 21-30
 b. ____ 1-10 e. ____ 31-40
 c. ____ 11-20 f. ____ 40+

Employment

25. What is your employment plan in the first year post graduation?
- a. ____ I expect to continue with my current employer in my current position.
 - b. ____ I expect to continue with my current employer in a new position.
 - c. ____ I expect to return to a previous employer in a new or previous position.
 - d. ____ I will begin a new position with a new employer.
 - e. ____ I will be self-employed.
 - f. ____ I will be seeking employment.
 - g. ____ I will not be seeking employment.
26. Which setting BEST describes your EXPECTED employer once you graduate? Select ONLY one.
- a. ____ Law firm
 - b. ____ Academic institution
 - c. ____ Business/industry
 - d. ____ Judicial clerkship
 - e. ____ Government (federal, state or local agencies)
 - f. ____ Trade association or lobbying firm
 - g. ____ Military
 - h. ____ Non-profit organizations
 - i. ____ US Congress
 - j. ____ Other, please specify: _____

Part VI. Final Questions

27. Overall, how satisfied are you with Mason Law School?
- a. ____ Very satisfied
 - b. ____ Satisfied
 - c. ____ Dissatisfied
 - d. ____ Very dissatisfied

28. We would particularly like to hear your suggestions for improvements that would enhance the experience at Mason Law School for future students.

29. If there is one suggestion that you would make to improve Mason Law School, what would that be?

Please enter your GMU student identification number which begins with the letter “G.”

G _____

GMU email address: _____@gmu.edu

Preferred email address after graduation: _____

Your G-number and email address are necessary for us to verify that only law school students have completed the survey. All individual responses are confidential and no report will identify you as an individual. Thank you for your participation.

This survey was prepared and distributed by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
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