



AY2024-2025 Highlights

- Opened the Taylor House, home to our Admissions department and law school graduate programs.
- Secured direct appropriations to promote academic success and Bar passage.
- Graduated our first cohort in the Excellence in Policing and Public Safety program (March 2025) and launched a certificate program in Environmental Law (January 2025).
- Received \$500k gift for the Bowers Professorship, in honor of the first African American law professor at the School of Law.

Assessment of 2024-2025 Goals:

1. Build greater resilience in students to prepare them to graduate practice-ready by providing rigorous, high-quality student-centric instruction.

- Hired a new academic success program (ASP) faculty member, thereby expanding Bar Prep programming.
- Hired an ASP consultant to assess our Bar Prep program and to teach in the program. Offered mini-Bar exams.
- Created an awards program to incentivize participation in commercial Bar Prep courses.
- Built a more cohesive advising program that emphasizes the importance of professional identity formation.
- Implemented grade normalization and a new grading scale.
- Increased first-time Bar passage in South Carolina from 84.80% to 85.21%.
- Employed a data analyst to predict Bar passage outcomes based on students' Admissions criteria.
- Enhanced the Introduction to the Legal Profession course to comprise more academic success programming.
- Improved student employment ten months after graduation in full-time/long-term/JD advantage/Bar passage required positions from 90.95% for the class of 2022 to 93.92% for the class of 2023.
- Developed a designated employer engagement position to conduct employer outreach and expand career opportunities in North Carolina and Georgia while maintaining strong partnerships with existing employer partners.

2. Continue to improve the reputation and profile of the Law School.

- Improved the median LSAT score from 160 to 161 and the median UGPA from 3.70 to 3.74 for the 1L class matriculating in August 2024, compared to the prior year.
- Increased applications from 1,888 to 2,098 and improved selectivity from 34% to 29.5% for the 1L class matriculating in August 2024, compared to the prior year.
- Published two alumni magazines.

3. Recruit and retain productive and engaged faculty and staff.

- Continued to recognize faculty scholarship of full-length articles, enabling accurate tracking and reporting; continued to recognize faculty service through end-of-year evaluations.
- Placements of faculty scholarship remained strong, with 17 full-length article placements, four of which placed in top 10 journals (Stanford, Columbia, Chicago, Georgetown, and Michigan).
- Hired one new tenure-track faculty and, one tenured faculty in the legal studies department and a new law library director in the law library department.

4. Secure funding for scholarships, professorships, public service initiatives, student programming, and academic success.

- The alumni-giving participation rate fell to 2% through fiscal year-to-date February 2025. The FY25 annual giving (in unrestricted accounts) is forecasted to be \$350K. Total gifts closed year-to-date through February 2025 (FY25) are \$1.4M, with gifts totaling \$1.5M expected for the remainder of FY25.



Goals for 2025-2026:

- 1. Continue to provide rigorous, high-quality, student-centric instruction to build greater resilience in students and prepare them to graduate practice-ready.**
 - Hiring another academic success program faculty member, thereby further expanding Bar Prep programming.
 - Assess the success of the new pilot Bar Prep awards program and secure funding to continue the program.
 - Finalize modification for Supreme Court rules to allow for student circuit court practice experience.
 - Improve first-time Bar passage in South Carolina from 85.21% to 90%.
 - Develop analytical tools to evaluate the success of academic programming and predict Bar passage.
 - Implement the recommendations of the curriculum committee to avoid duplication and to meet unmet curricular needs.
 - Continue to refine the Introduction to the Legal Profession course to promote academic success.
 - Improve student employment ten months after graduation in full-time/long-term/JD advantage/Bar passage required/degree-seeking positions to 95%.
 - Expand by 10% the number of firms interviewing students through the Career and Professional Development Office.

- 2. Continue to improve the reputation and profile of the Law School.**
 - Improve the median LSAT to 162 and UGPA to 3.75 in the 1L class matriculating in August 2025.
 - Increase applications to 2,300 and improve selectivity to 28%.
 - Support state-wide efforts to increase the quality and quantity of South Carolina residents seeking enrollment in USC.
 - Implement the recommendations of Spivey Consulting for job placement, communications, and admissions.
 - Continue to expand new branding efforts and focus communication efforts to ensure relevant audiences are aware of faculty, student, and alumni achievements. Update alumni contact lists to reach all alums.

- 3. Recruit and retain productive and engaged faculty and staff.**
 - Maintain faculty scholarship placements, improve service productivity, and enhance teaching capability in accordance with ABA assessment requirements.
 - Hire new faculty with high potential to match curricular needs and to replace retiring and departing faculty.
 - Award two named professorships.
 - Continue to provide professional development for staff and foster teamwork.
 - Recognize high-achieving and productive employees.

- 4. Secure funding for scholarships, professorships, public service initiatives, student programming, and academic success.**
 - Increase alumni giving participation rate to 8%, annual giving to \$600K, and total gifts closed to \$4.0M.
 - Reorganize the Development Office under new leadership and fill open positions.
 - Expand Alumni outreach.