

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF LAW COURSE PLANNING GUIDE
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II. Information about selecting upper level courses: including sequencing, prerequisites and recommended courses. (Subject areas for specialization are covered in a different document.)

I. INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE CREDIT

A. Credit load

1. Normal load. Students must average 15 credit hours per semester to graduate with 90 credits in three years. Normally a student takes 14 to 16 credit hours per semester.

2. Minimum load. Students must be full-time students for 6 semesters in order to graduate. The minimum credit load for full-time residency under federal education loan rules is 10 credit hours. Part-time enrollment is permitted *only* with the prior approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and is granted only in extraordinary circumstances. Students wishing to count two summers for one semester of residence must enroll for at least five credit hours each summer.

3. Maximum load. Students wishing to take more than 16 hours in any semester (8 during summer term) must seek the prior permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. ABA rules state that no student may earn more than 18 hours of law school credit in any one semester (9 total during summer term), exclusive of final-semester credits given for co-curricular activities (journals, moot court, and trial advocacy).

4. Graduation. You must successfully complete **90** credit hours to graduate from the College of Law.

B. Pass-Fail Courses within the Law School

No pass-fail option exists for most law school courses. Law school courses offered on a pass-fail basis are Trial Advocacy (Law 960), Moot Court (Law 961), Kentucky Law Journal (Law 962), Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture and Natural Resources Law (Law 963), Advanced Legal Clinic (Law 978) and all externships.

C. General Limits on Pass-Fail Credit.

In calculating the 90 required credit hours for the J.D. degree at the College of Law:

1. No more than 6 hours of graduate courses at the University of Kentucky *outside of the law school* (under (D)(1) below), graded on a pass-fail basis, shall be counted.

2. No more than 9 hours of courses **in the law school** that are offered only on a pass-fail basis shall be counted.

3. No more than 12 of the total number of pass-fail credit hours, whether earned for graduate school courses under (1) or for law school courses offered only on a pass-fail basis under (2), shall be counted.

4. No more than one graduate school course outside the law school (under (D.1 below), graded on a pass-fail basis, may be credited in any one semester.

5. The hours that dual-degree (JD/MBA, JD/MPA and JD/MA) students are permitted to count toward the JD take the place of the graduate school courses otherwise limited under (1), (3), and (4), but dual-degree program students are still subject to (2). That is, students in dual-degree programs may only take up to nine pass-fail course credit hours in law school courses and may take no courses outside the law school for credit otherwise than pursuant to the applicable dual degree program.

D. Credit for courses outside the Law School

1. Courses at the University of Kentucky. The College of Law Course Catalog lists courses outside the law school at the University of Kentucky that may be taken for credit toward the J.D. degree, outside of the approved dual-degree programs. Students may take these courses only for Pass-Fail credit, and they are subject to the general limitations on the number of pass-fail course credits that may be included in the credits required for graduation. In addition:

- Second year students may not enroll in a non-law course during the Fall semester, and
- A grade of A or B will be recorded as a “pass” (P) on the student’s College of Law transcript. A grade of C or lower will be recorded as a “fail” (F) on the student’s College of Law transcript. Under College of Law rules, an F in a pass-fail course is treated for GPA purposes (class rank and academic standing) the same as an E in a graded course.
- No more than one such course may be taken in any semester for College of Law credit.

2. Courses outside the University of Kentucky. Credit for work taken at another law school may be included in the 90 credit hours required for the J.D. degree under the following conditions.

a. At another U.S. accredited law school (including study abroad programs offered through accredited law schools) if the student was admitted to the other school at the time of enrollment and the student received a grade of “C” or better (or its equivalent) in each course for which transfer credit is sought.

b. At a foreign law school if completed according to Faculty Rule X(F).

3. Approval required; prohibition of duplicate credit. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs must approve all transfer work and may refuse credit for work which duplicates any coursework already taken at the College of Law, or may prohibit a student from enrolling in courses at the College of Law which substantially duplicate work done elsewhere for which credit has been granted by the College of Law.

4. Transferred work is ungraded credit. Courses taken at another law school meeting the requirements above will be transferred as ungraded credit hours. The hours will count toward the 90 hours required for graduation but they will not be counted as pass-fail or graded work, and will not be included for purposes of a student's GPA or academic standing. However, the limit on pass-fail credit hours applies to work taken at another law school as if those courses were taken at the College of Law.

5. Overall Limit. No student may earn more than 45 credit hours toward the J.D. degree outside the College of Law.

E. Transcript Review for Graduation

Students should carefully monitor their progress to determine whether they will meet all degree requirements.

- Courses worth 90 credits , *properly applying the limits on pass-fail credits*
- Professional Responsibility (Law 835)
- The substantial writing requirement through one of the following:
 - A law school seminar;
 - Federal Appellate Advocacy (Law 827)
 - Advanced Legal Writing
 - Supreme Court Decision-Making (Law 840)
 - Research Problems (Law 896) if the course is not taken in the student's final semester, and is so designated by the student and instructor.
- Completed 6 credits of experiential learning, which is achieved by taking a combination of the following courses:
 - Advanced Estate Planning
 - Advanced Legal Research
 - Advanced Legal Writing
 - Alternate Dispute Resolution
 - Business Planning
 - Child Advocacy Today Externship
 - Children's Law Center Externship
 - Civil Pretrial Practice
 - Department of Public Advocacy Externship
 - Depositions
 - Fayette County Attorney Externship
 - Federal Administrative & Tax Research
 - Federal Appellate Advocacy and Procedure
 - Federal Government Externship
 - Foreign & International Legal Research
 - Immigration Law Externship

Innocence Project Externship
Institute for Compassion in Justice Externship
Intellectual Property Transactions
Judicial Externship
Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Externship
Kentucky Legal Research
Kentucky Refugee Ministries Externship
Legal Accounting
Legal Clinic
Legal Drafting
Lexington City Attorney Externship
Litigation Skills
Negotiating Process
Prosecutorial Externship
Regulation of Big Data
Supreme Court Decision Making
The Law and Business of Intellectual Property Management
UK Healthcare Risk Management Office Externship
UK Office of Legal Counsel Externship
U.S. Department of Energy Portsmouth Paducah Project Office Externship

Federal Appellate Advocacy, Advanced Legal Writing, Supreme Court Decision Making, and The Law and Business of IP Management may satisfy either the substantial writing requirement or the professional skills requirement, but not both. Notify the instructor of your plans in the course, and the instructor will notify the Registrar accordingly.

The requirements for students enrolled in dual-degree programs differ in some respects. Students in dual-degree programs must ensure that they meet the degree requirements established by those programs, and should be sure to consult the appropriate officials at the other College in addition to the College of Law. Students who have questions about whether they will meet graduation requirements should contact the Registrar or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

II. INFORMATION ABOUT SELECTING ELECTIVE COURSES

A. General Considerations

No precise pattern of upper level courses is right for everyone, but the following guidelines may be helpful.

First, in order to attain basic legal literacy, each student should become familiar with a broad range of courses. Lawyers rarely find their problems neatly categorized or identified as involving purely property, corporate, tax, or any other subject, and the only way students can be sure that they are well prepared for a future in the legal profession is to have broadly learned the law.

Second, a student may want to achieve a certain depth of understanding in at least one area of the law. The goal is not to begin a professional specialty while still in law school, but to gain an appreciation for depth itself and, thereby, for the complexities and challenges that exist in all fields.

Third, a student should gain some understanding of the more broadening aspects of the law, which may be accomplished through the study of jurisprudence, law and economics, international law, and other courses with a wider focus on policy, philosophy, or another related discipline.

Fourth, a student should seek opportunities to apply the law in written form, because writing is so much a part of the lawyer's craft. This may be done through seminars in which papers are required, through various skills courses, or through participation in a law journal, moot court, trial advocacy competitions, or similar co-curricular activities.

Fifth, a student should consider the area of practice that he or she will likely enter. If you have some idea about your planned area of practice, the subject-matter guide is helpful.

Sixth, bar examination topics should be considered. You should not take a class *simply* because it is on the bar exam, but the "bar" courses will substantially overlap with consideration one (basic legal literacy). There may be some subject tested on the bar exam in your jurisdiction which you may choose to avoid, but do so sparingly. You can get further advice in this area from our Academic Success Director. The subjects tested on bar examinations vary widely, and they may only loosely correspond to law school courses or titles. If you are unsure, check with faculty members who teach in that area. A comprehensive guide to bar admission requirements may be found at www.ncbex.org. The list of subject that may be tested on the Kentucky bar examination can be found at http://www.kyoba.org/Views/public/Content.aspx?page_id=166.

A special note on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE). Students often want to enroll in Professional Responsibility (Law 835) at the same time as they will sit for the MPRE. Kentucky requires that students pass the MPRE before sitting for the bar exam. Many other states do not permit applicants to sit for the MPRE prior to their third year of law school; you should consult admission requirements for the jurisdiction to which you will apply.

And finally, be sure after you have selected desired courses, you should check the prerequisites listed in the charts below.

B. Prerequisites and Recommended Courses

Courses that are building blocks of the law, are in high demand, or are prerequisites for other courses are offered every semester, sometimes with multiple sections during one semester. Those courses are: Business Associations, Evidence, Professional Responsibility, Administrative Law, Criminal Procedure, Constitutional Law II, Secured Transactions, Trusts and Estates, Litigation Skills, and Taxation I. The following chart identifies the main upper level courses which are prerequisites, or are recommended, for other upper level courses.

| Course | Prerequisite for: | Recommended for: |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Business Associations | Corporate Finance, Law & Economics, Business Planning, Non-Profit Organizations, The Law and Business of Intellectual Property Management | Securities Regulations, HealthCare Organizations & Finance |
| Constitutional Law II | Statutory Civil Rights, Law and Religion, Supreme Court Decision-making, State Constitutional Law | Federal Courts, Education Law, Election Law, Bioethical Issues in the Law, Labor Law |
| Evidence | Litigation Skills, Civil Pretrial Practice, DPA Externship, UK Healthcare Externship | Innocence Project Externship |
| Taxation I | Business Planning, Partnership Tax, Corporate Tax, Equine Law, Tax Policy Seminar, Volunteer Income Tax Supervisor | Employee Benefits, Estate & Gift Taxation & Planning |

The following chart identifies courses that either have prerequisites or recommended courses to be taken before enrolling. In some cases, prerequisites may be satisfied concurrently with enrollment in the course; consult the catalog description.

| Course | Required | Recommended |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Administrative Law | | Constitutional Law I |
| Advanced Estate Planning | Trusts & Estates | |
| Bioethical Issues and the Law | | Constitutional Law II |
| Business Planning | Business Associations, Taxation I, Partnership Tax, Corporate Tax (concurrent enrollment in Corporate Tax permitted) | Securities Regulation, Corporation Finance Law |
| Child Advocacy Today Externship | Third year standing | Administrative Law; Constitutional Law II; Professional Responsibility; Healthcare Organizations & Finance; Children & the Law; Education Law |
| Children's Law Center Externship | | Third-year standing <i>and</i> a notarized legal intern application required for court appearances |
| Civil Pretrial Practice & Procedure | Evidence | |
| Constitutional Law II | | Constitutional Law I |

| Course | Required | Recommended |
|--|--|--|
| Corporate Tax | Taxation I | |
| Corporation Finance Law | Business Associations | |
| Crime & Punishment: Sentencing Policy and Procedure | | Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure |
| Department of Public Advocacy Externship | Evidence | Third-year standing <i>and</i> a notarized legal intern application required for court appearances |
| Education Law | | Constitutional Law II |
| Election Law | | Constitutional Law II |
| Employee Benefits | | Taxation I (or concurrent enrollment) |
| Equine Law | Taxation I | |
| Estate & Gift Taxation & Planning | | Taxation I, Trusts & Estates |
| Federal Administrative & Tax Research | | Administrative Law |
| Federal Courts | | Constitutional Law II |
| Healthcare Organizations and Finance | | Business Associations, Administrative Law |
| Immigration Law Externship | | Immigration Law |
| Innocence Project Externship | Full-year enrollment | Evidence, Criminal Procedure |
| Intellectual Property Transactions | Intellectual Property | |
| Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Externship | Environmental Law (concurrent enrollment permitted) | |
| Kentucky Refugee Ministries Externship | | Immigration Law |
| Labor Law | | Constitutional Law II; Administrative Law |
| Law and Business of Intellectual Property Management | Business Associations, Intellectual Property | |
| Law & Economics | Business Associations | |
| Law & Religion | Constitutional Law II; concurrent enrollment permitted for transfer students | |
| Legal Clinic | Third-year standing <i>and</i> a notarized legal intern application | |
| Litigation Skills | Evidence | |
| Nonprofit Organizations | Business Associations | |
| Partnership Tax | Taxation I | |
| Products Liability Seminar | | Products Liability |
| Prosecutorial Externship | Third-year standing <i>and</i> a notarized legal intern application | |
| Securities Regulation | | Business Associations |
| Seminar: Advanced Issues in Commercial, Consumer, and Bankruptcy Law | Bankruptcy <i>or</i> Secured Transactions | |
| Seminar: Criminal Law/Procedure | An upper level criminal law <i>or</i> criminal procedure course; Family Law <i>or</i> Children & the Law required if writing about juvenile issues | |
| Seminar: Healthcare Law & Policy | Healthcare Organizations and Finance <i>or</i> Bioethical Issues in the Law | |
| Seminar: Law and "The Wire" | Criminal Procedure | |
| Seminar: Legal Profession | Professional Responsibility (concurrent enrollment permitted) | |

| Course | Required | Recommended |
|---|--|--|
| Seminar: International Law | International Law, International Trade Law, or International Environmental Law | |
| Seminar: Tax Policy | Taxation I | |
| State Constitutional Law | Constitutional Law II | |
| Statutory Civil Rights | Constitutional Law II | |
| Supreme Court Decision Making | Constitutional Law II | |
| UK Healthcare Risk Management Office Externship | Evidence, second-semester second-year status | Bioethical Issues and the Law; Medical Liability |
| UK Office of Legal Counsel Ext | | Third-year standing |
| U.S. Department of Energy Portsmouth Paducah Project Office | Environmental Law (may be taken concurrently) | |
| Volunteer Income Tax Supervisor | Taxation I | |
| Courses outside the law school | | |
| HA/PA 621 - Econometrics | | College Algebra |
| PA 651 - The Policy Process | Administrative Law | |
| ECO/HA/PA 652 - Public Policy Economics | Either: (1) Taxation I and an upper-division tax course (may be taken concurrently); or (2) Administrative Law; or (3) Health Care Organizations and Finance | |
| PS 737 - Global Governance | International Environmental Law, International Law, or International Trade Law | |