

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF LAW COURSE PLANNING GUIDE
Revised 3/17/2021

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, unless you are enrolled in a dual degree program, in which case the hour requirements of that program govern.

B. Pass-Fail Courses within the Law School

No pass-fail option exists for 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. All other courses are graded. A one-time exception to this rule was made due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the Spring 2020 term.

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. Students in dual-degree programs may only take up to nine pass-fail 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.

6. **Coronavirus special rule:** None of the courses graded pass-fail in the Spring 2020 term that would otherwise have received a letter grade will be counted toward these limits.

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 10(F), on the law web page under “Academic Regulations.”

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*
- A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0. **Students matriculating Fall 2020 or later: a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.2.**
- 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
 - The Law and Business of Intellectual Property Management (Law 938)
 - 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.
- **Students matriculating Fall 2020 or later: six of the following courses:**
 - Administrative Law (Law 920)
 - Business Associations (Law 851)
 - Constitutional Law II (Law 822)
 - Criminal Procedure (Law 811)
 - Evidence (Law 890)
 - Family Law (Law 915)
 - Secured Transactions (Law 882)
 - Taxation I (Law 860)
 - Trusts and Estates (Law 876)
- The experiential learning requirement by taking a combination of the following courses totaling six credits:

Advanced Estate Planning (2 hrs.)

Advanced Legal Clinic (2-3 hrs.)

Advanced Legal Research (2 hrs.)
 Advanced Legal Writing (2 hrs.)
 Alternate Dispute Resolution (3 hrs.)
 Business Planning (3 hrs.)
 Business Legal Research (1 hr.)
 Child Advocacy Today Externship (2 hrs.)
 Children's Law Center Externship (2 hrs.)
 Civil Pretrial Practice (3 hrs.)
 Department of Public Advocacy Externship (2 hrs.)
 Depositions in Civil Cases (3 hrs.)
 ECU Office of Legal Counsel Externship (2 hrs.)
 Fayette County Attorney Externship (2 hrs.)
 Federal Administrative & Tax Research (1 hr.)
 Federal Appellate Advocacy and Procedure (3 hrs.)
 Federal Government Externship (2 hrs.)
 Foreign & International Legal Research (1 hr.)
 Immigration Law Externship (2 hrs.)
 Innocence Project Externship (2 hrs.)
 Institute for Compassion in Justice Externship (2 hrs.)
 Judicial Externship (2 hrs.)
 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Externship (2 hrs.)
 Kentucky Legal Research (1 hr.)
 Kentucky Refugee Ministries Externship (2 hrs.)
 Law and Business of Intellectual Property Management (3 hrs.) but *only if taken before Spring 2020*
 Legal Accounting (2-3 hrs.)
 Legal Clinic (3 hrs.)
 Legal Drafting (2-3 hrs.)
 Lexington City Attorney Externship (2 hrs.)
 Litigation Skills (3 hrs.)
 Negotiating Process (2 hrs.)
 Prosecutorial Externship (2 hrs.)
 Supreme Court Decision Making (2 hrs.)
 UK Healthcare Risk Management Office Externship (2 hrs.)
 UK Office of Legal Counsel Externship (2 hrs.)
 U.S. Department of Energy Portsmouth Paducah Project Office Externship (2 hrs.)

Federal Appellate Advocacy, Advanced Legal Writing, and Supreme Court Decision Making 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.

If you first matriculated in law school before Fall 2016, you are subject to a different “professional skills’ requirement instead of this “experiential learning” requirement. Please contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for details.

II. INFORMATION ABOUT SELECTING ELECTIVE COURSES

A. General Considerations

- **Basic legal literacy.** You 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.
- **Deep study of one subject.** You 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.
- **Think critically and at an academic level.** You 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.
- **Write frequently.** You should seek opportunities to apply the law in written form. Beyond the graduation writing requirement, there are skills courses (Legal Drafting, Business Planning, Litigation Skills) which require writing, and several co-curricular activities (law journal, moot court, trial advocacy competitions) in which to hone your writing skills.
- **Subject-interest area.** You should consider the area of practice that you will likely enter. If you have some idea about your planned area of practice, the subject-matter guide (attached elsewhere on this web page) is helpful.
- **Remember the bar.** 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 <https://www.ncbex.org/publications/bar-admissions-guide/>.

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.

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	Law and Religion, Supreme Court Decision-making, State Constitutional Law, Statutory Civil Rights	Federal Courts, Education Law, Election Law, Bioethical Issues in the Law, Labor Law, Land Use Planning
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
Civil Pretrial Practice & Procedure	Evidence	
Constitutional Law II		Constitutional Law I
Corporate Tax	Taxation I	
Corporation Finance Law	Business Associations	

Course	Required	Recommended
Crime & Punishment: Sentencing Policy and Procedure		Federal Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure
Department of Public Advocacy Externship	Evidence	Third-year standing
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
Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Externship	Environmental Law (concurrent enrollment permitted)	
Kentucky Refugee Ministries Externship		Immigration Law
Labor Law		Constitutional Law II; Administrative Law
Land Use Planning		Constitutional Law II
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	
Litigation Skills	Evidence	
Nonprofit Organizations	Business Associations	
Partnership Tax	Taxation I	
Prosecutorial Externship	Third-year standing	
Securities Regulation		Business Associations
Seminar: Advanced Issues in Commercial, Consumer, and Bankruptcy Law	Bankruptcy or Secured Transactions	
Seminar: Criminal Law/Procedure	An upper level criminal law or criminal procedure course; Family Law or Children & the Law required if writing about juvenile issues	
Seminar: Healthcare Law & Policy	Healthcare Organizations and Finance or Bioethical Issues in the Law	
Seminar: Law and "The Wire"	Criminal Procedure	
Seminar: Legal Profession	Professional Responsibility (concurrent enrollment permitted)	
Seminar: International Law	International Law, International Trade Law, or International Environmental Law	
Seminar: Products Liability		Products Liability
Seminar: Tax Policy	Taxation I	
State Constitutional Law	Constitutional Law II	

Course	Required	Recommended
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	(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	