

# Academic Planning Guide (Course Selection Information)

[Updated: 3/30/2015]

## GRADUATION & OTHER COURSE-RELATED REQUIREMENTS

• **Graduation Requirements.** Even though upper level students have a wide variety of electives from which to choose, there are some specific course and credit hour requirements that every J.D. student must meet in order to graduate. The requirements are as follows:

- All first year required courses;
- One course selected from the ethics curriculum (courses with the attribute “(Law) ETH-S” or “(Law) ETH-NS” in Course Listings);
- One seminar - to satisfy the upper-level research and writing requirement (courses with the attribute “(Law) – SEM” in Course Listings);
- One applied lawyering professional skills course from a list of courses designated as fulfilling this requirement (courses with the attribute “(Law) – ALPS” in Course Listings);
- At least 86 credit hours; and
- At least six fall & spring semesters as a full time law student (taking at least 12 credit hours/semester).

• **Limit on Non-Law and Non-Classroom Credits.** J.D. students (who graduate with exactly 86 units) must take at least 67 law classroom units (LCUs) or no more 19 non-law/non-classroom units (NLCUs). Non-law/non-classroom units are non-law courses or courses that do not provide attendance in regularly scheduled class sessions at the law school (courses with the attribute “(Law) NLCU” in Course Listings). Examples of NLCUs include competitions, supervised research, practicum or moot court, Moot Court Teams, Trial Advocacy Competition, Judicial Clerkship Externship, Lawyering Practice Externship, Congressional/Administrative Law Externship, Corporate Judicial Field Placement, International Justice Conflict Resolution Field Placement, Patent Law Field Placement, New York Regulatory and Business Externship, student publications, and non-law graduate level courses. (Not included in this list are courses taken in our Study Abroad Programs.) \*See information on max of 6 non-law graduate level units, plus other restrictions in the General Information section of the course directory at <http://law.wustl.edu/registrar/coursedir/2015-2016/2015-2016-GenerallInformation.pdf>.

• **Order of the Coif Pass/Fail Course Limitation.** For J.D. students in the top 10% percent of their class, the Order of the Coif is an honorary scholastic society ([www.orderofthecoif.org](http://www.orderofthecoif.org)) that encourages excellence in legal education by fostering a spirit of careful study, recognizing those who as law students attained a high grade of scholarship, and honoring those who as lawyers, judges and teachers attained high distinction for their scholarly or professional accomplishments. Members are selected by the faculty from the graduating J.D. students who rank in the top 10% of their class. Based on Order of the Coif rules, in order to be eligible a student must have taken 75% of his/her credits "graded." If a student plans to graduate with the 86 minimum credits required for the J.D, this means s/he must take at least 64 graded credits graded, and no more than 22 ungraded. According to the Order of the Coif, "'Graded courses' are those for which academic accomplishment is recorded on the basis of educational measurement involving four or more discriminators." WUSL's modified pass/fail courses (HP94, P, LP78, F70) such as Pretrial and Trial count as graded courses, per this definition. Courses not graded under either our usual numerical system or the modified pass/fail system, such as student publications, moot court, supervised research, Judicial Clerkship Externship, Congressional/Administrative Law Externship, other Externships/Field Placements, and non-law courses do not count as graded courses. This is information that students who are vying for the top 10% may wish to keep in mind - especially if considering applying for a semester abroad (which would likely involve at least 12 non-graded credits) or taking one of the semester-long Clinics/Externships/Field Placements that are graded credit/no credit. A student who has a questionable disciplinary/behavioral record, may be disqualified from making Order of the Coif, even if s/he is in the top 10%.

• **Competition Credit Limits.** Students may not receive credit toward more than one competition activity (including receiving credit for serving on the board overseeing a competition activity) or Supervised Moot Court during

any one semester. Additionally, students may not receive more than a total of 4 competition or competition related units toward their J.D.

• **Student Practicum Limits.** A student may earn one to three units of academic credit in a Supervised Practicum by working on a clinical project under the supervision of a member of the faculty and a field supervisor, who may also be a faculty member. A student may enroll in only one Supervised Practicum during her/his law school career. A student may not be enrolled in a clinic and a Supervised Practicum in the same semester. Students must work a minimum of four hours per week at the site for each hour of academic credit, e.g., a three-hour course generally means twelve site hours per week for 13 weeks. Supervised Practicum is graded on a Credit/No Credit basis.

• **Student Practice Requirements.** Many states, including both Missouri and Illinois, permit law students to appear in court on certain matters provided that they work for a not-for-profit entity, for the government or in the public service sector and under the supervision of a licensed attorney. To become certified to appear in court this way, students often have to meet certain course and credit hour-related requirements. The requirements for Missouri and Illinois are set forth below:

- In **Missouri** the student practice rule is Rule 13. To be eligible for Rule 13 certification, you must have completed one-half of your required hours for graduation, or 43 hours. Please note that in certain law school clinics, Rule 13 certification is strongly preferred.
- The **Illinois** student practice rule is Rule 711. To qualify to practice under Rule 711, you must have received credit for three-fifths of the total credit hours required for graduation, which is 52 credits.

• **Pre-Requisites, Co-Requisites, Etc.** Certain classes have requirements that must be taken concurrently or that must be met before a student can enroll in them. Other classes have course-related recommendations and/or give preference to students who have taken certain other courses. These classes, together with their pre- and co-requisites, recommendations, and preferences are listed below. Students should thoroughly read the course descriptions in the Course Listings (<https://acadinfo.wustl.edu/Courselistings/Semester/Listing.aspx>) for the most up-to-date and comprehensive information, and should communicate directly with the professor if there are any questions regarding the pre/co-requisites or recommendations. Students are responsible for making sure they've fulfilled any pre/co-requisites and recommended courses. Students who have not taken a pre/co-requisite must receive professor permission to take the course and are responsible for contacting the professor. The professor has the authority to direct the Registrar's Office to drop students who have not fulfilled a pre/co-requisite.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NOT ALL CLASSES WILL NECESSARILY BE OFFERED IN A GIVEN YEAR.

#### **Classes with Pre- or Co-Requisites:**

- **Advanced Patent Law:** Patent Law is a prerequisite.
- **Advanced Trial Advocacy:** Trial Practice & Procedure is a prerequisite.
- **Advanced Trial Advocacy: Civil:** Trial Practice & Procedure is a prerequisite.
- **Alternative Entities: Business Lawyer's Guide to Formation, Fiduciary Duties & Governance:** Corporations is a prerequisite.
- **Business Acquisitions:** Corporations is a prerequisite.
- **Business Planning and Drafting:** Corporations is a pre- or co-requisite.
- **Children & Family Advocacy Clinic:** Evidence and a course from the ethics curriculum are prerequisites.
- **Civil Rights, Community Justice & Mediation Clinic:** a course in the Ethics Curriculum is a prerequisite.
- **Corporate Boards & Governance:** Corporations is a prerequisite. Securities Regulation is a pre/co-requisite.
- **Corporate Finance:** Corporations is a prerequisite.
- **Corporate Governance & Control:** Corporations is a prerequisite.
- **Corporate Judicial Field Placement:** Corporations is a prerequisite.
- **Deposing the Expert Witness:** Evidence AND Trial Practice & Procedure OR Pretrial Practice & Settlement is a prerequisite.
- **Entrepreneur Consulting Team: CeLect:** Corporations is a prerequisite.

- **Entrepreneurship and Intellectual Property Clinic:** Corporations is a prerequisite to placement in the Entrepreneurial track and a course in Intellectual Property is a prerequisite to placement in the IP track.
- **International Moot Court Team:** International Law is a pre- or co- requisite.
- **International Taxation:** Federal Income Tax is a pre- or co-requisite.
- **Judicial Clerkship Externship:** course from the ethics curriculum is a pre- or co-requisite. Note: some Courts also demand that students have legal writing experience or have demonstrated scholastic excellence; therefore a GPA of at least 3.40 is required.
- **Jury Selection – *Voir Dire*:** Trial Practice and Procedure is a pre- or co-requisite.
- **Law, Business & Governance:** Corporations is a prerequisite.
- **Low Income Taxpayer Clinic:** Federal Income Taxation is a prerequisite.
- **New York Regulatory & Business Externship:** successful completion of all first year courses and Corporations are pre-requisites.
- **Patent Law Field Placement:** Patent Law and a course from the ethics curriculum are pre-requisites.
- **Preparing Commercial Agreements:** Contracts is a prerequisite.
- **Pretrial Practice & Settlement:** Civil Procedure is a prerequisite.
- **Pretrial Practice: Criminal:** Criminal Law is a prerequisite.
- **Securities Law, Litigation and Arbitration:** Securities Regulation or Corporations is a pre- or co-requisite.
- **Securities Regulation:** Corporations is a prerequisite.
- **State Securities Regulation, Investigations & Examinations:** Corporations is prerequisite.
- **Topics in Investment Banking Seminar:** Corporations is a prerequisite.
- **Trial Practice & Procedure:** Evidence is a prerequisite.

#### Classes that Encourage or Give Preference to Students Who Have Taken Other Courses:

- **Advanced Topics in Freedom of Expression Seminar:** students who have not taken Speech, Press & the Constitution may enroll, but they will begin the course at a disadvantage.
- **Business Acquisitions:** It would be helpful to have had or be enrolled in Federal Income Tax or Corporate Tax.
- **Censorship and Free Expression:** An introductory Intellectual Property course is recommended but not required.
- **Child & Family Advocacy Clinic:** the following courses are suggested, but not required: Family Law, Children & the Law, Trial, and Individual Rights & the Constitution.
- **Commercial Real Estate Practice & Drafting:** although not strict prerequisites, students will likely find this course more informative if they have previously taken Real Estate Transactions or Commercial Law.
- **Congressional/Administrative Law Externship:** must be taken in conjunction with American Democracy and the Policy Making Process Seminar. Administrative Law and Legislation are highly recommended.
- **Contract Law Theory Seminar:** prior undergraduate coursework in microeconomics or a law school course in law and economics would be helpful, but is by no means required.
- **Corporate Taxation:** although Federal Income Taxation is not a formal prerequisite for this course, it is not recommend for students for who have not previously taken Federal Income Taxation, unless the student has substantial federal income tax experience.
- **Criminal Justice Clinic:** students who have completed Evidence, Pretrial, Trial, a course from the ethics curriculum, CJA I or CJA II may receive preference. Preference will be given to students who are certified under Rule 13 of the Missouri Supreme Court Rules.
- **Government Lawyering Externship:** students who have taken Evidence, CJA I, CJA II, Corporate & White Collar Crime, Pretrial Practice & Settlement, Trial, a criminal-justice related seminar, or and a course from the ethics curriculum may receive preference.
- **Entertainment Law Planning, Drafting & Negotiation:** Survey in IP, Trademarks & Unfair Competition and/or Copyright and Related Rights is recommended but not required.
- **Estate & Gift Taxation:** neither Trusts & Estates no Federal Income Taxation is a prerequisite for this course, but while those courses are not essential, both provide helpful background information.
- **Intellectual Property Licensing & Technology Transfer Planning & Drafting:** students will find it helpful to have had or be enrolled in Trademarks & Unfair Competition, Copyright & Related Rights, Survey in IP, IP Litigation, Patent Law and/or Trademark Practice.
- **Intellectual Property Litigation & Dispute Resolution:** students will find it helpful to have had or be enrolled in Evidence, Trademarks and Unfair Competition, Survey in IP, Copyright and Related Rights and/or Patent Law.

- **Intellectual Property Moot Court-Patent & Copyrights:** preference will be given to students who have taken or are enrolled in patent- or copyright-related courses.
- **Intellectual Property Moot Court-Trademarks & Unfair Competition:** preference will be given to students who have taken or are enrolled in trademark-related courses.
- **Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic:** Administrative Law or a course related to environmental law is recommended but not a pre- or co-requisite.
- **International Business Transactions:** although not required, it would be helpful to have taken or to be taking International Law.
- **International Courts and Tribunals-Practice and Procedure:** International Law or International Legal Process is suggested but not required.
- **International Intellectual Property Law:** previous introductory IP course work is strongly recommended.
- **International Justice & Conflict Resolution Field Placement:** Preference for placement with the international courts and tribunals will be given to students who have taken the following courses (or comparable experience): International Criminal Law, War Crimes Seminar, International Human Rights, and/or International Law. Preference for placement with the UN or other international conflict resolution offices will be given to students who have taken the following courses (or comparable experience): International Law, International Human Rights Law, and Alternative Dispute Resolution courses.
- **Juvenile Law & Justice Clinic:** Students who have or are taking one or more of the following courses may receive priority: Evidence, Pretrial or Trial, ethics course, Criminal Procedure: Investigation or Criminal Procedure: Adjudication.
- **Partnership Taxation:** Federal Income Taxation is not a prerequisite for this course, but it is highly desirable to take Federal Income Tax before taking this course.
- **Patent Drafting:** a background in science or engineering is highly recommended.
- **Preparing Commercial Agreements:** Commercial Law courses dealing with Article 2 of the U.C.C. would be helpful but are not required.
- **Pretrial Practice & Settlement:** course work in Professional Ethics, Evidence, Employment Law and Employment Discrimination may be helpful if taken before or simultaneously with this course, but are not prerequisites.
- **Pretrial Practice: Criminal:** Course work in Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Constitutional Law and/or from the ethics curriculum may be helpful if taken before or simultaneously with this course.
- **Prosecution Clinic:** Students who have completed courses in Evidence, Pretrial, Trial, Professional Responsibility, and Criminal Procedure will be given preference.
- **Reorganization Seminar:** students who have not taken the basic Bankruptcy course may enroll, but they will be at a marked disadvantage to those students who have.
- **Trademark Practice:** Enrollment in or completion of Trademarks & Unfair Competition is strongly recommended.
- **War Crimes Tribunals Seminar:** A prior course in International Law or International Criminal Law is helpful but is not a pre-requisite for this course.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are various approaches that a student may follow when selecting courses. No one approach is right for everyone. Set forth below are just a few considerations that you may wish to take into account.

- **Balance.** Law students often are advised to take a “balanced” program. Balance can exist (or not) in a variety of different ways- e.g., between public and private law courses; between code and common law courses; between “mainstream,” “perspective,” and specialized courses; between substantive and practical skills courses; between different kinds of practical skills courses; between paper and exam courses; etc. Balance need not be your main objective, but it is definitely worth thinking about.

- **Skills.** Consider the skills that particular courses develop. Some courses (e.g., tax and UCC courses) focus heavily on statutory interpretation and the interpretation of administrative regulations. Other courses (e.g., seminars) emphasize writing skills and provide an opportunity to write a substantial paper, receive feedback from the instructor, and then submit a revised version that incorporates the instructor’s comments. Still other courses emphasize planning and drafting skills (e.g., Business Planning and Drafting, Nonprofit Organizations Planning & Drafting), litigation skills

(e.g., Trial Practice and Deposing the Expert Witness), or negotiation and mediation skills (e.g., Mediation Theory & Practice, Arbitration). Consider not only the substantive focus of the courses you select, but also the skills you will develop and refine.

- **Gaining a Broader Perspective.** Consider taking not only courses that are directly relevant to the type of legal work you expect to do, but also courses that will give you a broader perspective. You are studying at a research university, not a trade school. Take advantage of the opportunities offered here to stretch your horizons. There are many kinds of courses that provide such opportunities. These include: theory courses (e.g., Jurisprudence and Feminist Legal Theory), courses involving other disciplines (e.g., Law & Economics and American Legal History), and comparative law courses - both the basic Comparative Law course and the more specialized courses (e.g., Socialist Law in Transition and Introduction to U.S. and Comparative ADR Processes). Consider also courses that focus on some of the pressing issues facing our legal system and our society, such as Adoption & Assisted Reproduction, Corporate & White Collar Crime, Immigration Law, or Education Law & Policy: K-12.

- **Bar Exam.** Students sometimes ask whether they should select courses to help them with passing the bar. It is important to understand that law school courses are not designed for that purpose. Nearly all law graduates take a commercial bar review course to prepare for the bar exam, and that is generally sufficient to introduce you to the subjects tested. Still, there is a school of thought that encourages students to pick at least a few courses with a view toward the bar exam. Some people find that they have an easier time cramming information about a subject into their heads (a *sine qua non* of bar exam preparation) if they have had some exposure to the material during law school. This is especially true with UCC courses. For information on what subjects are tested on a particular state's bar exam, go to that state's bar examiners website or [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org).

- **Your Other Time Constraints.** Keep in mind what else you will be doing in a given semester aside from school work and adjust your schedule accordingly. For example, students seeking law firm jobs outside of St. Louis for the summer after their second year may need to do a lot of traveling during the preceding fall semester and should consider taking a lighter load at that time. On the other hand, students seeking public interest or government positions are likely to be more caught up in the job-seeking process in the spring.

- **Faculty Mentoring & Recommendations.** Ask yourself whether you have developed a relationship with a member of the faculty (especially a small section and/or Legal Practice professor) who has gotten to know you and your work well enough to be able to serve as a mentor and/or recommender. If you have not done so, consider selecting courses in a way that will permit you to develop such relationships. Faculty references are extremely important in the judicial clerkship selection process and can be very helpful in other contexts too. They are most helpful if you can build these relationships early - if not as a 1L, then in the fall of your second year. To do this, you will need to refrain from taking only big "building block" classes (e.g. Evidence, Corporations, Federal Income Tax, Lawyer Ethics) in the fall of your second year. You can get to know faculty in a variety of ways – by enrolling in smaller more specialized courses (including, but not limited to, seminars); doing supervised research; working as a research assistant; or being an unusually active participant in class discussions. Also try to spend some time with the professor outside of class asking questions and discussing issues pertaining to the course and related areas.

- **Plan Ahead.** Always consider the "big picture" - i.e., the entire remainder of your time in law school - when planning your schedule. Most courses are offered just once each year. Some courses are offered only every other year. If you think you may want to study abroad for a semester, or participate in the Congressional and Administrative Law Externship in the spring of your third year, be sure to arrange your other semesters so that you have met all requirements for graduation at the time when you plan to graduate.

- **ASK, ASK, ASK.** Remember that the best way to get help is to ask for it! Solicit advice from the resources that are offered at this Law School. That means consulting individual faculty or staff members, upper level students, and the Associate Dean for Student Services. Additionally, consult the curriculum planning guides found at <http://law.wustl.edu/Registrar/pages.aspx?id=2124> which were created by faculty to assist students in course selection.

## **PERCEPTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES (Advice from Others)**

As with many other questions one encounters in law school, the question of what courses to take is one to which there is no single, "correct" answer. What has worked for others won't necessarily work for you. Still, it never hurts to ask - and in fact, we have done just that, on your behalf. Here's what different people have said:

**Lisa Pickard Baron, Class of 1987; Executive Director, Memory Care Home Solutions:** I chose classes that would benefit me in my long-term objectives and short-term objectives. Thinking long term I chose classes that would benefit my career. I chose classes that I would need and use in my chosen field of practice. Thinking short term, I tried to balance my schedule. I partnered classes that I knew would be time-consuming and challenging with classes that were slightly less time-consuming. The one class I regret never taking was Federal Income Tax. I believe it is a basic core class that every student, no matter what their field, needs to know and understand.

**Professor Emeritus/Associate Dean David M. Becker:** Some people come to law school committed to do specific things with their life that require concentrated knowledge. For example, someone who knows that he or she is destined to be a tax lawyer must obviously take all of the tax offerings and, therefore, must give these courses the highest priority. Very few people, however, fall into this category. The next priority might consist of courses most everyone should have. I always keep this list very short. Although there might be disagreement among faculty members, my list would include: evidence, administrative law, corporations, tax (one course) and maybe a planning and drafting course. Essentially, these courses add up to one semesters worth of time. My last priority- one that applies to seventy-five per cent of a student's elective curriculum and one that should really be the highest priority for nearly all students-is a simple one. Take those courses that "turn you on" to learning and, therefore, will produce the very best kind of student experience. This could be a function of subject matter. For me, however, it was always a reflection of the teacher. Karl Llewellyn had told me to select courses by teacher; nevertheless, I did not act on his advice until my senior year of law school. Somehow I was certain that I would dislike a tax course, but I also knew that I had to have at least one such course because of the work I was going to do after graduation. So I put off tax until the fall quarter of my third year; consequently, I began the year with a course on Federal Income Tax. One month later I knew that I was having my best time in law school. As a result, I took every course that teacher offered over the remaining two quarters-two tax courses and one course on bankruptcy and reorganization. It was the best decision I made while in law school.

**Beverly Beimdiek, Federal Public Defender's Office:** When choosing courses to take, avoid taking only the classes you think you are interested in. Take a class in something you fear, or something you think you will have no interest in. As a Trial Practice Adjunct Professor, I am always impressed by the students who tell me on the first day of class that they took Trial Practice because they never want to be a litigator and never want to see the inside of a courtroom. Sometimes, by the end of the semester, their feelings have been confirmed. But other times, students who have said they never want to litigate are now considering an entirely different career path in litigation. I never took a tax class because I was afraid of it. While I probably would never have become a great tax attorney, I still regret not taking at least one tax class. This is not to say you shouldn't sign up for the things you are interested in. My very favorite class, when I was in law school, was the criminal clinic I took during the first semester of my third year. I always thought I wanted to be a public defender and working in the clinic confirmed it. The opportunity to actually learn about and observe the practice of law outside of a classroom can't be beat. Clinics, whether civil or criminal, will allow you to meet lawyers. Even if you don't stay and practice in St. Louis, those lawyers can be valuable references for you when you begin your job search. I still hear from former law students who have worked in the public defender's office even after they have moved away from St. Louis. My only regret was taking the criminal clinic during the first semester of my third year instead of my second semester of third year. Staying focused on my classes during that final semester was a challenge once I had seen the "real world."

**Suzanne Brown, Class of 1996; Law Offices of Suzanne Brown; Founder, The Immigration Project:** Several students have called me recently to ask what they should take if they are interested in Immigration Law. I tell them to take what sounds good; that they will learn the "practice" of Immigration Law (or anything else) at work, and that the best plan of action for those interested in immigration is to go to work or volunteer at an agency serving the needs of immigrants in any capacity-get to know their lives, their needs, etc.

**The Honorable Michael Burton, Class of 1985; Circuit Judge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit:** Without a doubt, my most valuable law school experiences came from my trial advocacy and clinical courses. Dealing with real lawyers and real world experiences gave me my first real glimpse at life after law school. By having the opportunity to actually "practice" law, I ultimately determined the field of law that was best for me. Without these experiences, I would have sought a career solely on the basis of my interest in a particular subject (that was taught in one of the traditional classes that I had taken). This course of action would have proven to be disastrous. If I were selecting classes for my second year of law school, I would make every effort to get into as many trial advocacy courses, judicial clerkships, and clinical programs as I could. Most of these courses will not be available until the third year, but there may be an occasional opportunity before then.

During the second year, I would take most of the necessary traditional core courses (including Evidence), so that I could have as much flexibility and as many opportunities as possible during my third year.

**Professor Barbara Flagg:** My advice is to choose courses by professor. Ask other students, but ask several, and know something about the person making the recommendation.

**Christopher Goddard, Class of 2005; Associate General Counsel, Washington University:**-TREAT A FEW COURSES AS "REQUIRED." While Washington University does not have any "required" upper-level courses, consider taking Evidence, Corporations, Federal Income Tax, and Con Law II because they complete the "core" legal knowledge provided during your first year. I submit the fact that other schools require these courses as evidence that these courses provide important substantive knowledge which all attorneys should possess.

-TAKE PROFESSORS, NOT TOPICS. Beyond these "core" courses, I recommend that students select courses based primarily on professor and only secondarily on content. This suggestion derives from my more general advice to make concerted efforts to develop meaningful relationships with a few professors during your three years of law school. The lessons you learn from an effective teacher will outlast and outweigh the substantive information covered in a given course.

-COURSES FOR CLERKSHIPS. If you are considering a judicial clerkship, consider taking classes such as Federal Jurisdiction, CJA I & II, Conflict of Laws, and Con Law II.

**Professor Katherine Goldwasser:** At the risk of sounding completely crazy (a risk that's never bothered me much), my advice about choosing courses is to *take the ones that you are most likely to enjoy*. Students sometimes assume that the most to be hoped for from a law school class is that it will be "useful" or "beneficial" in some way, but that "fun" is out of the question. I think that is a serious mistake. Granted, you may end up miserable anyway (it's been known to happen), but your chances increase dramatically if you proceed from the premise that misery is inevitable. Under my suggested approach, taking a course because you think the professor is fabulous, or because the subject matter has always fascinated you, or because the "word on the street" is that the course is great are all good reasons; taking one because you've been told that everyone should, or because of the kind of exam the teacher gives, are not.

**Greg Hewett, Class of 1994; Managing Director, Blackstone Group:** Enroll in courses that you want to take for your own reasons and do not get too caught up in what courses you "ought" to take for the bar exam, prospective employers or anyone else. The bar review class will teach you what you need to know for the bar exam (which is as much about test taking skills as your knowledge of substantive law.) Similarly, your employer will give you the opportunity to learn, although often under fire, what you need to know in practice. Consequently, I have no regrets for having made my class schedules based on whether I enjoyed classes with the particular professor, whether the class was scheduled at a time that would interfere with work or extracurricular activities, and whether the subject matter interested me. I am, however, most grateful for the courses that exposed me to new experiences and ways of thinking. First-year courses and certain survey courses such as Administrative Law and Labor Law taught basic legal analysis and provided a useful grounding in the subject matter. Other courses such as criminal procedure taught the invaluable skill of reconciling and applying leading cases to fact patterns in gray areas. Courses in tax and environmental law taught the skills crucial to integrating statutes, regulations and administrative pronouncements to reach a conclusion. Other courses such as pre-trial, trial and reorganization seminar provided valuable insights in to the practical application of the law. Practicum courses such as the judicial internship also provided a fantastic opportunity for learning from practicing lawyers. Take advantage of the variety of classes offered and do not hesitate to take a class that, for whatever reason, appeals to you.

**Professor Daniel Keating:** Remember that law school is the last opportunity that you will have to learn an entire area of the law without the pressure to respond to the narrow problem of a particular client. Consider your upperclass years as an opportunity to sample different areas of law, even those that might not seem appealing to you on the surface. For that reason, I would advise that you try taking a variety of courses from the curriculum rather than attempting to specialize toward one field.

**Professor Chuck McManis:** My advice is as follows: 1) Take professors, not courses; 2) Choose courses more for the legal skills you will develop than for the subject matter of the course (My own unscientific experience as a law clerk convinced me that the net significance of having had, as opposed to not having had, a course in a particular subject was gaining about 20 minutes in lead time in doing research); and 3) Take courses that you think will stimulate your imagination, deepen your understanding of or commitment to a particular career track, or broaden your perspective on the legal system or life in general. Three bad reasons for taking a course: 1) It's on the bar exam (the hardest part of the bar exam is the multistate, and all but one of the subjects on the multistate are covered in the first year; the toughest thing about the essay questions is figuring out whether a given question is actually a trust and estates question or is in reality the professional responsibility question); 2) It's an essential course for general practice (in reality, there is almost no such thing as "general practice;" you will probably become more specialized than you could possibly imagine, and in an area you never thought you were interested in at all); and 3) Everyone else is taking it (what do they know?).



**Tomea Mersmann, Class of 1991; Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives:** Law school teaches you how to learn; don't expect to graduate with all of the substantive knowledge you need for your career. I think it is important to choose classes which give you a broad base of knowledge and plenty of training in analyzing complex factual and statutory problems. For example, Immigration Law is the best class I ever took for truly complex statutory and regulatory interpretation; the skill is applicable to many substantive areas. Having said that, I also believe that every law student should take Evidence and Tax; people expect you to know those things. Finally, don't worry about taking classes just for the bar exam; bar review will teach you all you need to know about a topic to pass the bar; think about what you want to know for after the bar.

**Mary Perry, Class of 1991; Lecturer in Law; Director of Externships:** When thinking about life after law school, litigation may be the first practice area that comes to mind, but there are many other practice areas. This is your time to explore those areas. Think about what practice areas might hold potential interest for you and take some courses that would provide you an opportunity to learn more about those areas. You might be surprised to find that you have a passion or knack for a subject that you hadn't expected.

**Professor Neil M. Richards:** There are some courses that every student should take in law school - not so much to be prepared for the bar exam (though they help with that, too) but in order to be a well-rounded lawyer, conversant with a range of doctrinal and legal issues. I would place Corporations, Tax, Evidence, Ethics, a clinic or trial advocacy, Con Law II (the 14th Amendment course) and probably Con Law III (First Amendment) in that category. But law school is not just a trade school but also a last opportunity for intellectual challenge and development in an academic setting, so I would also recommend taking courses that combine law with history, economics, political science, philosophy, and other approaches to study the law in an interdisciplinary context, particularly in seminars that let you research and discuss the issues in the complexity they warrant. The goal is to be a well-prepared and well-educated attorney - not merely to be covered to take the bar exam, but to be able to think about and critique the institution of law from a wide variety of perspectives.

**Carol Vizzier, Director of Career Services & Public Interest:** Take courses with teachers you like/admire, regardless of what they're teaching. You'll work harder, be more motivated, learn more. Make sure you take a clinic and a code course, doesn't matter whether it's immigration, tax, bankruptcy, utilities regulation, etc.

## PATHWAYS AND CONCENTRATIONS

What follows is a lists of courses offered that are divided into "streams." These "streams" are grouped by subject matter or area of practice. All of these courses may not be offered in one academic year. These groupings are by no means definitive; and for the most up-to-date course information, students should check Course Listings and MyLaw. Courses in *italics* satisfy the Applied Lawyering Professional Skills (ALPS) requirement.

### Business Organizations, Commercial Law and Finance

Alternative Entities	Financial Literacy & Basic Financial Concepts
Antitrust	Insurance Law
Bankruptcy	International Business Transactions
Business Acquisitions	International Commercial Arbitration
<i>Business Negotiation Theory &amp; Practice</i>	International Taxation
<i>Business Planning &amp; Drafting</i>	International Trade Law
Commercial Law	<i>Entrepreneurship &amp; Intellectual Property Clinic</i>
<i>Commercial Real Estate Practice &amp; Drafting</i>	Law, Business & Governance
Contract Drafting Seminar	<i>New York Regulatory &amp; Business Externship</i>
Corporate & White Collar Crime	<i>Nonprofit Organizations Planning &amp; Drafting</i>
Corporate Boards & Governance	Organization & Regulation of the Healthcare Enterprise
Corporate Finance	Partnership Taxation
Corporate Governance & Control	<i>Preparing Commercial Agreements</i>
Corporate Judicial Field Placement	Problems in Corporate Law
Corporate Taxation	<i>Real Estate Practice, Negotiations &amp; Drafting</i>
Corporations	Real Estate Transactions
Entrepreneur Consulting Team: CeLect	Reorganization Seminar
Employee Benefits: ERISA & Tax	Remedies
Estate & Gift Taxation	State Securities Regulation, Investigation & Examination
Financial Accounting for Lawyers	<i>Securities Law Litigation &amp; Arbitration</i>



Securities Regulation  
Tax Policy Seminar

Topics in Investment Banking Seminar  
UCC: Article 2

### **Civil Litigation: Practice and Procedure**

*Advanced Legal Writing*  
*Advanced Trial Advocacy*  
*Advanced Trial Advocacy: Civil*  
*Appellate Advocacy*  
*Appellate Clinic*  
*Arbitration Theory & Practice*  
*Business Negotiation Theory & Practice*  
*Civil Rights, Community Justice & Mediation*  
*Clinic*  
Complex Civil Litigation  
Conflict of Laws  
Deposing the Expert Witness  
Environmental Litigation Seminar  
Ethics & Professionalism in the Practice of Law  
Evidence  
Federal Courts  
Insurance Law  
*Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic*  
Introduction to U.S & Comparative Alternative Dispute  
Resolution

*Judicial Clerkship Externship*  
Jury Selection – Voir Dire  
Legal Ethics Seminar  
Litigating Constitutional Rights  
*Media Litigation*  
*Mediation Theory & Practice*  
Moot Court (Wiley Rutledge, Environmental  
Moot Court, IP teams, International teams)  
*Multi-party/Public Policy Mediation & Dispute*  
*Resolution Theory & Practice*  
Negotiation  
*Negotiation Theory & Practice*  
*Practical Legal Writing & Analysis for Litigators*  
*Pretrial Practice & Settlement*  
Products Liability  
Remedies  
Sexuality & the Law Theory & Practice  
Trial Advocacy Competition (mock trial team)  
*Trial Practice & Procedure*

### **Constitutional Law and Civil Rights**

Advanced Topics in Freedom of Expression Seminar  
Affordable Housing Law & Transactions  
*Appellate Clinic*  
Censorship & Free Expression  
*Children & Family Advocacy Clinic*  
Children & the Law  
Civil Liberties in Cyberspace Seminar  
*Civil Rights, Community Justice & Mediation Clinic*  
Comparative Constitutional Law Seminar  
Conflict of Laws  
Criminal Procedure: Adjudication  
Criminal Procedure: Investigation  
Critical Jurisprudence  
Death Penalty Litigation  
Education Law & Policy: K-12  
Employment Discrimination  
Family Law  
Federal Courts

Foreign Relations Law of the United States  
Immigration Law  
Information Privacy  
International Criminal Law  
International Human Rights Law  
International Money Laundering, Corruption &  
Terrorism  
Jurisprudence Seminar  
*Juvenile Law & Justice Clinic*  
Litigating Constitutional Rights  
Race, Public Education & the Law Seminar  
Religion & the Constitution  
Secrecy & Whistleblowing  
Seminar in First Amendment in Schools  
Sexuality & the Law Theory & Practice  
Speech, Press & the Constitution  
The Fourteenth Amendment: Equal Protection & Due  
Process

### **Criminal Law and Procedure**

*Advanced Trial Advocacy*  
Corporate & White Collar Crime  
Criminal Procedure: Adjudication  
Criminal Procedure: Investigation  
*Criminal Justice Clinic*  
Death Penalty Litigation  
Deposing the Expert Witness

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act  
*Government Lawyering Externship*  
International Criminal Law  
International Money Laundering, Corruption &  
Terrorism  
Jury Selection – *Voir Dire*  
*Juvenile Law & Justice Clinic*

*Pretrial Practice: Criminal  
Prosecution Clinic*

National Security Law  
War Crimes Tribunals Seminar

**Dispute Resolution, Mediation and Negotiation:**

Advanced Negotiation Seminar  
*Advanced Negotiation Theory & Practice*  
*Arbitration Theory & Practice*  
*Business Negotiation Theory & Practice*  
*Civil Rights, Community Justice & Mediation Clinic*  
*Entertainment Law Planning, Drafting & Mediation*  
*Family Mediation Theory & Practice*  
International Commercial Arbitration  
*International Justice & Conflict Resolution Field  
Placement*

Introduction to U.S. & Comparative Alternative Dispute  
Resolution  
*Mediation Theory & Practice*  
*Multi-party/Public Policy Mediation & Dispute  
Resolution Theory & Practice*  
Negotiation  
*Advanced Negotiation Theory & Practice*  
*Securities Law Litigation & Arbitration*  
*Sports Law Planning, Drafting & Negotiation*

**Employment and Labor Law:**

*Civil Rights, Community Justice & Mediation Clinic*  
Employee Benefits: ERISA & Tax  
Employment Discrimination  
Employment Law  
ERISA Fiduciary Law

Labor Law  
*Lawyering Practice Externship*  
Regulating Work Seminar  
Secrecy & Whistleblowing

**Environmental Law:**

Administrative Law  
Energy Utility Law  
Environmental Law  
Environmental Litigation Seminar

Environmental Moot Court  
*Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic*  
Land Use Law

**Estate Planning and Probate:**

Estate & Gift Tax

Trusts & Estates

**Family, Gender and Children's Law:**

Adoption & Assisted Reproduction  
Biomedical Research Law & Policy Seminar  
Children & the Law  
*Civil Rights, Community Justice & Mediation Clinic*  
*Children & Family Advocacy Clinic*  
Critical Jurisprudence  
Domestic Violence & the Law  
Education Law & Policy: K-12  
Family Law

*Family Law Practice & Drafting*  
*Family Mediation Theory & Practice*  
*Juvenile Law & Justice Clinic*  
Race, Public Education, & the Law Seminar  
Regulating Work Seminar  
Seminar in First Amendment in Schools  
Sexuality & the Law Theory & Practice  
The Fourteenth Amendment: Equal Protection & Due  
Process

**Governmental Structure, Function and Relations:**

Administrative Law  
Affordable Housing Law & Transactions  
American Indian Law  
American Legal History  
Bankruptcy  
Censorship & Free Expression  
Comparative Constitutional Law Seminar  
Conflict of Laws  
*Congressional/Administrative Law Externship*

Education Law & Policy: K-12  
Energy Utility Law  
Environmental Law  
Federal Income Tax  
Federal Courts  
Gambling & the Law  
*Government Lawyering Externship*  
Foreign Relations Law of the United States  
Health Law

Immigration Law  
Insurance Law  
Interaction of Business, Government & Public Policy in a Democratic Society  
*Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic*  
*International Courts & Tribunals Practice & Procedure*  
International Money Laundering, Terrorism & Corruption  
*Judicial Clerkship Externship*  
Judicial Decisionmaking  
Land Use Law  
Law, Religion & Politics Seminar  
Legislation

*Low Income Taxpayer Clinic*  
National Security Law  
Natural Resources Law  
*New York Regulatory & Business Externship*  
Organization & Regulation of the Healthcare Enterprise  
Regulating Drugs & Other Medical Technologies  
Regulating Sex Seminar  
Socialist Law in Transition Seminar  
Speech, Press & the Constitution  
State & Local Government  
State Securities Regulation, Investigation & Examination  
The Fourteenth Amendment: Equal Protection & Due Process

#### **Health and Medicine Law:**

Adoption & Assisted Reproduction  
Administrative Law  
Bioethics & Law  
Biomedical Research Law & Policy Seminar  
Corporations  
Employment Law  
Genetics Ethics Law & Policy Seminar

Health Law  
Insurance Law  
Legal Advocacy in Health Law & Policy Seminar  
Organization & Regulation of the Healthcare Enterprise  
Patent Law  
Regulating Drugs & Other Medical Technologies

#### **Interdisciplinary Legal Studies:**

American Legal History  
Bioethics & Law  
Biomedical Research Law & Policy Seminar  
*Business Negotiation Theory & Practice*  
*Business Planning & Drafting*  
Domestic Violence & the Law  
Entrepreneur Consulting Team: Celect  
*Entrepreneurship & Intellectual Property Clinic*  
Financial Accounting for Lawyers  
Game Theory & the Law Seminar

Genetics, Ethics Law & Policy Seminar  
*Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic*  
Interaction of Business, Government & Public Policy in a Democratic Society  
Jurisprudence Seminar  
Law, Business & Governance  
Law & Economics  
Law & Psychology  
Legal Advocacy in Health Law & Policy Seminar

#### **Intellectual Property, Cyberlaw and Technology and Arts and Entertainment:**

Advanced Patent Law  
Antitrust  
Censorship & Free Expression  
Civil Liberties in Cyberspace Seminar  
Copyright & Related Rights  
*Entertainment Law Planning, Drafting & Negotiation*  
*Entrepreneurship & Intellectual Property Clinic*  
Information Privacy Law  
*IP Licensing & Technology Transfer Planning & Drafting*  
*Intellectual Property Litigation & Dispute Resolution*

Intellectual Property Moot Court  
IP Protection of Computer Software  
International Intellectual Property Law  
Law & Policy of Electronic Information  
*Media Litigation*  
*Patent Drafting*  
Patent Law  
*Patent Law Field Placement*  
Trademarks & Unfair Competition  
*Trademark Practice*

#### **International, Comparative and Foreign Law:**

Advanced Topics in Foreign Relations Seminar  
Comparative Constitutional Law Seminar  
Comparative Law

Conflict of Laws  
Foreign Corrupt Practices Act  
Foreign Relations Law of the United States

Jessup International Moot Court  
Immigration Law  
International Business Transactions  
International Commercial Arbitration  
*International Courts & Tribunals Practice & Procedure*  
International Human Rights Law  
International Law  
International Criminal Law

International Intellectual Property Law  
International Money Laundering, Terrorism & Corruption  
*International Justice & Conflict Resolution Field Placement*  
International Taxation  
International Trade Law  
Socialist Law in Transition Seminar  
War Crimes Tribunals Seminar

**Legal History and Legal and Political Theory:**

American Indian Law  
American Legal History  
Comparative Constitutional Law Seminar  
Critical Jurisprudence  
Education Law & Policy: K-12  
Feminist Legal Theory  
Game Theory & the Law Seminar  
Immigration Law

Jurisprudence Seminar  
Law & Economics  
Religion & the Constitution  
Seminar in First Amendment in Schools  
Socialist Law in Transition Seminar  
Speech, Press & the Constitution  
The Fourteenth Amendment: Equal Protection & Due Process

**Property, Land Development and Real Estate:**

Affordable Housing Law & Transactions  
American Indian Law  
*Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic*  
*Commercial Real Estate Practice & Drafting*  
*Energy Utility Law*  
Environmental Litigation Seminar  
Environmental Law

*Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic*  
Land Use Law  
Natural Resources Law  
*Real Estate Practice, Negotiations & Drafting*  
Real Estate Transactions  
State & Local Government  
Trusts & Estates

**Public Interest Practice:**

*Advanced Trial Advocacy*  
Affordable Housing Law & Transactions  
American Indian Law  
*Appellate Clinic*  
*Child & Family Advocacy Clinic*  
Children & the Law  
*Civil Rights, Community Justice & Mediation Clinic*  
Corporate & White Collar Crime  
Criminal Procedure: Adjudication  
Criminal Procedure: Investigation  
*Criminal Justice Clinic*  
Death Penalty Litigation  
Domestic Violence & the Law  
Education Law & Policy: K-12  
Energy Utility Law  
Environmental Litigation Seminar  
*Government Lawyering Externship*  
Immigration Law  
*Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Legal Clinic*  
*Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic*  
International Criminal Law

International Human Rights  
International Money Laundering, Corruption & Terrorism  
Jury Selection – *Voir Dire*  
*Juvenile Law & Justice Clinic*  
Land Use Law  
Law & History Seminar: Law & Social Movements  
*Lawyering Practice Externship*  
Legal Advocacy in Health Law & Policy Seminar  
Litigating Constitutional Rights  
*Low Income Taxpayer Clinic*  
National Security Law  
Natural Resources Law  
*Nonprofit Organizations Planning & Drafting*  
*Pretrial Practice & Settlement*  
*Pretrial Practice: Criminal Prosecution Clinic*  
Race, Public Education, & the Law Seminar  
Sexuality & the Law: Theory & Practice  
State & Local Government  
*Trial Practice & Procedure*  
War Crimes Tribunals Seminar

Business Acquisitions  
Corporate Taxation  
Employee Benefits: ERISA & Tax  
Estate & Gift Taxation  
Federal Income Taxation

**Taxation**

International Business Transactions  
International Taxation  
Low Income Tax Clinic  
Partnership Taxation  
Tax Policy Seminar