

Academic Planning Guide (Course Selection Information)

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 (see Course Directory for a list);
- One seminar (to satisfy the upperclass research and writing requirement);
- One applied lawyering skills course (beginning with the J.D. Class of 2013) from a list of applied lawyering skills courses designated as fulfilling this requirement;
- At least 86 credit hours (beginning with the J.D. Class of 2010); 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 may not take more 19 total units in: 1) non-law school courses*, and 2) courses that do not provide attendance in regularly scheduled class sessions at the law school. Law courses that do not provide attendance in regularly scheduled class sessions includes: competitions, supervised research, practicum or moot court, Moot Court Teams, Trial Advocacy Competition, Judicial Clerkship Clinic, Lawyering Practice Externship, Congressional/Administrative Law Clinic (effective with the J.D. Class of 2013), Corporate Judicial Field Placement, International Justice Conflict Resolution Field Placement and student publications. (This does NOT include Study Abroad courses that have a classroom component.) This is based on an ABA Standard 304 and Interpretation 304-3. *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/2010-2011/2010-2011-General-Information.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) 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 such as student publications, moot court, supervised research, Judicial Clerkship Clinic, and non-law courses do not count as graded courses. In most cases, it would be difficult for a Washington University law student to take more than 22 credits non-graded; however, 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 doing the D.C. Clinic (which would involve 8 non-graded credits). Eligible students must also be approved by the faculty – i.e., 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.

• **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 Directory 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.*

Classes with Pre- or Co-Requisites:

- **Advanced Practical Criminal Procedure:** Evidence is a prerequisite.
- **Advanced Trial Advocacy:** Trial Practice & Procedure is a prerequisite.
- **Advanced Trial Advocacy: Civil:** Trial Practice & Procedure is a prerequisite.
- **Business Acquisitions:** Corporations is a pre- or co-requisite.
- **Business Planning and Drafting:** Corporations is a pre- or co-requisite.
- **Civil Justice Clinic:** Evidence and a course from the Ethics Curriculum are pre- or co-requisites.
- **Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic:** a course in the Ethics Curriculum is a pre- or co-requisite.
- **Corporate Judicial Field Placement:** Corporations is a prerequisite.
- **French for Law & Business:** an advanced proficiency in written and spoken French is required.
- **Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Legal Clinic:** students must have completed one of the introductory IP courses (Patent Law, Copyrights & Related Rights, or Trademarks and Unfair Competition), and have completed or be enrolled in one of the IP practical skills courses or one of the IP seminars. There are no prerequisites for students seeking to concentrate on providing assistance to nonprofit organizations.
- **International Moot Court Team:** International Law or International Legal Process is a pre- or co- requisite.
- **Judicial Clerkship Clinic:** 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 85.00 is required.
- **Pretrial Practice & Settlement:** Civil Procedure is a pre-requisite.
- **Securities Law, Litigation and Arbitration:** Securities Regulation or Corporations is a pre- or co-requisite.
- **Securities Regulation:** Corporations is a pre-requisite.
- **Trial Practice & Procedure:** Evidence is a pre-requisite.

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

- **Advanced Mediation & Advocacy:** students are strongly encouraged to take Mediation Theory & Practice or Family Mediation Theory & Practice before taking this course.

- **Advanced Topics in Freedom of Expression Seminar:** Speech, Press, & the Constitution is not required, but it is strongly recommended.
- **Business Acquisitions:** It would be helpful to have had or be enrolled in Federal Income Tax.
- **Censorship and Free Expression:** An introductory Intellectual Property course is recommended but not required.
- **Chapter 11 Corporate Restructuring:** While having taken a prior bankruptcy law course is helpful, it is not a prerequisite.
- **Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic:** in addition to pre- or co-requisites (see above), the following courses are highly recommended and may affect priority of placement: Employment Law, Employment Discrimination, Individual Rights & the Constitution, Evidence, Immigration Law, Nonprofit Organizations Planning & Drafting, Sexuality & the Law Theory and Practice, Feminist Legal Theory, and Mediation Theory & Practice.
- **Commercial Real Estate Practice & Drafting:** a basic commercial real estate transactions course is helpful but not required.
- **Congressional/Administrative Law Clinic:** must be taken in conjunction with Ethics in Lawyering in Government. 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:** strongly recommended that students have had or are enrolled in Federal Income Taxation.
- **Criminal Justice Clinic:** preference will be given to students who have taken Evidence, Pretrial, Trial and/or a course from the ethics curriculum, CJA I or CJA II. Third year students receive preference.
- **Government Lawyering Clinic:** students who have taken Evidence, CJA I, CJII, Corporate & White Collar Crime and a course from the ethics curriculum may receive preference.
- **Entertainment Law Planning & Drafting:** Introduction to IP law, Trademarks & Unfair Competition and/or Copyright and Related Rights is recommended but not required.
- **Family Law:** taking Individual Rights and the Constitution before or concurrently is recommended but not required.
- **First Amendment Theory Seminar:** prior coursework in the First Amendment area is suggested but not required.
- **Immigrants' Rights Seminar:** there are no formal prerequisites or corequisites, but students who have not taken immigration law might need to do some extra work at the beginning to familiarize themselves with basic concepts.
- **Intellectual Property in Business Organizations:** while there are not specific prerequisites, having a general background in IP Law – e.g. having completed one or more of the introductory IP courses (Copyright & Related Rights, Patent Law, Trademarks & Unfair Competition and International IP Law) in law school or having had equivalent practical experience – is strongly recommended.
- **Intellectual Property Licensing & Technology Transfer Planning & Drafting:** students will find it helpful to have had or be enrolled in IP Licensing & Technology Transfer, Trademarks & Unfair Competition, Copyright & Related Rights, Internet Law, IP Litigation, Patent Law and Trademark Practice.
- **Intellectual Property Litigation:** students will find it helpful to have had or be enrolled in Evidence, Trademarks and Unfair Competition, 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 Courts and Tribunals-Practice and Procedure:** International Law or International Legal Process is suggested but not required.
- **International Intellectual Property Law Seminar:** 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, International Organizations, United Nations Seminar, and/or Law & Development Seminar.
- **Internet Law:** it is highly recommended that students have taken or be concurrently enrolled in Trademarks and Unfair Competition, Copyright and Related Rights and Trademark Practice.
- **Licensing & Technology Transfer Planning & Drafting:** although there is no formal prerequisite, students will find it helpful to have had or be enrolled in IP Licensing, Trademarks, Copyright, Internet Law, IP Litigation, Patent Law and/or Trademark Practice.
- **Pass-Through Business Tax:** Federal Income Tax is not a pre-requisite 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.
- **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.
- **Reorganization Seminar:** Bankruptcy is not required but is strongly recommended.
- **Theory of Property Rights:** It would be helpful if the student has taken one class in Price Theory or Micro-Economics.
- **Trademark Practice:** Enrollment in or completion of Trademarks & Unfair Competition is strongly recommended.

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), litigation skills (e.g., Trial Practice and Advanced Practical Criminal Procedure), or negotiation and mediation skills (e.g., Mediation Theory & Practice, Negotiation). 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 Theory of Property Rights), 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 Transnational Litigation). Consider also courses that focus on some of the pressing issues facing our

legal system and our society, such as Law & Development Seminar, Adoption & Assisted Reproduction, Corporate & White Collar Crime, Immigration, or Race, Public Education, & the Law Seminar.

- **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 www.ncbex.org and/or www.barbri.com.

- **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 a supervised research project or practicum; 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 Clinic (D.C. Clinic) 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, the Assistant Dean for Student Services and the Associate Dean of Admissions & Student Services.

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 every one 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 semester's 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, Assistant Public Defender in the St. Louis Capital Division: 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."

Janet Bolin, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services: I would strongly advise taking a transactional class to develop your planning and drafting skills instead of relying exclusively on a future employer to provide this type of experience.

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.

Michael Burton, Class of 1985; Circuit Judge of the 21st 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; Assistant 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 Planning: 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.

Michael Peil, Assistant Dean for International Programs: For students who are planning to go abroad (or participate in the DC externship program) during their third year, plan ahead. Spending a semester away from WU Law means you have only three semesters to complete your ethics requirement, your writing requirement, and any other "core courses" that you need before you leave us. Bearing in mind that some of these courses aren't offered every semester, this means you often need to enroll in a course your second year that you'd hoped to put off for awhile, to avoid being "frozen out."

Mary Perry, Class of 1991; Assistant Dean for Adjunct Faculty: 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. These groupings are by no means definitive; and for the most up-to-date course information, students should check WUCRSL and MyLaw. A * after a course connotes a course that has a significant writing element but is not a seminar, and ♦ connotes that a course is part of the Applied Lawyering Skills curriculum.

Business Organizations, Commercial Law and Finance

Antitrust & the World Economy	Corporations
Bankruptcy	Corporate & White Collar Crime
Business Acquisitions	Corporate Finance Planning & Drafting* ♦
Business Negotiation Theory & Practice * ♦	Corporate Governance & Control
Business Planning & Drafting* ♦	Corporate Judicial Field Placement
Chapter 11 Corporate Restructuring ♦	Corporate Taxation
Commercial Law	Estate & Gift Taxation
Consumer Transactions	Financial Accounting for Lawyers
Contract Drafting Seminar	Insurance Law

Internet Law Seminar
Intellectual Property & Nonprofit
Organizations Legal Clinic
Intellectual Property in Business Organizations
Law, Business & Governance ♦
Nonprofit Organizations Planning & Drafting ♦
Pass-Through Business Tax
Preparing Commercial Agreements ♦

Real Estate Transactions
Reorganization Seminar
Remedies
Securities Law Litigation & Arbitration ♦
Securities Regulation
Secured Transactions
Tax Policy Seminar
UCC: Article 2

Civil Litigation: Practice and Procedure

Advanced Legal Research ♦
Advanced Mediation & Advocacy ♦
Advanced Negotiation Theory Seminar
Advanced Trial Advocacy ♦
Advanced Trial Advocacy: Civil **
Appellate Advocacy * ♦
Appellate Clinic
Arbitration Theory & Practice * ♦
Business Negotiation Theory & Practice * ♦
Civil Justice Clinic
Civil Rights, Mediation, & Community Justice
Clinic
Complex Civil Litigation ♦
Conflict of Laws
Environmental Litigation Seminar
Ethics & Professionalism in the Practice of Law ♦
Evidence
Federal Jurisdiction
Federal Practice – Justiciability *
Health Insurance Law & Regulation * ♦

Insurance Law
Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution
Judicial Clerkship Clinic
Jury Instructions & the Trial Process ♦
Lawyer Ethics
Legal Profession
Media Litigation ♦
Mediation Theory & Practice ♦
Moot Court (Wiley Rutledge, Environmental
Moot Court, IP teams, International teams)*
Negotiation ♦
Negotiation Theory & Practice ♦
Pretrial Practice & Settlement ♦
Products Liability
Legal Ethics in Film *
Remedies
Sexuality & the Law Theory & Practice * ♦
Transnational Litigation
Trial Advocacy Competition (mock trial team)
Trial Practice & Procedure ♦

Constitutional Law and Civil Rights

Appellate Clinic
Censorship & Free Expression * ♦
Civil Justice Clinic
Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic
Conflict of Laws
Constitutional Interpretation/Jurisprudence
Seminar
Criminal Justice Administration I
Criminal Justice Administration II
Critical Jurisprudence *
Employment Discrimination
Family Law
Federal Jurisdiction
Federal Practice – Justiciability *

Feminist Legal Theory
First Amendment Theory Seminar
Immigrants' Rights Seminar
Immigration Law
Individual Rights & the Constitution
Information Privacy
International Human Rights
National Security Law
Race, Public Education & the Law Seminar
Regulating Sex Seminar
Sexuality & the Law Theory & Practice * ♦
Slavery Seminar
Speech, Press & the Constitution
White Privilege Seminar

Criminal Law and Procedure

Advanced Practical Criminal Procedure ♦
Corporate & White Collar Crime
Criminal Justice Administration I
Criminal Justice Administration II

Criminal Justice Clinic
Death Penalty Under International Law Seminar
Government Lawyering Clinic
International Criminal Law

National Security Law

War Crimes Seminar

Dispute Resolution, Mediation and Negotiation:

Advanced Mediation & Advocacy ♦
Advanced Negotiation Seminar
Arbitration Theory & Practice ♦
Business Negotiation Theory & Practice * ♦
Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic
Family Mediation Theory & Practice ♦
International Justice & Conflict Resolution Field

Placement
Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution
Mediation Theory & Practice ♦
Negotiation ♦
Negotiation Theory & Practice ♦
Securities Law Litigation & Arbitration ♦

Employment and Labor Law:

Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic
Employment Law

Employment Law Seminar
Labor Law

Environmental Law:

Administrative 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
Civil Justice Clinic
Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic
Critical Jurisprudence*
Employment Law Seminar
Family Law
Family Mediation Theory & Practice ♦

Feminist Legal Theory
Individual Rights & the Constitution
Juvenile Justice Law & Policy Seminar
Race, Public Education, & the Law Seminar
Regulating Sex Seminar
Sexuality & the Law Theory & Practice * ♦

Governmental Structure, Function and Relations:

Administrative Law
American Indian Law *
American Legal History
Bankruptcy
Censorship & Free Expression * ♦
Comparative Law
Conflict of Laws
Congressional/Administrative Law Clinic
Constitutional Interpretation/Jurisprudence
Seminar
Environmental Law
Ethics of Lawyering in Government *
European Union Law
Federal Income Tax
Federal Jurisdiction
Federal Practice – Justiciability *

Government Lawyering Clinic
Health Insurance Law & Regulation * ♦
Immigration Law
Individual Rights & the Constitution
Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic
International Courts & Tribunals Practice &
Procedure * ♦
Judicial Clerkship Clinic
Land Use Law
Law & Politics Seminar
Law & Society
Legislation
National Security Law
Speech, Press & the Constitution
State & Local Government

Health and Medicine Law:

Adoption & Assisted Reproduction
Bioethics & Law
Biomedical Research Law & Policy Seminar
Biotechnology Law

Genetics Ethics Law & Policy Seminar
Health Insurance Law & Regulation * ♦
Insurance 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 * ♦
Civil Justice Clinic
Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic
Constitutional Interpretation/Jurisprudence Seminar
Employment Law Seminar
Feminist Legal Theory
Financial Accounting for Lawyers
French for Law & Business
Game Theory & the Law Seminar
Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic

Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Legal Clinic
IP in Business Organizations
Judicial Decision-making Seminar
Jurisprudence
Jurisprudence Seminar
Law, Business & Governance
Law & Economics
Law & Psychology
Law & Regulation of Science
Law & Society
National Security Law
Regulating Sex Seminar
Slavery Seminar
Theory of Property Rights

Intellectual Property, Cyberlaw and Technology and Arts and Entertainment:

Antitrust & the World Economy
Censorship & Free Expression * ♦
Copyright & Related Rights
Information Privacy
Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Legal Clinic
IP in Business Organizations
Intellectual Property Licensing ♦
IP Licensing & Technology Transfer Planning & Drafting ♦
Intellectual Property Litigation ♦

Intellectual Property Moot Court *
International Intellectual Property Law Seminar
Internet Law Seminar
Media Litigation ♦
Patent Drafting ♦
Patent Law
Law & Regulation of Science
Sports Law Planning & Drafting ♦
Theory of Property Rights
Trademarks & Unfair Competition
Trademark Practice ♦

International, Comparative and Foreign Law:

Antitrust & the World Economy
Comparative Law
Conflict of Laws
Death Penalty Under International Law Seminar
European Union Law
Foreign Relations
Jessup International Moot Court *
Immigrants' Rights Seminar
Immigration Law
International Courts & Tribunals Practice & Procedure * ♦

International Human Rights Law
International Law
International Criminal Law
International Intellectual Property Seminar
International Justice & Conflict Resolution Field Placement
Introduction to Chinese Law
National Security Law
Socialist Law in Transition Seminar
Transnational Litigation
War Crimes Seminar

Lawyering Skills: Theory and Practice:

Advanced Legal Research ♦

Advanced Mediation & Advocacy ♦

Advanced Practical Criminal Procedure ♦
 Advanced Trial Advocacy ♦
 Advanced Trial Advocacy: Civil ♦
 Appellate Advocacy * ♦
 Appellate Clinic
 Arbitration Theory & Practice ♦
 Business Negotiation Theory & Practice * ♦
 Business Planning & Drafting * ♦
 Civil Justice Clinic
 Civil Rights Community Justice Clinic
 Commercial Real Estate Practice &
 Drafting * ♦
 Complex Civil Litigation ♦
 Contract Drafting Seminar
 Corporate Finance Planning & Drafting * ♦
 Corporate Judicial Field Placement
 Environmental Moot Court
 Ethics & Practice Management ♦
 Ethics & Professionalism in the Practice of Law ♦
 Family Mediation Theory & Practice ♦
 Federal Practice – Justiciability *
 Government Lawyering Clinic
 Internet Law * ♦
 Intellectual Property & Nonprofit

Organizations Legal Clinic
 Intellectual Property Licensing: E-Commerce
 Planning & Drafting * ♦
 Intellectual Property Litigation ♦
 Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic
 International Justice & Conflict Resolution Field
 Placement
 Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution
 Judicial Clerkship Clinic
 Lawyering Practice Externship
 Mediation Theory & Practice ♦
 Moot Court (Wiley Rutledge Competition)*
 Negotiation ♦
 Nonprofit Organizations Planning &
 Drafting * ♦
 Patent Drafting ♦
 Preparing Commercial Agreements
 Pretrial Practice & Settlement ♦
 Securities Law Litigation & Arbitration ♦
 Sexuality & the Law Theory & Practice * ♦
 Sports Law Planning & Drafting ♦
 Trademark Practice ♦
 Trial Practice & Procedure ♦

Legal History and Legal and Political Theory:

American Indian Law *
 American Legal History
 Constitutional Interpretation/Jurisprudence
 Seminar
 Comparative Law
 Critical Jurisprudence *
 Employment Law Seminar
 Feminist Legal Theory
 Immigration Law
 Individual Rights & the Constitution
 Judicial Decision-making Seminar

Jurisprudence
 Jurisprudence Seminar
 Law & Economics
 Law & Politics Seminar
 Law & Society
 Slavery Seminar
 Socialist Law in Transition Seminar
 Speech, Press & the Constitution
 Supreme Court & Presidential Elections Seminar
 Theory of Property Rights
 White Privilege & the Law Seminar

Legal Profession, Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility:

Civil Justice Clinic
 Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic
 Criminal Justice Clinic
 Ethics & Professionalism in the Practice of Law ♦
 Ethics & Practice Management ♦
 Ethics of Lawyering in Government *

Government Lawyering Clinic
 Lawyer Ethics
 Legal Ethics Seminar
 Legal Ethics in Film *
 Legal Profession

Property, Land Development and Real Estate:

American Indian Law *
 Civil Justice Clinic
 Civil Rights & Community Justice Clinic
 Commercial Real Estate Practice &
 Drafting * ♦

Environmental Litigation Seminar
 Environmental Law
 Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic
 Land Use Law
 Real Estate Transactions

State & Local Government
Theory of Property Rights

Trusts & Estates

American Indian Law *
Appellate Clinic
Civil Justice Clinic
Civil Rights, Mediation & Community Justice
Clinic
Corporate & White Collar Crime
Criminal Justice Administration I
Criminal Justice Administration II
Criminal Justice Clinic
Death Penalty Under International Law Seminar
Ethics of Lawyering in Government*
Environmental Litigation Seminar
Government Lawyering Clinic
Immigration Law
Immigrants' Rights Seminar

Public Interest Practice:

Intellectual Property & Nonprofit
Organizations Legal Clinic
Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic
International Criminal Law
International Human Rights
Juvenile Justice Law & Policy Seminar
Land Use Law
Lawyering Practice Externship
National Security Law
Nonprofit Organizations Planning & Drafting ♦
Race, Public Education, & the Law Seminar
Sexuality & the Law: Theory & Practice * ♦
State & Local Government
War Crimes Seminar

Corporate Taxation
Estate & Gift Taxation
Federal Income Taxation

Taxation

Pass-Through Business Tax: Partnerships & LLCs
Pensions & Tax Favored Savings
Tax Policy Seminar