ACADEMIC ADVISING

Rising 2Ls

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Law School Curriculum

• First year
  • Building blocks of American law
  • Focus on legal analysis

• Second year
  • Foundational courses
  • “Bar” courses
  • Focus on broad exposure to many practice areas

• Third year
  • Law practice skills
  • Focused coursework in elective areas of interest
  • Focus on transition to practice
Graduation Requirements 2L

• All students must have at least 90 credit hours and at least a 2.0 GPA to graduate

• Second-year Course Requirement:
  
  • Evidence (4 hrs) in either Fall or Spring;
    • Fall: Prof. Frank
    • Spring: Prof. K. Schaffzin
  
  • Evidence is the only course you must take by the end of your second year of law school
Graduation Requirements: 2L/3L

• Professional Responsibility (2 hrs)
  • We offer PR in both the Fall and Spring semesters
    • Fall: Prof. Lidge
    • Spring: Prof. Wilson
  • You may enroll in PR whenever you wish
  • I recommend you take PR in your 2L year
  • PR is a prerequisite for Clinic courses
  • Saves room in your 3L for electives

• Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam?
  • State bar requirement
  • Offered fall, spring, and summer
  • Can take the MPRE while enrolled in PR
  • Must take MPRE within two years of your bar exam
  • Go to [http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mpre](http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mpre) for more information
Graduation Requirements: 2L/3L

- **Statutory Course Menu**
- A student must enroll in **two courses** in the Statutory Courses Menu to graduate
- This menu includes the “code” courses and teaches statutory analysis in important areas of commercial and tax law
- This menu also includes subjects tested on the Tennessee Bar exam
- The Menu:
  - Commercial Paper (2 or 3 hrs)
  - Sales (3 hrs)
  - Secured Transactions (3 hrs)
  - Income Tax (3 or 4 hrs)
  - Corporate Tax (3 hrs)
Graduation Requirements: 2L/3L

- **Practice Foundation Courses Menu**
  - A student must enroll in **two courses** in the Statutory Courses Menu to graduate
  - The courses in this menu are designed to expose students to key law courses that are often the foundation of modern law practice
  - This menu also includes subjects sometimes tested on the Tennessee Bar exam
- **The Menu:**
  - Business Organizations (3 hrs)
  - Decedents’ Estates (3 hrs)
  - Family Law (3 hrs)
  - Administrative Law (3 hrs)
  - Criminal Procedure (3 hrs)
When to take menu courses?

- You will need four menu courses to graduate
  - Two from the Practice Foundation Menu
  - Two from the Statutory Course Menu
- I recommend you take as many menu courses as you can tolerate in your 2L year
- This strategy saves 3L year for skills courses, non-menu bar courses, and electives
  - Allows you to explore practice options (electives and skills courses) in your final year
  - Allows you to satisfy certificate requirements
  - Allows you to enroll in bar courses
Graduation Requirements: 2L/3L

- **Upper-class Writing Requirement**
- Lawyering is a communicative profession and lawyers must demonstrate proficiency in research and writing.
- After your second semester, a student is required to complete at least one seminar course to graduate.
- A seminar course is an intensive research and writing course that culminates in a substantial paper.
  - Most seminar courses require a scholarly paper on a student-selected legal topic.
  - Legal Argument & Appellate Practice and Brief Writing Seminar satisfy the writing requirement by research and drafting an appellate brief.
  - A student on law review may satisfy the writing requirement through the Note.
- A student must make a “C” or better to satisfy the requirement.
Graduation Requirements: 2L/3L

- **Legal Skills Requirement**
  - A student must complete at least one skills course to graduate
  - Skills courses are designed to teach students how to practice law
  - Skills courses include:
    - Clinics (eligible after 45 hours)
    - Externships (eligible after 28 hours)
    - Trial Advocacy (eligible after Evidence)
    - ADR/Mediation or ADR/Negotiation
    - Moot Court/Mock Trial Competitions
    - Pre-trial Litigation
    - Other approved courses
ELECTIVES

- Beyond the graduation requirements, the law school offers a wide variety of elective courses.
- You may take elective beginning in your second year of study.
- Some popular elective courses are:
  - Civil Rights
  - Mergers & Acquisitions
  - Criminal Procedure II
  - Health Law
  - Legislation
  - International Law
  - Fair Employment Practices
  - Intellectual Property
  - Trust Law
  - National Security Law
  - Immigration Law
  - Insurance Law
  - Products Liability
  - Elder Law
CHOOSING ELECTIVES

• What to consider:

  • Is there a course(s) in an area of law that you intend to practice?
  • Did you enjoy a course and want to learn more about the area?
  • Are there courses offered that are sometimes tested on the bar, such as Remedies or Conflicts of Law?
  • Are you curious about a practice area and want to learn more about it?
  • Do you need exposure to or more practice in a particular lawyering skill?
  • Have you heard that a professor or adjunct is great?
CHOOSING ELECTIVES

• What NOT to consider:
  • Does the class meet on Fridays?
  • What’s the course GPA?
  • How much reading?
  • Is the exam open- or closed-book?
  • Does the course meet before 9 a.m.?
  • Does the course meet after 4 p.m.?
  • Can I use my laptop?
  • Does the professor call on people?
  • Do I have an outline for the course?
CHOOSING ELECTIVES: Bar Courses

- MBE
  - Civil Procedure
  - Constitutional Law
  - Contracts
  - Criminal Law
  - Criminal Procedure
  - Evidence
  - Property
  - Torts

- TN Bar Exam
  - Business Organizations
  - Civ Pro (Federal and TN)
  - Sales
  - Secured Transactions
  - Commercial Paper
  - Conflicts of Law
  - Constitutional Law (federal and TN)
  - Contracts
  - Criminal Law & Procedure
  - Family Law
  - Evidence
  - Professional Responsibility
  - Property
  - Remedies
  - Torts
  - Decedents’ Estates
CHOOSING ELECTIVES

• Do you need advice?
  • Ask me . . . I am the academic dean
  • Ask Dean Aden
  • Ask Jamie Johnson, Law School Registrar
  • Ask Jacque O’Bryant, Law School Diversity Coordinator
  • Ask Dean Rudolph or Chesney McAfee in the Career Services Office
  • Ask a faculty member especially if s/he teaches in an area that you want to practice
  • Ask a lawyer

• Avoid basing important course decisions on:
  • Rumor
  • Hallway/Facebook chatter
  • Advice at “Bar Review”
Certificates in Law

• You may elect to work towards one of 5 certificate programs:
  • Certificate in Advocacy
  • Certificate in Business Law
  • Certificate in Health Law
  • Certificate in Tax Law

• Please review carefully the certificate requirements found on our webpage
• Each certificate program has core (required) courses, additional (elective) courses, non-course requirements, and GPA requirements
• To graduate with a certificate requires careful planning. Please see the certificate advisor with questions:
  • Advocacy—Prof. Kritchevsky
  • Business—Prof. Smith
  • Health—Prof. Campbell
  • Tax—Prof. Kratzke
SUMMER 2015

• Dates
  • Classes start Monday, May 18, 2015
  • Classes end on Wednesday, July 6, 2015
  • Exams end on Friday, July 10, 2015

• Courses:
  • Sales (Smith) (3 hrs—Statutory Course Menu)
  • Criminal Procedure (Mulroy) (3 hrs—Practice Foundation Menu)
  • Externships (2-3-4 hrs) (See Prof. D. Schaffzin)

Please see law.memphis.edu for more information.
Fall Registration 2015

• We will publish Fall 2015 class schedules by the end of the week
• Please read the registration and limited-enrollment memos very carefully
• Priority Enrollment: 3Ls register before 2Ls
  • Registration Dates:
    • Registered veterans register on Monday, April 6, 2015
    • 3Ls register on Wednesday, April 8, 2015
    • 2Ls register on Thursday, April 9, 2015
  • A class may fill before you get a chance to register for it
  • But check back often; students drop/add all summer
• Limited Enrollment Courses
  • Skills and Seminars (both requirements for graduation)
  • You rank all of the skills or seminar courses that you are willing to take
  • The registrar’s office will choose the class based on your date of graduation
  • If your first choice is full, you will be placed in your second (or third or fourth or fifth) choice
Academic Advising Part II

- Monday small group sessions are mandatory
- Held during LM Lecture time (11 a.m. or 1 p.m.)
- Dean Aden posted academic advising small group assignments on the law school’s blog
- Small groups sessions to allow you to ask us questions
- If you would like one-on-one academic counseling, please contact me, Jamie Johnson, or Dean Aden