# **CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR LAW ADVISORS**

# **ENTERING CLASS: AUGUST 2019**

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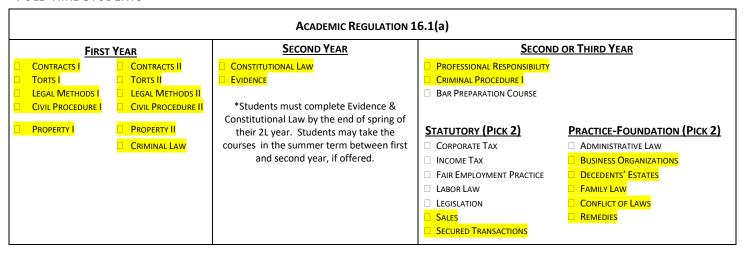
#### 1 Introduction

To graduate with the JD from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, students must complete 90 law credit hours with at least a cumulative GPA of 2.0 (without the benefit of rounding). As part of the 90 credit hours, students must earn a passing grade in specifically required courses, menu courses, one advanced writing course, and 6 credit hours of experiential learning, including one clinic or externship. As detailed below, the advanced writing requirement and the experiential learning requirement have a heightened grade requirement.

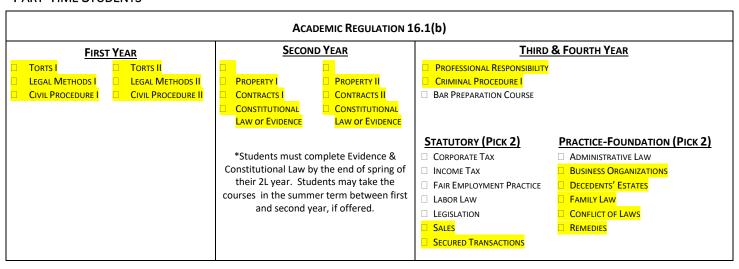
# 2 Required Courses (for August 2019 Entering Class)

Classes highlighted in yellow are tested on the Tennessee Bar Exam/UBE or the MPRE.<sup>1</sup> The <u>Course Schedule</u> posted by the Registrar's Office for each semester provides a list of courses offered by category.

#### **FULL-TIME STUDENTS**



#### **PART-TIME STUDENTS**



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Legal Methods is not tested *per se* on the Bar, but the skills taught in the class are tested on the MEE and the MPT. Remedies is not a stand-alone Bar subject; rather, it is included as a subtopic that may be tested for subjects like Torts. When tested, Conflict of Laws is tested as part of a broader question (e.g., in coordination with Contracts) and has historically not been tested as frequently as other subjects. The Bar Preparation course is not highlighted as it does not cover new subject matter, but it obviously covers Bartested subjects as well as strategies for taking the Bar.

### 3 ADVANCED WRITING REQUIREMENT

Students must satisfy the advanced writing requirement through an advanced writing course including:

- Advanced Brief Writing;
- Legal Argument & Appellate Practice;
- A Seminar; or
- Law Review.

The <u>Course Schedule</u> posted by the Registrar's Office for each semester provides a list of courses offered by category; this is the easiest place to see which courses in a given semester will satisfy the Advanced Writing Requirement.

Students must make a C or better in the course and on the paper or brief to satisfy the advanced writing requirement. (Academic Regulations 12.5(b) and 16.1(c)(1).) For students satisfying the requirement through a Law Review note, the student must earn an E or S. (Academic Regulation 16.1(c)(1).)

#### 4 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING REQUIREMENT

Students must satisfy the experiential learning requirement by satisfactorily completing at least six credit hours of experiential course(s), including at least one clinic *or* one externship. Satisfactory completion means earning a C or better in letter graded courses (clinics and simulation courses) or an S or better in ungraded courses (externships). (Academic Regulation 16.1(c)(2).)

In addition to the required clinic or externship course, several simulation courses satisfy the six-hour requirement. The <u>Course Schedule</u> posted by the Registrar's Office for each semester provides a list of courses offered by category; this is the easiest place to see which courses in a given semester will satisfy the Experiential Learning Requirement.

See Section 10 below for additional information on clinics and externships.

## 5 Pro Bono Requirement

Students must complete 40 pro bono hours in coordination with Josie Holland, Public Interest Counselor.

## 6 UM DEGREE

Students can view their degree progress using the University's degree auditing platform, <u>UM Degree</u>. While UM Degree is a helpful tool, the Registrar verifies all graduation requirements.

This is a new platform, so if you or the students see anything that doesn't seem right, please let us know so we can get any issues resolved.

#### 7 MINIMUM & MAXIMUM CREDIT HOURS

The Academic Regulations impose minimum and maximum credit hours on students based on their status as part-time or full-time. For full-time students, the Academic Regulations impose additional limits based on GPA and externship enrollment.

#### **PART-TIME STUDENTS**

Absent permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, part-time students must enroll in at least 8 credit hours and no more than 11 credit hours per semester. Part-time students may not switch to full-time (and thus avoid this cap) without permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

### **FULL-TIME STUDENTS**

Absent permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, full-time students must enroll in at least 12 credit hours. Full-time students may not switch to part-time (and thus avoid this minimum) without permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Full-time students with a GPA of 2.50 or better may not enroll in more than 18 credit hours per semester. This is an ABA mandate; it is not waivable. It does not, however, include non-JD credit hours.

Full-time students with a GPA below 2.50 may not enroll in more than 16 credit hours in a semester without permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. If a student wishes to seek permission, the student should contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to obtain the request form.

Full-time students enrolling in an externship may not enroll in more than 16 credit hours, including the externship, without permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. If a student wishes to seek permission, the student should contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to obtain the request form.

#### 8 Commercial Law Course Restrictions

Students who enroll in Commercial Law may also receive credit for taking Sales or Secured Transactions but may not receive credit for all three courses.

### 9 LIMITATION ON COURSES FOR CREDIT TOWARD GRADUATION

Students may satisfactorily complete up to 12 hours of ungraded courses as part of the 90 hours required for graduation. Ungraded courses include:

- All externships;
- Law Review and Law Review Board;
- Moot Court (including Moot Court Board, Moot Court Executive Board, and inter-school or intra-school competition credit);
- Independent Research; and
- Advanced Clinic.

### **10 CLINICS & EXTERNSHIPS**

All students must take one clinic or one externship. Rising 2Ls are eligible for externships as long as they will have completed 28 credit hours before taking the externship. Rising 2Ls are not eligible for clinics due to the student practice rules in Tennessee, which require 45 credit hours. Our clinicians have already hosted a virtual information session for clinics and externships. Applications for all clinics and the externship course are due March 30 (announced via the blog).

As you guide students making long-term plans, please note the following:

- Students may not take more than three clinics or externships in any combination.
- Clinic hours cannot exceed 10 credit hours.
- Externships are ungraded and thus are included in the ungraded credit cap of 12-credit hours.
- Clinics are graded; Advanced Clinics are ungraded.
- Absent permission from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, a student may not repeat a clinic or externship.

 Absent permission from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, a student may only take one clinic OR one externship in a given semester, including summer.

# 11 LAW REVIEW, MOOT COURT BOARD, AND COMPETITION CREDITS

#### Law Review

Students are selected to become members of the Law Review through a "write-on" competition held in the summer after their 1L year. 2L students earn 2 credit hours for writing their Note and performing other assignments. The credit hours are awarded in the Spring semester upon approval of the student's Note by the Faculty Note Advisor. Successful completion of a Note satisfies the law school's upper-level writing requirement. 3L students serve either on the Editorial Board or as senior staff members. Editorial Board members receive 2 credit hours in the Spring semester of their 3L year, while senior staff members receive 1 credit hour. Professor McClurg, Faculty Advisor for the Law Review, coordinates with the Law Registrar on course enrollment and credits. Law Review is ungraded and thus is included in the ungraded credit cap of 12-credit hours.

### **MOOT COURT BOARD & COMPETITION CREDITS**

Students may earn credit as members of the Moot Court Board and through successful participation in interschool or intra-school moot court and mock trial competitions. Students can apply to be a member of the Moot Court Board in Spring of the 2L year. Students may also earn credits through moot court and mock trial travel teams for inter-school competitions; team selection is a competitive process. Finally, students may earn credit for participating in intra-school competitions. Students who successfully compete in two intra-school competitions earn 1 credit. Students who successfully compete in four intra-school competitions earn 2 credits. Professor Kritchevsky, Advisor to the Moot Court Board, coordinates with the Law Registrar on course enrollment and credits for Moot Court Board and travel teams. Students seeking in-school competitions credits should register themselves for LAW811 (Moot Court – 2 or 4 competitions) in the semester they will complete the second or fourth competition. Permits are not required. Moot court credits are ungraded and thus are included in the ungraded credit cap of 12-credit hours.

## 12 CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Students may elect to receive the following certificates:

**ADVOCACY** 

**BUSINESS** 

<u>HEALTH</u>

TAX

Students who want to complete a certificate should complete the <u>Certificate Declaration Form</u> to declare and track their progress toward the certificates using <u>UM Degree</u>.

You can find more information about certificate requirements <u>here</u>. If a 1L has already declared interest in a certificate, the appropriate certificate advisor will be the assigned advisor.

# 13 JOINT | DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

We offer the following joint- and dual-degree programs:

JD/MBA (JOINT DEGREE)

JD/MBA students must complete MBA requirements in the same semester they complete JD requirements in order to graduate.

JD/MPH (DUAL DEGREE)

JD/MA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (DUAL DEGREE)

MPH FAST TRACK (POST-JD)

You can find more information about joint and dual degrees here.

## 14 LIMITED ENROLLMENT COURSES

Simulation and seminar courses have limited enrollment. Students may enroll in these courses during the first week of registration without a permit. If a course fills, a student must ask to be placed on a wait list. Instructions for doing so are provided in the Registrar's Memo for the semester, which is posted on the Registration and Course Information page. After the first week of registration, a permit will be required for these courses. If an opening becomes available, the first student on the wait list will be notified. If the student doesn't want the seat, the Law Registrar will notify the next student on the list. If a student accepts the seat, the appropriate permit will be issued.

#### 15 SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS

#### **EXAM SCHEDULE**

Students should review and consider the exam schedule before selecting classes. The exam schedule for each semester is posted on the <u>Registration and Course Information</u> page. Students are required to take exams at their scheduled time, except in very limited circumstances. Having consecutive exams is not one of the exceptions. If a student does not want to take two (or three or four) exams in a row, the student should select courses that allow for a more desirable exam schedule.

Students must obtain permission to register for classes with conflicting exams **before** registration. To obtain permission, students should submit a <u>Conflict Exam Request Form</u> to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

#### **PREREQUISITES & SEQUENCING**

Students should review the <u>Course Catalog</u> to consider any prerequisites the courses they may want to take require.

Students should consider spacing out courses with heavy workloads during the semester, such as clinic or externship, advanced writing requirement courses, and the bar preparation course.

Student should consider taking a mix of classes each semester – required or menu courses, experiential or simulation courses, and electives.

### **16 TRANSFER CREDITS**

Work at another law school must be approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in advance, including study abroad credits. Additional information about Study Abroad is available here. Once approved,

a student may not transfer more than 30 hours from another law school toward the student's degree at this law school. Transfer credits do not count toward the law GPA. Credits will not transfer unless the student earns a grade of C or better in the course.

## **17 UBE SUBJECTS**

MULTISTATE BAR EXAM		MULTISTATE ESSAY EXAM		MULTISTATE PERFORMANCE TEST
CIVIL PROCEDURE	EVIDENCE	BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS	EVIDENCE	SKILLS EXAM; SEE WEBSITE
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW	PROPERTY	CIVIL PROCEDURE	FAMILY LAW	
Contracts	Torts	CONFLICT OF LAWS	PROPERTY	
CRIMINAL LAW & PR	OCEDURE	Constitutional Law	SECURED TRANSACTIONS	
		Contracts	Torts	
		Criminal Law & Procedure	TRUSTS & ESTATES	

# 18 SCHEDULING NOTES FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In planning for Fall 2020, it is helpful to know what is likely to be offered in Spring 2021. A **tentative** course list for Spring 2021 is posted on the <u>Registration and Course Information</u> page.

The <u>Student Advising</u> page has additional resources that may be helpful to students as they plan and to you as you advise them.