

CSU|LAW: Academic Advising and Course Registration Information

Basic Degree Requirements

CSU|LAW requires 90 credit hours to earn the J.D. Per ABA requirements and our Academic Regulations, students must complete the J.D. requirements in no fewer than 24 months and no more than 84 months from the time that they begin classes at the CSU|LAW.

The Required Core Curriculum courses are: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Legislation & the Regulatory State, Property, Torts and Legal Writing. In addition, all in-person JD students must successfully complete the one credit Professional Identity Formation course before graduating and all JD online (JDO) students must successfully complete the Residency course requirements.

In addition, students must complete satisfactorily Evidence; a third semester course in legal writing; one upper-level writing course; one professional responsibility course; and 6 experiential skills credits.

The Required Core Curriculum is completed in the first two years, whether one is full-time or part-time. JDO students are expected to follow the course sequencing of the program.

Prior to registration and to assist in planning your course schedule, you should first run a Degree Audit in CampusNet. The Degree Audit will help you to identify graduation requirements you need to complete before graduation.

Other Important Requirements

Additionally, of the 90 hours required for graduation, at least 73 must be in courses other than clinics or externships and at least 68 must be in non-800 level courses in the College of Law.

Courses not satisfying the 68 credit hour requirement include all clinical and externship courses, independent legal research, credits earned for participation in Moot Court and Trial Team, credit earned for Law Review, the Journal of Law and Health, or Global Business Law Review and interdisciplinary courses whether taken as part of a joint degree program or taken as part of the student's law school program under Academic Regulation 4.7.

No student may retake courses for credit that the student has previously passed.

Bar Courses

An additional consideration when planning your course schedule are the courses most relevant for the Uniform Bar Exam. In addition to the first-year curriculum and other required courses, such as **Constitutional Law, Evidence, and Legal Professionalism and Ethics, the following courses are important to position yourself to pass the bar exam:**

- **Agency and Partnership**
- **Corporations**
- **Criminal Procedure I**
- **Family Law***
- **First Amendment**
- **Estates and Trusts***
- **Sales - Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code**
- **Secured Transactions***

Classes marked with an *: These topics are no longer tested on the UBE or NextGen Bar Exam starting in July 2026. However, Family Law will be back on the NextGen Bar as of July 2028.

A good rule of thumb for planning purposes is to take at least 2 bar classes per semester. Our data is clear, the more bar classes a student takes, the better they will perform on the bar exam.

In your final semester of law school, you should plan to take BEST (the Bar Exam Strategies and Tactics course).

An important note about the New York Bar Exam: You will need to plan your coursework carefully and follow the guidance here:

https://www.law.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/medialib/document/new_york_pathways_for_website.pdf .

Online/Hybrid/Remote/Distance Learning

Of the 90 hours required for graduation, in-person JD students are subject to the requirement that no more than 30 hours may be Distance Learning (online) courses. There are spots available in upper level courses in the JD online program for our in-person JD students. In-person JD students will enroll in the 500s section of any courses that is a part of the JD online program. If you are an in-person JD student who wishes to enroll in an online class with a section number in the 600s, you should put yourself on the waitlist for the closed course taught by the same professor with a section number in the 500s. Students will be taken off the waitlist once we know how many spots are available.

Writing Courses

Our academic regulations require all students to take at least one Third Semester Legal Writing course and at least one Upper Level Writing course, in addition to both semesters of the first-year writing course, before graduation. The Third Semester Writing course and the Upper Level Writing course may be taken at any point before graduation. Courses meeting these requirements are offered each semester and CampusNet will include in the course description language specifying if the course counts toward one of these requirements.

A Note About Independent Legal Research

Independent Legal Research counts toward the Upper Level Writing course requirement and is a popular course for those students who plan to write a Note for publication. Permission will be added for Independent Legal Research, L860, when you have returned an Authorization Form (available on the Forms page of the CSU|LAW website) signed by the faculty member supervising your project – the form can be returned to Layla Davis. You should reach out directly to the faculty member who you would like to work with. The form is available on the Records page on the CSU|LAW website.

A maximum of three semester hours of Independent Legal Research credit may be elected to count toward the J.D. degree.

A Note About Upper Level Writing

The course descriptions in CampusNet will indicate when a course counts toward the Upper Level Writing requirement. An Upper Level Writing course involves a significant paper on a topic related to the course.

If you have questions about whether a course counts toward Upper Level Writing, please check with the professor teaching the course.

Externships (Experiential Credit)

The American Bar Association requires all JD law students to complete six credits of experiential learning. Externships count toward this requirement.

An externship is an unpaid opportunity where you work at a pre-approved site (or one you've independently proposed to the clinical faculty) and obtain course credit for the work. You also enroll in the corresponding externship course at the College of Law, supervised by our clinical faculty.

Review the Externship Handbook, on the CSU|LAW website for more information, or meet with Student and Career Services to discuss externship opportunities. Externship are posted in cycles in CareerConnect, and you apply directly to the sites of interest. For Fall, the postings are active from February 20 – April 29. For Spring, the postings are active from September 20 – October 10. For summer, the postings are active from February 20 through March 10. This means that you must plan at least one full semester in advance for securing and enrolling in an externship.

Remember, you must have completed 29 credit hours by the time you will begin an externship, and your GPA must currently be at 2.25 or above, to be eligible to enroll. You are NOT permitted to enroll in an Externship and a Clinic in the same semester.

Clinics (Experiential Credit)

The clinical faculty circulate to the student listserv each semester an application form for spots in the following semester's clinics. The clinical offerings include:

Animal Law Clinic
Appellate Clinic
Community Advocacy Clinic
Pardon, Clemency & Reentry Clinic
Pretrial Justice Clinic
Transactional Law Clinic
Wrongful Convictions Clinic
Civil Litigation Clinic

Simulation Course (Experiential Credit)

Some courses are simulation courses (usually offered in the Spring semester) approved by the Curriculum Committee as experiential learning - these include Trial Advocacy (LAW 663C), Pre-Trial Practice, Transition to Practice, Advanced Legal Research, and Negotiations (with Prof. Heyward in the summer). Additional courses may be added. Check the course description for language indicating the course counts toward the experiential learning requirement.

Concentrations and Certificates

Information is available here: <https://www.law.csuohio.edu/academics/degrees> . When you decide to pursue either a concentration or a certificate, you should send an email to academic.services@law.csuohio with the proper checklist attached (showing which portion, if any, of the concentration or certificate you have completed thus far). When you complete the requirements, you should send an updated checklist to academic.services@law.csuohio .

Optional Interdisciplinary Courses

Law students are permitted to take up to 2 graduate level courses for up to a total of 8 semester hours of credit in other parts of Cleveland State University. You should consider courses that are in subject areas related to your legal interests. You must obtain permission in advance of registering for such courses from an Associate Dean. To receive credit for interdisciplinary courses, a law student must earn at least a "C", in which case the credit hours will count toward the J.D. degree but the grade will not be included in computation of the student's grade point average.

Journals, Moot Court, Mock Trial

You must obtain special registration permission for all 800-level courses, including Law Review, Journal, Moot Court, and Mock Trial. Leadership of your co-curricular should coordinate with the Administration to make sure your permissions are entered so that you may add the proper courses.

Academic Advising

Student Worksheet

Come up with a 4 semester plan:

- 1) **Plan to complete Core Classes**
- 2) **Plan to complete 3rd semester and upper-level writing course.**
- 3) **Plan to take Legal Professionalism and Ethics and MPRE in 2L year (or no later than fall 3LE)**
- 4) **Plan to complete Experiential requirement. Need 6 hours total (3 must be in an externship or clinic) and approval.**
- 5) **Complete as many bar tested classes as possible (at least 2 per semester).**

Bar Tested Subject

Business Associations (Agency and Partnership; Corporations and Limited Liability Companies)

Civil Procedure

Conflict of Laws

Constitutional Law / First Amendment

Contracts (Common Law and Sales)

Criminal Law and Procedure

Evidence

Family Law

Real Property

Secured Transactions

Torts

Trusts and Estates

***** Students sitting for the bar in a non-UBE jurisdiction should become failure with the subjects tested on that jurisdictions bar exam. Individual bar exam counseling is available by contacting Jenna Hosier.**

***** Students sitting for the New York bar should be familiar with the College of Law's pathway 1 requirements.**

See https://www.law.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/newsevents/new_york_pathways_for_website.pdf

FULL-TIME PROGRAM

Fall 1L

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit Hours (15Total)</u>
Leg/Reg.	4
Torts	4
Contracts	4
Legal Writing	3

Spring 1L

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit Hours (14 Total)</u>
Property	4
Criminal Law	3
Civ. Pro	3
Legal Writing	3

Fall 2L

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit Hours (15Total)</u>
Con Law I	3
(3-12 hours of bar/elective. Consider 3rd Semester writing, Legal Professionalism and Ethics)	

Spring 2L

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit Hours (15Total)</u>
Con Law II	3
12-14 hours of bar/elective. Consider 3 rd semester writing, Legal Professionalism and Ethics, Experiential Credits)	

*Fall 3L and Spring 3L Complete Electives/Bar, Experiential requirements, Upper Level Writing)

PART-TIME PROGRAM

Fall 1L

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit Hours (11 Total)</u>
Leg/Reg.	4
Torts	4
Legal Writing	3

Spring 1L

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit Hours (10 Total)</u>
Contracts (Evening)	4
Civ Pro (Day)	3
Legal Writing	3
Criminal Law	3

2L Fall

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit Hours (7-12 Total)</u>
Contracts (Day)	4
Civ Pro (Evening)	3
Con Law I	3
Elective	1-5

2L Spring

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit Hours (7-12 Total)</u>
Property	4
Con Law II	3
Electives	1-5

(*3L and 4L: Complete Electives/Bar, Experiential requirement, 3rd Semester Writing, Upper Level Writing)

Semester _____

Course	Credits

Semester _____

Course	Credits

Semester _____

Course	Credits

Semester _____

Course	Credits

In-Person JD Graduation Requirements Checklist As of Fall 2024

Core Curriculum Course	Credits	Completed (Y/N)
Contracts		
Torts		
Property		
Fall 1L Legal Writing		
Spring 1L Legal Writing		
Criminal Law		
Civil Procedure		
Legislation & Regulatory State		
Fall 2L Constitutional Law		
Spring 2L Constitutional Law		

Additional Required Course	Credits	Completed (Y/N)
Professional Identity Formation	1	
Third Semester Legal Writing	2-3	
Upper Level Writing	2-3	
Professional Ethics	2-3	
Evidence		
Experiential Skills	Must complete 6 total	

The above are all courses that are required of all in-person JD students. To reach 90 credits, the remainder of your courses should be a mix of bar tested subjects and other elective credits.

Notes and Questiona