CSU|LAW: Academic Advising and Course Registration
Part Time Online Program, Students Beginning Fall 2023 and After

Basic Degree Requirements

CSU College of 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, Legal Writing.

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. Online students must attend all six Residency Weekends.

The Required Core Curriculum is completed in the first two years, whether one is full-time or part-time. Part-time students are expected to follow the course sequencing listed in the Student Handbook.

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 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.

All law students are required to complete six credits of experiential learning. For students who are working full-time while completing the JD, it is common to complete the experiential credits using some combination of a Clinic and a simulation course, instead of an externship. Externship hours usually must be completed during regular business hours, so an externship is sometimes not compatible with a full-time work schedule.

Bar Courses

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

- **Agency and Partnership (Online in Fall)**
- **Corporations (Online in Spring)**
- **Criminal Procedure I (Online in Fall)**
- **First Amendment (Online in Spring)**
- **Family Law* (Online in Spring)**
- **Sales - Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code (Online in Spring, some summers)**
- **Estates and Trusts***

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

A good tool for planning purposes is to take at least 2 bar classes per semester after finishing the required core. 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).

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 courts toward one of these requirements.

Regularly Offered Online to meet third semester writing are:

- Legal Drafting-asynch (Summer, limited availability)
- Appellate Brief Writing
- Scholarly Writing (Fall)
- Transactional Legal Drafting (Spring, synchronous)

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 College of Law's website. **The form must be turned in two weeks before the start of semester.**

A maximum of three credit 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.

Experiential Learning: Externships, Clinics and Simulation Courses

The American Bar Association requires all JD law students to complete six credits of experiential learning.

Externships

An externship is an 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. 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.

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. Online students are eligible to begin applying for Externships in Spring of Year 2 for credit in Summer of Year 2.

Clinics

The clinical faculty distribute an application form each semester, to apply for positions in the following semester's clinic. Watch for the application form sent to the Student Listserv and apply by the deadline. Online students can apply for clinics in their third year. For Fall, one

applies in Spring and for Spring, apply in Fall.

Animal Law

Appellate Clinic: Professor Doron Kalir, d.kalir@csuohio.edu
Community Advocacy Clinic: Professor Pamela Daiker-Middaugh, p.daiker-middaugh@csuohio.edu
Pardon, Clemency & Reentry Clinic: Professor Khalida Jackson, k.a.sims49@csuohio.edu
*Pretrial Justice Clinic: Professor Robert Triozzi, r.triozzi@csuohio.edu
Transactional Law Clinic: Professor Carole Heyward, c.heyward@csuohio.edu

Generally offered Online in Fall
Transactional Law Clinic
Pardon, Clemency & Reentry Clinic

Generally offered Online in Spring
Appellate Clinic
Community Advocacy

*To participate in this clinic you must be able to make arrangements to be in Cleveland and available to attend court.

Simulation Courses

Simulation courses are approved by the Curriculum Committee as experiential learning - these include Transactional Lawyering Skills (LAW 861), Criminal Litigation Skills (LAW 862), Trial Advocacy (LAW 663C), Pre-Trial Practice (LAW 668), Transition to Practice (LAW 634), Advanced Legal Research (LAW 667), and Negotiation Skills (LAW 584).

Transactional Lawyering and Criminal Litigation are offered in the summer.

Concentrations and Certificates

Information about available concentrations is here: https://www.law.csuohio.edu/academics/curriculum/concentrations . Information about available certificates is here: https://www.law.csuohio.edu/academics/certificates .

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.edu .

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 many 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 Profession and MPRE in 2L year (or no later than fall 3L)**
4) **Plan to complete Experiential requirement. Need 6 hours total.**
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
Constitutional Law / First Amendment
Contracts (Common Law and Sales)
Criminal Law and Procedure
Evidence
Real Property
Torts

***** Students sitting for the bar in a non-UBE jurisdiction should become familiar with the subjects tested on that jurisdiction's bar exam. Individual bar exam counseling is available by contacting Justin Washburne, Director of Bar Exam Preparation.**

Online JD Part-Time Program

Fall Year 1	
Course Name	Credits
LAW 504 Legal Writing (1st Semester)	3
LAW 506 Criminal Law	3
LAW 515 Leg/Reg	4
LAW 893G Residency 1	0.5
LAW 893H Residency 2	0.5
Total Credits	11
Spring Year 1	
Course Name	Credits
LAW 504 Legal Writing (2nd Semester)	3
LAW 511 Contracts	4
LAW 512 Torts	4
LAW 893I Residency 3	0.5
Total Credits	11.5
Summer Year 1	
LAW 643C Legal Professionalism & Ethics	3
LAW 861 Recommend Transactional or Criminal Litigation Skills	3
Total Credits	6
Total Credits Year 1	28.5

Fall Year 2	
Course Name	Credits
LAW 513 Civil Procedure	4
LAW 516 Constitutional Law I	3
3rd Semester Legal Writing or Bar Tested Elective	3
Total Credits	10
Spring Year 2	
Course Name	Credits
LAW 514 Property	4
LAW 516 Constitutional Law II	3
Elective (Rec. Corp/First Amendment)	4/3
LAW 893J Residency 4	0.5
Total Credits	11.5
Summer Year 2	
Elective	3
Elective	3
Total Credits	6
Total Credits Year 2	27.5
Total Credits Year 1 & 2	56

Fall Year 3	
Course Name	Credits
LAW 661 Evidence	4
Elective	3
Elective	3
LAW 893 K Residency V	0.5
Total Credits	10.5
Spring Year 3	
Course Name	Credits
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Total Credits	9
Summer Year 3	
Elective	3
Elective	3
Total Credits	6
Total Credits Year 3	25.5
Total Credits Year 1, 2 & 3	81.5

Fall Year 4	
Course Name	Credits
LAW 701 Bar Exam Strategies & Tactics	3
Elective (Crim Pro 1 if not taken yet)	3
Elective	3
LAW893L Residency 6	0.5
Total Credits	9.5
Total Credits Year 4	9.5
Total Credits Year 1,2,3 &4	90

*Clinics available online in Fall and Spring semesters in the third year of study
**After Spring 2L complete electives/bar, experiential requirements and Upper Legal Writing

Semester _____

Course	Credits

Semester _____

Course	Credits

Last updated 3.10.26

Semester _____

Course	Credits

Semester _____

Course	Credits

Last updated 3.10.26