

With On-Line Registration approaching, we'd like to give you a brief overview of the process and some of the points you should keep in mind as you plan your schedule.

PLANNING YOUR OVERALL LEGAL EDUCATION

Required Courses

As you know, the first year is composed completely of required courses. A substantial number of the courses in the second and third years are also required.¹ These courses are designed to ensure you receive a solid, broad-based foundation for your legal career. They also serve as pre-requisites to more specialized areas of law and practice. In addition, these courses help to prepare you for the bar exam, which is designed to measure your understanding of subject matter the Boards of Bar Examiners view as essential for the practice of law.

Required courses **MUST** be taken in the sequence laid out by the Registrar's Office. We require a particular sequence in order to ensure sufficient staffing for each section and to make sure you do not get closed out of upper class courses of interest to you. Therefore, you need to take the class when assigned, unless a showing of extreme hardship can be demonstrated and **PRIOR** approval is obtained from the Office of Student Affairs.

Electives

In addition to your required courses, a wide variety of elective offerings are available. Electives include courses focused on specific doctrinal areas of the law, perspective courses, and skills courses which allow you the opportunity to apply the knowledge you have acquired in other courses.

Because we offer far more courses than even the most enthusiastic and motivated student can take, you'll need to decide which electives are right for you. Your considerations may be driven by which subjects will be included on the bar exam you plan to take, which courses cover this information, which courses might assist you in pursuing your chosen career path, and which courses are of interest to you. We offer the following information in an effort to help you through the various considerations of scheduling.

"Bar" courses

Virtually every state requires candidates for admission to the bar to take the Multistate Bar Exam which tests Constitutional Law, Contracts, Property, Evidence, Criminal Law,

¹ Required classes for all students taken in the second year (and third year for evening division students) include Evidence, Professional Responsibility, Administrative Law, and Legal Methods III. For students with **BELOW** a 2.8 GPA at the end of their first year, Business Organizations, Constitutional Law II, Criminal Procedure I, and Federal Income Tax are also required and **must be taken during the second year**. Sales and Leases is required for students with below a 2.8 GPA at the end of the first year; this class is taken during the third year.

Criminal Procedure, and Torts. Most states also require candidates to take the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE). If you would like to know which additional subjects are tested in the jurisdiction(s) in which you would like to practice, look at the website for the Board of Bar Examiners in the state of interest to you. The commercial bar preparation courses also have printed materials listing tested subjects in all jurisdictions.

Other considerations

Obviously, a significant number of courses offered may not be tested on the bar. Keep in mind that your personal interests should weigh into the balance in selecting courses. If you have an interest in a particular area of law, try to take courses in that area, since a full semester class allows for more depth than a Bar Review course can provide. You should also keep in mind that firms offering students summer employment and part-time employment during the year may give preference to students who have taken courses in areas relevant to their practice.

If you are interested in particular areas of practice or wish to pursue a certificate of concentration in Business Law, Health Law, Trial Advocacy, or Environmental Law we have brochures which describe the courses pertinent to those areas of the law. These brochures are available on line, in the Office of Student Affairs (Room 250) and in the Registrar's Office.

Writing Requirement

All students must complete an upper level writing requirement. Seminar courses offering the opportunity to fulfill the writing requirements are denoted by the @ symbol on the course schedules published by the Registrar's Office. The writing requirement can also be satisfied by the writing of a law review note or the submission of a paper on completion of a directed research project. Please review §501 of the Academic Code if you have any questions about what is necessary to fulfill the writing requirement.

Professional Skills Requirement

All students must complete two (2) skills courses prior to graduation. Courses include trial and pre-trial advocacy courses, ITAP, interviewing and counseling, alternative dispute resolution, clinics and externships, and other classes along these lines. Classes satisfying this requirement are designated with a # sign.

Non-classroom Credit

Non-classroom credits include credits awarded for participation in the *Delaware Journal of Corporate Law*, the *Widener Law Review*, the *Widener Journal of Law, Economics, and Race*, the Moot Court Honor Society, and interscholastic competitions. Check §303 of the Academic Code for information on limits on non-classroom credit, who may qualify for non-classroom credit, and other details. Students may take a maximum of 8 non-classroom credits toward their degree.

Students wishing to participate in trial advocacy inter-scholastic competitions must enroll in the 1-credit Trial Advocacy Competition course (Evidence and Professional Responsibility are prerequisites) to be considered for selection for a team.

Clinical Opportunities

Widener offers a wide array of opportunities to students seeking hands-on experience to supplement their classroom learning. Our in-house clinics allow students to apply the theoretical knowledge they have acquired in their first years of law school. Students represent real clients and handle legal matters from start to finish. In the process of representing their clients, students learn and hone the skills necessary for effective lawyering including interviewing, counseling, case planning, discovery, negotiations, and trial skills.

Our clinic offerings are as follows:

- Criminal Defense Clinic (Pennsylvania)
- Delaware Civil Clinic
- Environmental Law Clinic
- Veterans Assistance Clinic

Additional information on the clinics is available from the respective clinic offices. Students must apply for positions in the clinics; see Vanessa Gosa in the Clinic Wing for an application.

In addition to our in-house clinics, students may also receive credit for work in our clinical externship program. Clinical externships are available in a wide variety of offices, including local prosecutor's offices, the American Civil Liberties Union, and mediation centers. Please see Professor Sydney Howe-Barksdale for additional information on available externships. We also offer judicial externship placements. Please contact Professor Fran Catania for information.

As of Fall 2011, a maximum of 12 credits may be earned through participation in a clinic or clinical externship. Evidence and Professional Responsibility are **prerequisites** for participation so plan accordingly. See §304 of the Academic Code for additional prerequisites, eligibility, and credit limitations.

Directed Research

Credits are also available for directed research sponsored by a full time faculty member. Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.3 to sign up for directed research, and must have completed Legal Methods 3 and a seminar prior to enrolling in the directed research. See §305 (a)-(h) of the Academic Code for more information on directed research requirements.

PLANNING FOR THE COMING SEMESTER

As you plan your schedule for the coming semester, there are some general points you should keep in mind. Try to balance courses which appeal to you with required courses in areas which are unfamiliar to you. Try to balance “code” courses with common law courses, and jurisprudential courses with practice oriented courses. A balanced course load will help to keep you sane.

In the same way, consider the testing method used when balancing your classes. Avoid signing up for a semester’s worth of courses that all have papers. Some students find a mix of testing options (closed book, open book, paper) easier to balance than one in which the classes all use the same testing methodology.

When choosing your classes, make sure to check the exam dates. Most students prefer a few days between exams. **Exams scheduled on the same day will NOT be deferred so check the exam dates carefully!** (See § 204, Dean’s Office Regulations in your Student Handbook.)

REGISTRATION PLANNING AND PROCESS

Class Schedules

The class schedule for the upcoming semester is usually available at least a week prior to the start of on-line registration. The Registrar's Office also includes a tentative list of offerings for the following semester. Please be aware that not all courses are offered every semester. Some courses (particularly specialized upper level electives) are offered every other year, so you need to plan accordingly. Although we make every effort to offer courses as listed, we sometimes make schedule changes as a result of last minute staffing changes and conflicts.

Add/Drop, Wait Lists, Withdrawals

Wait lists are posted for classes that reach their maximum enrollment during on-line registration. Many students change their schedules during the add/drop period. If you are initially closed out of a course of interest to you, put your name on the waitlist. The Registrar's Office will notify students if space becomes available in the class. You must check your CampusCruiser account for notifications! If you need to add or drop a course after the initial add/drop period, you will need approval from the Office of Student Affairs and you will be charged for the class. Permission to drop a required course will only be approved if there is a showing of "exceptional hardship." (See §306, Dean's Office Regulations, Student Handbook.)

Prerequisites

Some courses have prerequisites. Please ensure that you have met any prerequisite prior to signing up for a course. Prerequisites are listed in §302 of the Faculty Policy Statement on the Curriculum, which is also in your Student Handbook. Questions about the desirable sequencing or rotations of course offerings can be addressed to faculty members teaching in the area, to the Office of Student Affairs, or the Registrar's Office.

Credit Loads

The typical course load for a regular division student is 12-16 credits. For an extended division student, the typical course load is 8-11 credits. Requests to over or under load require approval via a Dean's Action form, but such requests will be granted only in cases of hardship. Approval for overloads caused by enrollment in ITAP or 1-credit classes between terms do not require approval via a Dean's Action form. Dean's Action forms can be obtained in the Registrar's Office, on-line, and there is a copy in the Student Handbook. Over and under loading may affect your Financial Aid status and your time of graduation so be sure to check with these offices **before** filing a request to under load or over load.

Graduating Early

Some students wish to accelerate their date of graduation by enrolling in summer school classes. If you wish to do this, you will usually need to attend classes during two summer sessions to earn sufficient credits to graduate early. If you wish to graduate early, you should take close to the maximum number of allowable credits during the regular semesters.

If you wish to study at another law school during the summer or in a summer abroad program, check with the Office of Student Affairs to make sure you are eligible and that the program meets requirements for the award of credits. You must submit a Dean's Action Request prior to attending a summer program at another school.

Concern	
Faculty	Vice Dean J. Patrick Kelly – 302-477-2153 or Assoc. Dean Susan Goldberg – 302-477-2173
Building Maintenance, Housekeeping, Housing	Campus Services / Maintenance 302-477-2029 Housekeeping 302-477-2212
Academic Support, Academic Advising, ADA Accommodations, Bar Programs, Change of Division, Diversity Initiatives, Electronic Bulletin Board (EBB) postings, Honor Code Violations, Leaves of Absence, Over loads / reduced credit loads, Student organizations, Withdrawal from courses after add-drop	Office of Student Affairs 302-477-2142 or 302-477-2023 Assoc. Dean Susan Goldberg – 302-477-2173 Asst. Dean Ned Luce – 302-477-2711 Asst. Dean Patrick Johnston – 302-477-2199 Prof. Micah Yarbrough – 302-477-2276 Prof. Maryann Brown – 302-477-2148 Prof. Alice Eakin – 302-477-2215 Troy Riddle – 302-477-2702 Debra Berry, Sec. – 302-477-2142 Donna Hoffecker, Sec. – 302-477-2023 Rosemary Callahan, Sec. – 302-477-2087
Certifications, Changes During Add/drop, Course Registration, Course Descriptions, Dean's Actions Forms, Degree Audit, Graduation Packets, Letters of Good Standing, Required Courses, Room Reservations, Student Records, Weather Closings	Registrar's Office 302-477-2170 Information Line 302-477-2149
Financial Aid, Federal and private loans, Scholarships	Financial Aid Office 302-477-2272
Tuition Payments, Refunds According to Withdrawal Dates, Time Sheets for Workstudy and Employment	Bursar 302-477-2181
Clinics, Externships, Internships	Clinical Programs 302-477-2269
Part-time Job Listings, Employment Opportunities, Career Counseling	Career Development Office 302-477-2163
Public Interest Opportunities	Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC) Sydney Howe-Barksdale – 302-477-2214
Counselling (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday during Fall & Spring semesters)	Dr. Amy Gulino – 302-477-2263