

To: All Students
From: Curriculum Committee
Re: Required/Menu Classes
Date: October 16, 2009

The purpose of this Memo is to assist you in making choices in registering for the spring 2010 semester and to help you determine which classes you will need to take to meet the graduation requirements.

Under the current curricular requirements there are three categories of classes: REQUIRED CLASSES, MENU CLASSES, and ELECTIVE CLASSES.¹

REQUIRED CLASSES

There are two groups of REQUIRED CLASSES: the First Year Classes and the Upper Level Required classes. The First Year Classes are Civil Procedure I & II, Contracts I & II, Criminal Law, Legal Methods I & II, Property I & II and Torts I & II. All Regular Division students must take these classes in their first year; Extended Division Students must take these classes as they are scheduled in their first or second year.

The second group of REQUIRED CLASSES is the Upper Level Required Classes. These classes are Administrative Law, Business Organizations, Constitutional Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Legal Methods III, Professional Responsibility and Sales and Leases. Additionally, all students must take one Skills Class and meet the Upper Level Writing Requirement. All students must take all of these classes.

MENU CLASSES

There are two categories of MENU CLASSES: Menu A and Menu B. The Menu A classes are Family Law (3 credits), Federal Income Tax, First Amendment, Remedies, Secured Transactions and Wills and Trusts. The Menu B classes are Advanced Criminal Procedure, Bankruptcy, Conflicts, Disability Law, Employment Discrimination, Environmental Law, Federal Courts, Immigration, Labor Law, Legislation, Payment Systems and State Constitutional Law.

DETERMINING HOW MANY MENU CLASSES YOU MUST TAKE

The number of MENU CLASSES that you must take depends on your grade point average in required and menu courses at the end of the semester in which you have attempted 40 credits. For most RD students this will be after your third semester. For

¹ For a complete list of graduation requirements, see Section 201 of the Academic Code.

most ED students this will be after your fourth semester. The number of attempted credits includes classes in which you have received a letter grade (including an F), the grade of Pass/Fail or the grade of IW for exceeding the permitted number of absences. **The Grade Point Average for purposes of determining the MENU CLASSES that you will be required to take is calculated based ONLY on the REQUIRED and MENU CLASSES that you have taken at the end of the semester in which you have attempted 40 credits.**

Students with a GPA of 3.00 or above must take and pass at least three classes from either Menu A or Menu B. Students with a GPA of 2.5 to 2.999 must take and pass at least two classes from Menu A and at least three additional classes from Menu A or Menu B. Students with a GPA of 2.499 or below must take and pass at least three classes from Menu A and at least four additional classes from Menu A or Menu B.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have taken the required number and type of MENU CLASSES that you need in order to graduate. If you are unsure if you are on track to complete the requirements, please check with the Registrar or the Dean of Students.

CHOOSING WHICH MENU CLASSES TO TAKE

The Menu system is designed to give all students more flexibility both in choosing which classes they will take as well as when they will take them. During the second year of law school all students have the opportunity to take at least one Menu or Elective class.

As you begin to consider which Menu classes to take in the next semester you need to consider how many Menu classes you will need to take to graduate. The more Menu classes that you need, the earlier you should begin to take some of them. You should also keep track of required courses. **Do not put off most of your required courses until your last semester, as not all required courses are offered every semester. If you anticipate graduating in December of 2010, you should complete ALL of your required courses no later than this spring.**

You should consider which Menu or Elective classes are of interest or may be useful to you. In making your choices, you should also consider that some classes have prerequisites. For example, if you are interested in Law & Government certification, you should take Administrative Law as early as possible as it is a prerequisite for many advanced Law & Government classes. If you are interested in the new Advocacy certificate, you should complete Evidence, Professional Responsibility, and Criminal Procedure this year and either ITAP this May or Trial Methods next fall (See [Widener Law - Certificate Programs](#) for more information). If you are interested in environmental or business law, you should take the basic classes in those areas as early as possible, so that you are eligible to take the more advanced classes as they are offered. If you have questions about which classes you should take or if you are interested in a particular area of the law you should consult a faculty member who teaches in the area

that you are interested in or the Dean of Students. We caution you, however, not to focus too narrowly in any one area, but to use your time in law school to understand and explore a variety of areas of the law.

If you are undecided about what kind of legal career you would like, we suggest that you choose classes to give yourself a broad range of different types of substantive classes and to acquire as many skills as you can. This will give you the greatest flexibility after law school and also help you decide what you like and what you don't like. Additionally, you should work with the Career Development Office to learn more about the best ways to prepare for different legal careers.

We provide students with a variety of opportunities to gain practical experience through our Clinics and Extern programs. To participate in the Veteran's Clinic, the Civil Law Clinic, the new Environmental Law Clinic, the Clinical Extern Program or be certified as a Legal Intern, you must have successfully completed Professional Responsibility and Evidence. Section 304 (c) of the Academic Code defines successful completion of these classes as having earned the grade of C or better. **We urge Regular Division students to take Professional Responsibility and Evidence in your second year. We urge Extended Division students to take Professional Responsibility and Evidence in your second or third year so that you will have the prerequisites to participate in these programs.**

PARTICULAR REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SPRING 2010:

First year students will automatically be registered for their spring courses.

December 2010 graduates should register for all their remaining required courses. Do not assume that all required courses will be offered next fall.

2ED students must register for Criminal Procedure, Civil Procedure II and Professional Responsibility. Students may choose a 2-credit elective.

3ED students must register for Sales and Leases and Business Organizations and may choose 4-5 credits of menu or elective courses.

2RD students should register for two required courses, particularly if they have three or four remaining required courses to complete.

All students should consider the number of menu courses they are required to complete to insure menu requirements will be met prior graduation.

REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

A. REQUIRED CLASSES – all students must take all of these classes

1. First Year Required Classes

- Civil Procedure I & II
- Contracts I & II
- Property I & II
- Torts I & II
- Legal Methods I & II
- Criminal Law

2. Upper Level Required Classes

- Administrative Law
- Business Organizations
- Constitutional Law – MUST TAKE DURING FALL OF 2nd YEAR
- Criminal Procedure
- Evidence
- Legal Methods III
- Professional Responsibility
- Sales and Leases
- Skills Class
- Upper Level Writing Requirement.

B. MENU CLASSES – number of classes required depends on GPA

1. Menu A Classes

- Family Law (3 credits)
- Federal Income Tax
- First Amendment
- Remedies
- Secured Transactions
- Wills and Trusts

2. Menu B Classes – number of classes required depends on GPA

- Advanced Criminal Procedure
- Bankruptcy
- Conflicts
- Disability Law
- Employment Discrimination
- Environmental Law

Federal Courts
Immigration
Labor Law, Legislation
Payment Systems
State Constitutional Law

MENU CLASS REQUIREMENTS

***** NOTE – GPA FOR DETERMINING MENU CLASSES IS CALCULATED USING REQUIRED AND MENU CLASSES TAKEN – NOT CUMULATIVE GPA *****

	Menu A	Menu A or B
GPA = 2.499 or lower	3	4
GPA = 2.5 → 2.999	2	3
GPA = 3.0 or higher		3