



Preparing to Register and Tracking Progress to Graduation



Angela Nash, Academic Advisor

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Topics to Be Covered

- Essential Resources
- Registration Details
- JD & Diploma Privilege Requirements
- Advising & Curriculum
- Honors, Class Standing, & Transcripts
- Graduation & Beyond



Essential Resources

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Student Handbook

- <https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154515> (New Format!)
- Covers a wide range of topics, including:
- Curriculum & Enrollment Info:
<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154515>
- Degree and Diploma Privilege Requirements:
<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/search.php?cat=15697>



Academics Webpage

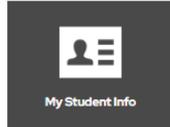
- <https://law.wisc.edu/academics/>
- Calendars and Schedules
- Exam Information
- My Student Info (<https://law.wisc.edu/help/my.php>)
 - ULWR, Degree Audit Tool, Unofficial transcripts
- Academic Forms & Presentations (<https://law.wisc.edu/current/forms.html>)
- Law School Rules (<https://law.wisc.edu/current/rules/>)
- Student Handbook (<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/>)
- Curricular Requirements, Offerings, and Planning Resources



Academics Webpage (Con.)

Academics

Links for Current Students



Jump to [Administrative Resources](#) for information on academic calendars, policies, and forms. For information about student activities & organizations, see [Student Affairs](#).

Curriculum Planning

Students at the Law School have many opportunities to experience what is known as the law-in-action idea. Our extensive curriculum places emphasis on the dynamics of the law – how the law relates to social change and to society as a whole – while at the same time stressing experiential learning.

J.D. Curriculum

- [General Curriculum](#)
- [Specialized Curriculums](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Study](#)
- [Curriculum Planning Resources](#)

Experiential Learning

- [Clinical Programs](#)
- [Externships and Internships](#)
- [Lawyering Skills](#)
- [Pro Bono](#)

Co-Curricular Activities

- [Moot Court](#)
- [Mock Trial](#)
- [Student Journals](#)

Administrative Resources

Calendars & Schedules

- [Law School Academic Calendar »](#)
- [UW-Madison Academic Calendar »](#)
- [Courses & Schedules »](#)
- [Exam Schedule »](#)



Forms & Policies

- [Academic Forms and Presentations »](#)
- [UW Law Grading Systems »](#)
- [Student Handbook »](#)
- [Exam Policies »](#)
- [Grades, GPA, Class Standing, Pass/Fail »](#)
- [Graduation Requirements »](#)
- [WI Diploma Privilege Requirements »](#)



Additional Resources

- [My Student Info »](#)
- [Exam Info »](#)
- [Grade Info »](#)
- [Bar Success »](#)

- [Transcripts »](#)
- [Academic Forms »](#)
- [Academic Enhancement Program »](#)
- [Law School Rules »](#)

<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/>



Registering for Classes

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Enrollment Dates & Times

- Fall 2026 Enrollment for Rising 3Ls opens **April 6**
- Check for your specific enrollment time beginning the week of **March 23** using the Course Search & Enroll tile in MyUW
- **Summer 2026** enrollment for all students opens **March 23**
 - Summer 2026 course schedule:
<https://academics.law.wisc.edu/grades/courseInfo/schedule.php?iTerm=1266&iSc=AMM>



Pre-Enrollment Tasks

- Complete [Pre-Enrollment Checklist](#) and resolve any [account holds](#) before enrolling in classes.
 - Check the **Tasks** tile in your [MyUW](#) Student Center for outstanding items (pre-enrollment checklists assigned later this month)
- [Vaccine Disclosure Requirement](#) (registration hold until requirement is met)
 - Submit disclosure via [MedProctor](#)
 - Due March 12



Courses & Schedules

Courses & Schedules

Course Schedules

Upcoming & Current Schedules

- [2026 Spring Course Schedule](#)
- [2026 Summer Schedule](#)
- [2026 Fall Schedule](#)
- 2027 Spring Schedule

Past Schedules

- [2025 Spring Course Schedule](#)
- [2025 Summer Schedule](#)
- [2025 Fall Course Schedule](#)

Academics &

Courses & Schedules

Curriculum &

Dual Degree

Exams

Grades

Initial Assign

International

Mock Trial

Moot Court

<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/courses/>



Law School Course Schedule

- Consult the [Law School Course Schedule](#)
 - Check “Notes” column for graduation and WI Diploma Privilege requirements, as well as pre-reqs and enrollment caps
 - Schedule will indicate if a course is PF only, No PF, or PF Optional
 - Look for a green checkmark for courses that meet the Experiential Learning requirement
 - Use credit columns to determine how credits apply to 90, 64, and 60-credit rules
 - Pay attention to **highlights** and recent changes 



Registering for Classes

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154410>

- Enroll at your appointed time via the [Course Search & Enroll](#) app in [MyUW](#)!
 - Make sure you've completed the [Pre-enrollment Checklist](#) and other pre-enrollment tasks!
- Enrollment for “consent of instructor” courses (clinics, externships, journals, mock trial, moot court) may happen after appointed enrollment day/time
- Wait list process
- Tips for troubleshooting errors in Course Search & Enroll:
<https://kb.wisc.edu/registrar/page.php?id=95747>



Part-time Enrollment

- Enrolled for fewer than 12 credits – may impact graduation timeline
- For financial implications, contact the Law School's Financial Aid office at:
financialaid@law.wisc.edu
 - If fewer than 12 credits: UW Law Scholarship disbursement may be reduced or eliminated
 - If fewer than 6 credits: Federal loan deferment expires; grace period begins unless already used up.
- International students: check with ISS



JD & Diploma Privilege Requirements



Student Handbook Section 4



JD Degree Requirements

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154410>

90 total credits, to include:

64 credits in regularly-scheduled classes (*direct instruction with faculty*)

1L required coursework: Contracts; Civil Procedure; Criminal Law & Procedure; Torts; Property; Constitutional Law; Legal Analysis, Advocacy & Writing I & II

Professional Responsibilities

Rule 3.03 (*cross-cultural competency course*)

Experiential Learning Requirement (*6 total credits*)

Upper-Level Writing Requirement (*best not to leave to final semester*)

2.0 cumulative grade point average



Rule 3.03 Courses

Courses meeting the Rule 3.03 Requirement (Cross-Cultural Competency) in Fall 2026:

- **725: Introduction to Criminal Procedure** (Prof. Burg)
- **730: Federal Law & Indian Tribes** (Prof. Dolan)
- **768: Health Justice Clinic** (Prof. Davis)
- **795: State & Local Government Law** (Prof. Seifter)
- **827: International Law** (Prof. Huneus)
- **854: Wisconsin Innocence Project** (Prof. Burg)
- **854: Restorative Justice Project** (Prof. Scharrer)
- **854: Consumer Law Clinic** (Prof. Orr)
- **854: Family Court Clinic** (Prof. Binkley)
- **854: Family Law Advocacy and Support Clinic** (Prof. Bloodworth)
- **854: Neighborhood Law Clinic** (Prof. Mitch)
- **854: Restraining Order & Survivor Advocacy**
- **854: Legal Assistance to Incarcerated People** (Prof. Wiercioch)
- **854: Criminal Defense & Youth Advocacy** (Prof. Engberg)
- **854: Immigrant Justice Clinic** (Profs. Barbato/Wright)
- **915: Criminal Injustice in America** (Prof. Meyn)
- **919: International Human Rights Law** (Prof. Atapattu)
- **940: Law of Indian Nations** (Prof. WhiteEagle)
- **940: Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Administration** (Judge Mitchell)
- **940: Civil Rights** (Prof. Meyn)
- **951: Inter-American Human Rights System** (Profs. Monteiro Danese/Martinez)



Experiential Learning Requirement

Courses potentially meeting the Experiential Learning Requirement in Fall 2026 (6 credits required):

- 743: Negotiations/Mediation
- 808: Advanced Legal Writing: Contract Drafting/Judicial Drafting
- 810 Bar Exam Prep A
- 815: Moot court: Skills Building
- 849: Pre-Trial Advocacy
- 852: Trial Advocacy
- 853: Mock Trial: Trial Advocacy
- 768, 854, 862: Clinical Programs
- 855: GLC, Native Nations, Judicial Internships, & Externships
- 917: International Commercial Arbitration
- 918: Law of Armed Conflict
- 951: Deposition Skills
- 951: Technology & Artificial Intelligence in Law Practice

You cannot meet the ULWR & Experiential Learning requirement in the same course, same term.

Upper-Level Writing Requirement



It's HIGHLY RECOMMENDED you do not leave this to your final semester

- Requirements:
 - 20 pages double-spaced (total)
 - faculty feedback on draft
 - final version incorporating feedback
- “LW eligible” courses should be confirmed w instructor for deadlines/special instructions
- Journal work must be reviewed and approved by faculty
- May NOT be met with same course, in same term as Experiential Learning Requirement
- Submit completed form when you've submitted your final work for review
- Unsure? Check *My Student Info* page or email Toni

My Student Info

Academic Information

Name:

Exam ID:

[Upper-Level Writing Requirement Form - Online Submission](#)

[View the Law School Degree Audit Report \(DAR\)](#)

Locker Information

Locker:

Combination:

Unofficial Transcript

[Unofficial Transcript](#)

FERPA Recommendation Letter Waiver Information

To update, edit your [Student Biography](#), and waiver questions are at the bottom.



Upper-Level Writing Requirement Options

Courses that potentially meet the Upper-Level Writing Requirement in Fall 2026 (as marked by “LW eligible” on Course Schedule):

- **808: Advanced Legal Writing: Judicial Drafting** (Prof. Brown)
- **815 Moot Court: Skills Building** (Prof. Peterson)
- **860 Adv Crim Pro: Rep Criminal Appellant** (Profs. Breedlove/Malchow)
- **917: International Commercial Arbitration** (Prof. Yackee)
- **918: Law of Armed Conflict** (Prof. Kelly)
- **920: Climate Change, Human Rights, & the Environment** (Prof. Atapattu)
- **922: Juris & Philosophy of Law** (Prof. Varsava)
- **940: Law of Indian Nations** (Prof. WhiteEagle)
- **940: Artificial Intelligence & the Law** (Prof. Sobel)
- **940 Topics in Law & Economics** (Prof. Connell)
- **940: Compliance & the Law** (Prof. Ohnesorge)
- **951: Inter-American Human Rights System** (Profs. Monteiro Danese/Martinez)
- **957: Introduction to Estate Planning** (Prof. Bezoian)

Clinical Programs are eligible
(consult with faculty member)*

*You cannot meet the ULWR & Experiential Learning requirement in the same course, same term.



Diploma Privilege Requirements

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/153990>

Earn the JD, to include

Mandatory coursework:

- 1L required courses
- *Evidence*
- *Trusts & Estates*
- Professional Responsibilities
- 2.0 cumulative grade point average

60 credits in Diploma Privilege subjects ([SCR 40.03](#))

- Mandatory coursework and qualifying electives
- 2.0 cumulative grade point average

Determining 60-Credit Rule



Supreme Court Rule 40.03

“All semester credits so certified shall have been earned in regular law school courses having as their primary and direct purpose the *study of rules and principles of substantive and procedural law as they may arise in the courts and administrative agencies of the United States and this state.*”



Determining 60-Credit Rule

Some anomalies:

Application of 60-Credit Rule for Clinics, Externships, Trial Advocacy, & PR

Course	Credits to 90-Credit Rule	Credits to 64-Credit Rule	Credits to 60-Credit Rule	Credits to Experiential Rule
Clinical courses & Externships	All	Dependent upon the clinical or externship experience (refer to Course Schedule).	5	All
Professional Responsibilities	All	All	1	0
Trial Advocacy	All	Instructor-led classes count; competitions do not.	4	All



Tools to Track JD & Diploma Privilege Requirements

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Degree Audit Report (DAR)



Degree Audit Report, UW Law School

Hello alnash2

Required 1L Courses



Diploma Privilege (optional)



Professional Responsibility (Max 1 credits counts toward 60 credit rule)



Rule 303



Upper Level Writing Requirement



Electives



Experiential Learning Category (6 credits needed)



Cumulative Totals



<https://academics.law.wisc.edu/grades/reports/dars/dar.php>



Tracking Your Progress: DAR

Rule 303

Clinical Program: Wisconsin Innocence Project

Rule303 Satisfied

1252A1854001

Clinical Program: Wisconsin Innocence Project

Rule303 Satisfied

1254ZPO854001

Upper Level Writing Requirement

Electives

	90 Rule	64 Rule	60 Rule	Notes
Taxation I	4	4	4	1254ZPO742001
Entertainment Law	3	3	3	1254ZPO940008

Experiential Learning Category (6 credits needed)

Cumulative Totals

Course Title	90 Rule	64 Rule	60 Rule	Grade	cUK	Notes
Cumulative Totals	60	57	44			
Credits Left to Complete	30	7	16			



Tracking Progress: Excel Worksheet

Requirement	Course	Complete	Credits toward 90-Credit Rule	Credits toward 64-Credit Rule	Credits toward 60-Credit Rule
First Year Program	Contracts I*	X	4	4	4
	Civil Procedure I*	X	4	4	4
	Legl Anal, Adv & Writing I	X	3	3	0
	Criminal Law & Procedure*	X	4	4	4
	Torts I*	X	4	4	4
	Legl Anal, Adv & Writing II	X	3	3	0
	Property*	X	4	4	4
	Constitutional Law I*	X	4	4	4
Professional Resp. (PR) Req. <i>Not used for EL or ULW</i>					
Experiential Learning (EL) Req. (6 cr) <i>Not used for PR or ULW</i>					
Upper-Level Writing (ULW) Req. <i>Not used for EL or PR</i>					
Rule 3.03					
Electives	Evidence*				
	Trusts & Estates*				
Non-Law Courses for Law Credit (Rule 3.08) or Dual Degree Credits (Rule 3.16)					
90-Credit Rule (Rule 9.01)	J.D. Degree Total (90 credits required)		30		
64-Credit Rule (ABA Standard 304(b))	Sufficient Credits in Courses with Regular Class Sessions (64 credits required)			30	
60-Credit Rule	Diploma Privilege				24
JD Requirements: 1st year program, including mandatory elective; PR; Exp. Learning (6 crs); Legal Process; 64-credit rule.					
* = Mandatory subject matter courses required for diploma privilege.					
Can apply up to five clinical credits (including internships and externships); four credits of Trial Advocacy; and 5 credits of Lawyering Skills to the 60-credit rule (see chart above).					
See Section 4.6.4 of Student Handbook for breakdown of experiential learning credits under 60-credit rule.					

Left to Complete
 90 credit rule: 60
 64 credit rule: 34
 60 credit rule: 36

https://law.wisc.edu/current/forms/1template_new_reqs.xlsx



Advising & Curriculum

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Course Selection Strategies

- **The Essentials:** Take courses required for JD degree and Diploma Privilege. Pace yourself – you don't have to take them all at once!
- **Practice Specialization:** Focus on courses that align with a practice area of interest or curricular concentration
- **Build a Broad Foundation:** Keep your legal education well-rounded – take foundational courses in a variety of practice areas
- **Build Skills:** Include courses and clinics/externships that help build essential lawyering and professional skills
- **Plan for the Bar:** Consider integrating bar-tested subjects into your schedule and plan to take Director Baldwin's Bar Prep course in 3L year
- **Sequence Your Learning:** Focus on foundational and prerequisite courses first and then map out the timing of upper-level, specialized course
- **Enjoyed a Professor?** Take courses offered by instructors who have a teaching style that you like



Managing Your Workload

- **Balance the Load:**

- Students should average 15 credits/semester (14-16 credits is a good range)
- Try creating a schedule with a mix of doctrinal courses, skills-building, and co-curriculars (if applicable)

- **Mix Your Final Requirements:**

- Consider taking courses with a variety of final requirements (exams, papers, projects)

- **Check the Exam Schedule:**

- Try to avoid several back-to-back exams. **Fall exam dates pending**, but will be listed in the [Law School Course Schedule](#) before registration

- **Avoid Co-curricular Burnout:**

- Interested in co-curriculars? Focus on one, rather than doing them all!



Need Academic Advising?

- **Map Out Your Academic Plan:**

- Schedule a 1-on-1 appointment through Starfish app in [MyUW](#) (in-person, Zoom, phone appointments available)

- **Quick Questions:**

- Feel free to email Angela questions at: angela.nash@wisc.edu
- Drop by Angela's office (5106A) over the noon-hour for a quick chat (no appointment necessary)

- **Online Resources:**

- Review the online [Guide to Planning Your Academic Program](#)
- Check out [Curriculum Guides](#) and [Curricular Concentrations](#)

Curriculum Guides for Select Areas of Study



The Law School has created curriculum guides for select areas of study/practice, including:

Antitrust and Trade Regulation
Administrative & Regulatory Law
Appellate Practice
Bankruptcy Law
Business, Corporate & Commercial Law
Children's Law
Civil Litigation & Dispute Resolution
Criminal Law
Environmental Law
Estate Planning

Family Law & Divorce
General Practice
Health Law
Immigration Law
Intellectual Property
Int'l & Comparative Law
Labor & Employment Law
Municipal & Local Gov't Law
Public Interest Law
Real Estate Law
Tax Law

<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/curriculum/>



Curricular Concentrations

- Business Law (Prof. Ohnesorge)
- Criminal Law (Prof. Klingele)
- Family Law (Prof. Brito)
- Estate Planning Law (Prof. Reineke)
- International & Comparative Law (Prof. Klug)
- Labor & Employment Law (Prof. White)
- Real Estate Law (Angela Nash)

You will complete a survey in the spring of your 3L year to claim your concentration. No administrative action is needed until then.

<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/dualdegree/certificateprograms.html>



Certificate Programs

- Law School Certificate Programs
 - Certificate in Health Advocacy
 - Certificate in Russian Area Studies

- Campus-wide Certificate Programs
 - Certificate in Entrepreneurship
 - Certificate in Strategic Innovation
 - Certificate in Business, Environment & Social Responsibility (BESR)

<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/dualdegree/certificateprograms.html>



Subject Areas for Bar Exam Readiness

REMEMBER: You **MUST** take Trusts & Estates and Evidence to earn Diploma Privilege!

Taking NextGen UBE Bar

(2026 and beyond - Jurisdiction dependent)

Subjects Tested on the Bar

1. Civil Procedure
2. Constitutional Law
3. Contracts
4. Evidence
5. Torts
6. Real Property
7. Criminal Law (and Procedure*)
*Specifically, Const'l Protections of Accused Persons
8. Business Organizations I
9. Trusts and Estates (Performance Test (PT) Only)
10. Family Law (PT Only until July 2028, then back on!)

Experience with these skills will also be helpful:

- a. Legal Research and Writing
- b. Investigation and Evaluation
- c. Client Counseling and Advising
- d. Negotiation/Dispute Resolution
- e. Client Relationship and Management

Taking Legacy UBE

(2026-2028 – Jurisdiction dependent)

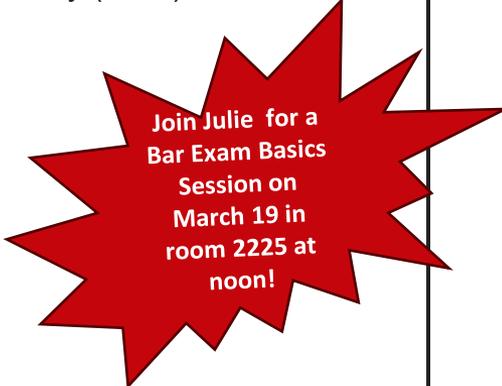
Subjects Tested on the Bar

Multiple Choice (MBE) and Essay (MEE)

1. Civil Procedure
2. Constitutional Law
3. Contracts
4. Evidence
5. Torts
6. Real Property
7. Criminal Law
8. Criminal Procedure

Essay Only (MEE)

9. Business Organizations I



Join Julie for a Bar Exam Basics Session on March 19 in room 2225 at noon!

****Considering taking a non-UBE bar? Or just have other questions? Please connect with Julie Baldwin (Use Starfish OR email: julie.baldwin@wisc.edu)**



Non-Law Classes

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154412>

- Requires completion of 1L Program
- Up to six (6) credits of graduate level or foreign language course work may count towards 90 credits needed for JD, subject to conditions.
- **Must have permission to receive credit**, form available on [forms](#) page.
- Must receive a “B” or better.
- Does not factor into GPA, 64- or 60-credit rules



Pass/Fail Option (Rule 2.03)

- 2 *elective* P/F classes allowed by Law School Rules
- Eligible courses are indicated in Course Schedule as “PF Option”
- Mandatory Pass/Fail are indicated as “PF Only” and do not count against elective limit



Pass/Fail Option Grading Chart

(<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/157195>)

Law School letter grade reported by instructor	Grade recorded on transcript if use Pass/Fail Option	Factored into your GPA?	Counts as one of your two Pass/Fail Options
B+, A-, A or A+	B+, A-, A, or A+	Yes	Yes
C, C+, B-, or B	S	No	Yes
F, D-, D, D+, or C-	F, D-, D, D+, or C-	Yes	Yes

Recorded grades are factored into the GPA and count as graded credits for The Order of the Coif & Dean's List eligibility



Honors, Class Standing, & Transcripts



Student Handbook Section 9



Dean's Honor List

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154303>

- Completion of at least 12 new credits in the fall or spring semester
- A GPA of at least 3.5 (on the 4.3 scale) on those credits, at least 8 of which must be graded on the 4.3 scale
- Completion of the credits by the due date for turning in grades at the end of the semester in question
- Recorded on *official transcript*



Class Standing & Rank

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154301>

- **Class standing tables** are updated each term
 - Tables relate grade averages to approximate position in the class based on credits earned
- Find updated class standing table here:
https://law.wisc.edu/career/new_grading_system.html#class_standing
- The Law School does not make available students' class rank
 - OCPD does coordinate with the Registrar to make available the top ten students in each class with the highest GPAs



Transcripts

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154302>

Official UW generated transcript:	Unofficial Law School transcript:
Order from: https://registrar.wisc.edu/transcript/	Available in your “My Student Info” (keep a copy for the future!!)
No charge	No charge
Guaranteed tamper-free (Parchment)	No guarantee re: tampering
<u>Lists:</u> Courses taken, grades earned, degree earned, conferral date, Dean’s List by semester, & Latin honors	<u>Lists:</u> Courses taken, grades earned, grade point average
You may need a letter from the Law School Registrar confirming your grade point average.	You may need a letter from the Law School Registrar confirming degree conferral.



Graduation & Beyond

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Graduating Early

- No more than 18 credits/semester
- May graduate “no earlier than 24 months”
- Notify Law School Registrar
- Meet with your OCPD Advisor
- Be aware of any deadlines for Diploma Privilege or out-of-state bar applications



Graduation Honors

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154303>

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

- 3.5 GPA in penultimate semester
- Allows you to wear an honors stole at commencement

Graduation Honors: *Minimum of 45 graded credits*

30 graded credits for transfer students

- Cum laude - 3.5 to 3.74
- Magna cum laude - 3.75 to 3.94
- Summa cum laude - 3.95 and above



The Order of the Coif

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/154303>

A national honor scholastic society recognizing law students who attain a high grade of scholarship

- Top 10% of graduating class (no more than 15%)
 - December, May, & August grads constitute a “class”
- Requires 68 graded law credits
- If you exercise the elective pass-fail option and a grade is recorded, it counts as graded credits
- FYI: 3.74 for 2024-25 – went to 15%





Commencement Ceremony Options

<https://kb.wisc.edu/lssao/search.php?cat=15692>

Law School Hooding Ceremony (May)

<https://law.wisc.edu/commencement/>

- All graduating Law School students may attend – May, August, or December

Campus Ceremonies: <https://commencement.wisc.edu/>

Includes all disciplines, Schools, Colleges across campus



Questions?



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Toni Landis: tllandis@wisc.edu