



Preparing to Register and Tracking Progress to Graduation



Angela Nash, Academic Advisor

Toni Landis, Law School Registrar



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

- The Student Handbook is a collection of practical information about the UW Law School.
- Focus on Sections Two and Four for course information, graduation, and bar admissions.

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



Academics Webpage

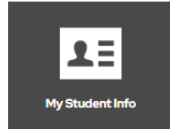
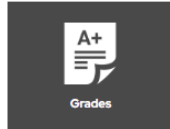
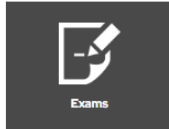
- Calendars and Schedules
- Exam Information
- My Student Info (<https://law.wisc.edu/help/my.php>)
 - Experiential Learning Report; ULWR; Degree Audit Tool
- Academic Forms & Presentations (<https://law.wisc.edu/current/forms.html>)
- Law School Rules and Student Handbook
- Curricular Requirements, 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
- 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](#) »
[Law School Rules](#) »

[Transcripts](#) »
[Academic Forms](#) »
[Academic Enhancement Program](#) »

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



Registering for Classes

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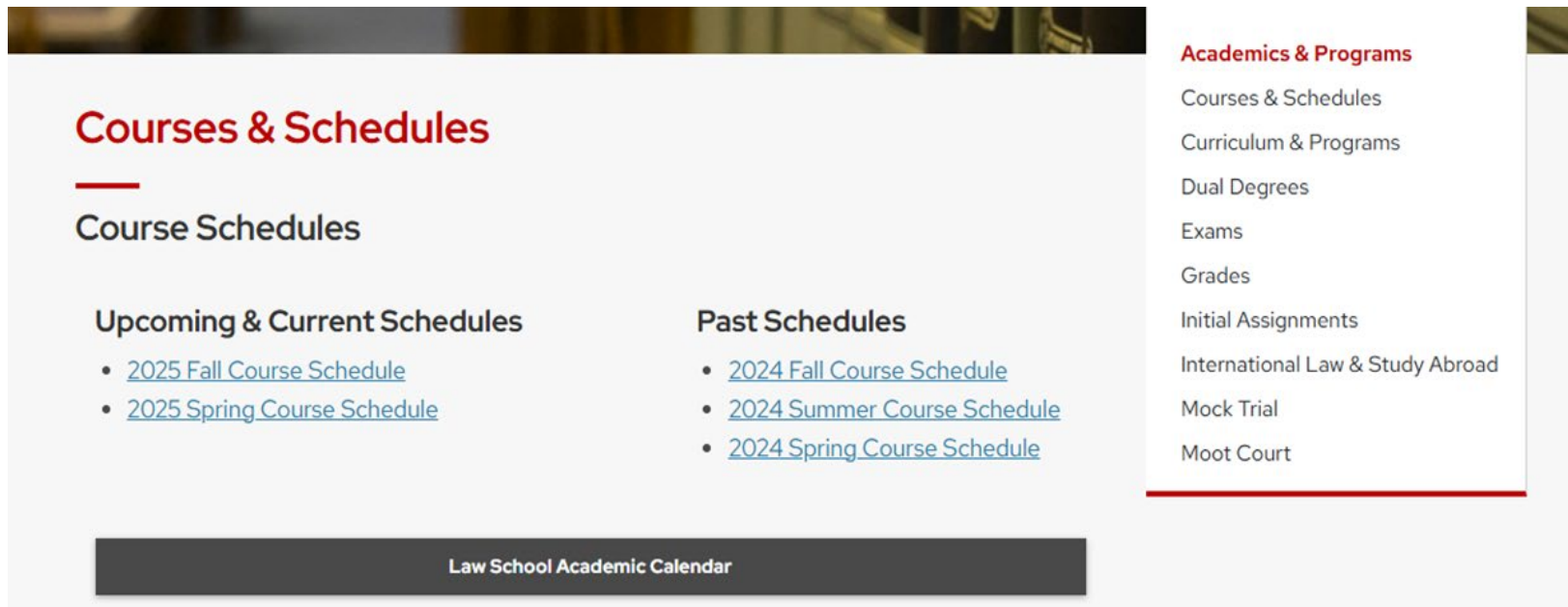


Enrollment Dates & Times

- Fall 2025 Enrollment for Rising 3Ls opens **April 7**
- Check for your specific enrollment time beginning the week of **March 31** using the Course Search & Enroll tile in MyUW
- Pre-Enrollment To-Dos
 - [Terms and Conditions Agreement](#) (every semester!)
 - Check for HOLDS: <https://kb.wisc.edu/registrar/4139>



Courses & Schedules

A screenshot of the Law School Academic Calendar website. The main content area is titled "Courses & Schedules" and "Course Schedules". It is divided into two columns: "Upcoming & Current Schedules" and "Past Schedules". The "Upcoming & Current Schedules" column lists two links: "2025 Fall Course Schedule" and "2025 Spring Course Schedule". The "Past Schedules" column lists three links: "2024 Fall Course Schedule", "2024 Summer Course Schedule", and "2024 Spring Course Schedule". A dark grey bar at the bottom of the main content area contains the text "Law School Academic Calendar". To the right of the main content area is a vertical sidebar menu titled "Academics & Programs" with the following items: "Courses & Schedules", "Curriculum & Programs", "Dual Degrees", "Exams", "Grades", "Initial Assignments", "International Law & Study Abroad", "Mock Trial", and "Moot Court".

Courses & Schedules

Course Schedules

Upcoming & Current Schedules

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

Past Schedules

- [2024 Fall Course Schedule](#)
- [2024 Summer Course Schedule](#)
- [2024 Spring Course Schedule](#)

Law School Academic Calendar


Academics & Programs

- Courses & Schedules
- Curriculum & Programs
- Dual Degrees
- Exams
- Grades
- Initial Assignments
- International Law & Study Abroad
- 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 (SH 2.3)

- Enroll at your appointed time via the Course Search & Enroll app in [MyUW!](#)
 - Make sure you've completed the pre-enrollment to-dos!
 - 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>



Completion of First Year Curriculum

- Any student who needs to complete a 1L Fall course (Criminal Law & Procedure, Contracts, Civil Procedure, or Legal Analysis & Writing I) should email Angela Nash (angela.nash@wisc.edu) to request the necessary enrollment permission
- Part-time students who are on track to complete the 1L curriculum in 2 years may enroll in upper-level courses only after consulting with the Academic Advisor

(<https://www.law.wisc.edu/studenthandbook/02.0.html#2.1.1>)



Part-time Enrollment (SH 10.3)

- 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

- 90 Law Credits to graduate
- 64 credits in regularly-scheduled classes
- 1L Program (Contracts, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law & Procedure, Torts, Property, Constitutional Law, Legal Analysis, Advocacy & Writing I & II)
- Professional Responsibilities
- Rule 3.03: Cross-Cultural Competency
- Experiential Learning Requirement
- Upper-Level Writing Requirement
 - *Do not leave to final semester*
- 2.0 Cumulative GPA





Rule 3.03 Course (SH 4.4.2)

Courses meeting the Rule 3.03 Requirement (Cross-Cultural Competency) in Fall 2025:

- **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: Family Court Clinic** (Prof. Binkley)
- **854: Family Law Advocacy and Support Clinic** (Prof. Bloodworth)
- **854: Neighborhood Law Clinic** (Prof. Mitch)
- **862: Legal Assistance to Incarcerated People** (Prof. Wiercioch)
- **915: Criminal Injustice in America** (Prof. Meyn)
- **915: Carceral Intersections** (Prof. Washington)
- **919: International Human Rights Law** (Prof. Atapattu)
- **940: Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Administration** (Judge Mitchell)



Experiential Learning Requirement

(SH 4.4.2)

Courses potentially meeting the Experiential Learning Requirement in Fall 2025 (6 credits required):

- 743: Negotiations/Mediation
- 808: Advanced Legal Writing: Contract Drafting
- 815: Moot court: Skills Building
- 849: Pre-Trial Advocacy
- 852: Trial Advocacy
- 853: Mock Trial: Trial Advocacy
- 768, 854, 862: Clinical Programs
- 855: GLC, Judicial Internships, & Externships
- 917: International Commercial Arbitration
- 950: Tech & Artificial Intelligence in Law Practice
- 950: Deposition Skills
- 950: Evidence for Litigators

More may be added;
look for emails &
this symbol



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

Upper-Level Writing Requirement

(SH 4.4.2)



- Requirements:
 - 20 pages, double-spaced (total)
 - faculty feedback on draft
 - final version incorporating feedback
- May NOT be met in the same course, 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
- It's **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** you do not leave this to your final semester

FORMS

All forms are provided as PDF files. Fillable PDFs only work when viewed in Adobe Acrobat.

JD GRADUATION

- [JD/Diploma Privilege Graduation Credit Evaluation Worksheet](#)

Graduation Intentions Survey for 2020-21 graduates, please contact the Registrar directly at registrar@law.wisc.edu

UPPER-LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENT

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

CLASSES, PROGRAMS, & EXAMS

- [Notification of Dual Degree](#)
- [Permission to Take a Graduate Level Non-Law Academic Course for Law Credit](#)
- [Petition for Rescheduling an Examination](#)
- [Proposal for Directed Reading or Directed Research](#)
- [Registration as a Candidate for a University Certificate](#)
- [Application for Readmission](#)



Upper-Level Writing Requirement Options (SH 4.4.2)

Courses that potentially meet the Upper-Level Writing Requirement in Spring 2025 (as marked by “LW eligible” on Course Schedule):

- 808: Advanced Legal Writing: Contract Drafting
- 815 Moot Court: Skills Building
- 860 Adv Crim Pro: Rep Criminal Appellant
- 904: SP Con Law: Comparative Constitution-Making
- 915: SP Crim Just Admin: Sentencing & Corrections
- 915: SP Crim Just Admin: Carceral Intersections
- 917: International Commercial Arbitration
- 918: Law of Armed Conflict
- 940: Law of Indian Tribes
- 940: Russian Law
- Clinical Programs (consult with faculty member)*

More may be added;
look for emails & this
symbol



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

Diploma Privilege Requirements

(SH 4.6.2)



- JD Degree
- Mandatory classes
 - 1L courses, plus:
 - Evidence
 - Trusts & Estates
 - Professional Responsibilities (also degree requirement)
- 60 credits in Diploma Privilege subjects

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

(SH 4.6.3)

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



Required Grades for Diploma Privilege (SH 4.6.5)

- 2.0 GPA in mandatory Diploma Privilege classes
- 2.0 GPA in diploma privilege 60-credit rule classes





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.](#)

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CREDIT GUIDE (Always refer to Course Guide)

COURSE	CRDTS TO		
	90	64	60
Clinical	All	All	5
Externship	All	Rarely for Externs	total
Lawyering Skills	All	All	All
Trial Advocacy	All	Instructor Led;	4
		Not Competitions	

OTHER IMPORTANT RULES

Professional Responsibilities	All	All	1
Directed Reading	8	0	0
Directed Research	6	0	0
Non-law courses w permission only	6	0	0

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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Am I On Track?

90 credits required to graduate

- Should average 15 credits per semester (90 credits ÷ standard 6 semesters (3 years) of law school)

Which means:

- At the end your 1L year: goal of 30 credits completed
- At the end of your 2L year: 60 credits completed
- At the mid-point of your 3L year: 75 credits completed

Summer credits may expedite graduation



What to Take?

Primary Course Selection Considerations

- Graduation and WI Diploma Privilege Requirements
- Practice specialization or curricular concentration
- Broad legal education
- Instructors or courses that interest you
- Improve skills
- Bar exam subjects and MPRE

Need Academic Advising?

- Schedule an appointment through Starfish app in MyUW (in-person, Zoom, or phone meetings available)
- Email quick questions (angela.nash@wisc.edu)
- Review the online [Guide to Planning Your Academic Program](#)



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 & Elder Law

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. Erlanger)
- International & Comparative Law (Prof. Klug)
- Labor & Employment Law (Prof. White)
- Real Estate Law (Angela Nash)

Contact faculty advisor or Angela Nash for more information

<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



Taking NextGen 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
8. Criminal Procedure
 - Specifically, Const'l Protections of Accused Persons
9. Business Organizations I
10. Family Law (Performance Test)
11. Trusts and Estates (Performance Test)

*Courses that discuss any of the following may 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 Uniform Bar or another state bar

(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
10. Family Law
11. Trusts & Estates
12. Secured Transactions
13. Conflict of Laws



Join Julie for
an Intro to the
Bar Session on
April 1 in room
3247 at noon!

**Considering taking a bar? Please connect with Julie Baldwin (julie.baldwin@wisc.edu)



Non-Law Classes (SH 2.5)

- 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 (SH 9.3)

- 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

(SH 9.3)

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 (SH 9.7.2)

- 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 (SH 9.5)

- **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 (SH 9.6)

Official UW generated transcript:	Unofficial Law School transcript:
Order from: https://registrar.wisc.edu/transcript/	Available through OCPD using Symplicity
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 conferred.



Graduation & Beyond

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Graduating Early (SH 4.3)

- 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 (SH 4.13.5)

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*

- 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 (SH 9.7.4)

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: 3.75 for 2023-24 (class-size dependent!)



Commencement Ceremony Options

([SH 4.13.3](#))



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

UW Winter Commencement (December: name read aloud)

UW Spring Commencement (May: name not read aloud)



Questions?



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Toni Landis: tllandis@wisc.edu