



Preparing to Register and Tracking Progress to Graduation



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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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The Student Handbook

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

- 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.



The Academics Webpage

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

- Calendars and Schedules
- Exam Information
- My Student Info
 - Experiential Learning Report; ULWR; Degree Audit Tool
- Academic Forms & Policies
- Law School Rules and Student Handbook
- Curricular Requirements, Offerings, and Planning Resources



The 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

- Spring 2025 Enrollment for **2Ls** opens **Tuesday, November 12**
- Check for your specific enrollment time beginning the week of November 4 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

Courses & Schedules

Course Schedules

Upcoming & Current Schedules

- [2024 Fall Course Schedule](#)
- [2025 Spring Course Schedule](#)

Past Schedules

- [2023 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!
 - Consent of instructor courses (clinics, journals, mock trial, moot court) timeline and process
 - 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 need to complete a 1L spring course (Torts, Property, Con Law, Legal Analysis & Writing II) 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
- 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, Torts, Property, Criminal Law & Procedure, Legal Research & Wrtg I & 2, Constitutional Law)
- Professional Responsibilities
- Rule 3.03: Cross-Cultural Competency
- Experiential Learning Requirement
- Upper-Level Writing Requirement
 - *Highly recommended: do **not** leave to final semester*
- 2.0 Cumulative GPA





Rule 3.03 Course ([SH 4.4.2](#))



Courses that meet the Rule 3.03 Requirement in Spring 2025 will be announced soon. Watch for an email from Dean Kelly!



Experiential Learning Requirement

(SH 4.4.2)

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

- 768, 854, 862: Clinical Programs
- 855: Judicial Internships & Externships (enrolled)
- 743: Negotiation/Mediation
- 808: Advanced Legal Writing: Contract Drafting
- 849: Pre-Trial Advocacy
- 852: Trial Advocacy
- 950: Lawyering Skills Course (several sections to earn the 6 cr total)
- 950: Advanced Legal Research
- 950: Deposition Skills

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
- 915: Prison Release & Re-entry
- 940: Artificial Intelligence and the Law
- 940: Food Law
- 940: Tax Policy Seminar
- 940: Class, Law, & Labor Relations in Historical Perspective
- 950: Administrative Law Module (must be taking Admin Law)
- 957: Intro to Estate Planning
- Clinical Programs (consult with faculty member)*

More may be added;
look for emails & this
symbol



Diploma Privilege Requirements

(SH 4.6.2)



- JD Degree
- Mandatory classes:
 - Evidence
 - Trusts & Estates
- 60 credits in Diploma Privilege subjects



Determining 60-Credit Rule

(SH 4.6.3)

The Supreme Court requires 60 credits in diploma privilege subjects (identified on Course Schedule)

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

Course	Credits to 90-Credit Rule:	Credits to 64-Credit Rule:	Credits to 60-Credit Rule:	Credits to Experiential Learning Rule:
Clinical courses and Externships	All	Dependent upon the clinical or externship experience (refer to Course Schedule).	5	All
Lawyering Skills Course	All	All	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





Tracking Your Progress: DAR

Students may access their Degree Audit Report (DAR) through *My Student Info*. Each section can be opened using the icon on the right.

Required 1L Courses	
Diploma Privilege (optional)	
Professional Responsibility (Max 1 credits counts toward 60 credit rule)	
Rule 303	
Upper Level Writing Requirement	
Experiential Learning Category (6 credits needed)	
Electives	
Clinic (Max 5 credits count toward 60 credit rule)	
Trial Advocacy (Max 4 credits credits count toward 60 credit rule)	
Directed Research or Reading	
Cumulative Totals	



Tracking Your Progress: DAR

Upper Level Writing Requirement



Experiential Learning Category (6 credits needed)



Electives



	90 Rule	64 Rule	60 Rule	Notes
Antitrust	3	3	3	1252A1748001
Bus Orgs: Partnership, LLC, Closely-held Corps (formerly Bus Org I)	3	3	3	1252A1817001

Clinic (Max 5 credits count toward 60 credit rule)



Trial Advocacy (Max 4 credits credits count toward 60 credit rule)



[Directed Research or Reading](#)



Cumulative Totals



Course Title	90 Rule	64 Rule	60 Rule	Grade	cUK	Notes
Cumulative Totals	45	45	39			



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



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

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



Curricular Concentrations

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

- 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



Certificate Programs

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

- 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)



Considering Taking the Bar?

Recommendations for Bar Exam Readiness

Taking 2026 & Beyond (NextGen)

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, Constitutional Protections of Accused Persons
9. Business Organizations I
10. Family Law (Performance Test)
11. Trusts and Estates (Performance Test)
12. Courses that discuss any of the following may 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 Bar Exam 2024 or 2025

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



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:

- order from <https://registrar.wisc.edu/transcript/>
- No charge
- Guaranteed tamper-free
- Lists:
 - Degree earned and conferral date
 - Dean's List by semester & Latin designation
- Does not list Law School GPA

Unofficial Law School transcript:

- available through OCPD using Symplicity
- No charge
- No guarantee re: tampering
- Lists:
 - Law School GPA
- You may need a letter from Registrar confirming the authenticity.



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 Registrar
- Meet with your OCPD Advisor
- Be aware of any deadlines for application to practice:
 - WI BBE applicants: August '25 graduates pay reduced rate until mid-March '25; Dec '25 graduates pay reduced rate until mid-July '25
 - Other states will vary



Graduation Honors (SH 4.13.5)

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

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

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



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 (or so)
- 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 students may attend – May, August, or December

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

As long as you have the correct attire, you may attend; there is no monitoring.

“There is no separate registration process for [campus] commencement, and there is no master list that students’ names are read from. A graduate’s name does not need to appear in the program to participate in the ceremony.”

UW Winter Commencement (December: name read aloud)

UW Spring Commencement (May: name not read aloud)



Questions?

Angela Nash: angela.nash@wisc.edu

Toni Landis: tllandis@wisc.edu



Links to Bookmark

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

Law School Academic Webpage: <https://law.wisc.edu/academics/>

Law School Course Schedule:
<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/courses/>

Law School Academic Forms: <http://law.wisc.edu/current/forms.htm>

Class Standing/Ranking Tables:
https://law.wisc.edu/career/new_grading_system.html#class_standing

Law School Commencement website:
<https://law.wisc.edu/current/commencement/>

UW Law Pro Bono Program: <http://law.wisc.edu/probono/>

Transcripts: <https://registrar.wisc.edu/transcript/>