



Preparing to Register for Spring 2025 & Tracking Progress to Graduation



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Topics to Be Covered

-
- Essential Resources
 - Registration Details
 - JD & Diploma Privilege Requirements
 - Advising & Curriculum
 - Graduation
 - Bar Prep & Beyond



Essential Resources

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The Student Handbook

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

- The Student Handbook is a comprehensive collection of 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/>

- Course Schedules
- Exam Information and Grades
- My Student Info
 - Experiential Learning Report; ULWR
- Academic Forms & Policies
- Student Handbook and Law School Rules
- 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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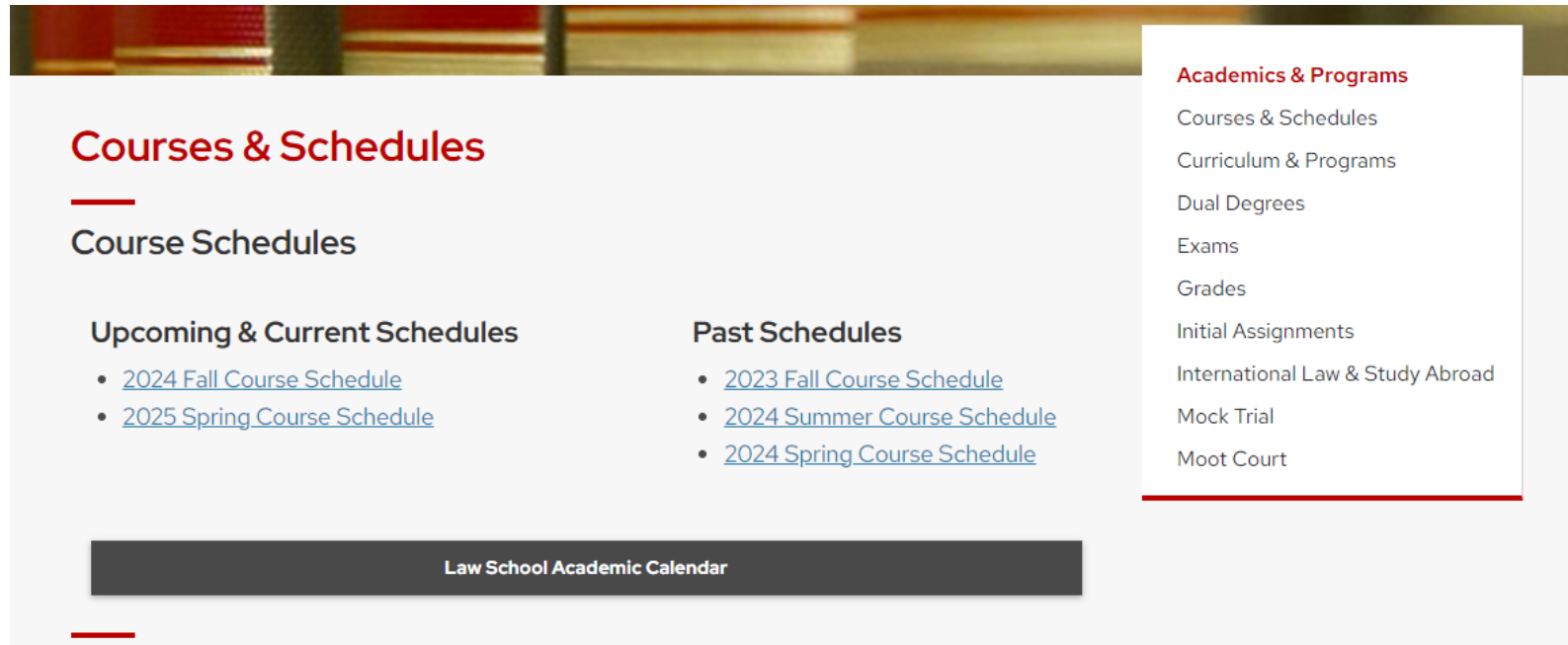


Enrollment Dates & Times

- Spring 2025 Enrollment for 3Ls opens **Monday, November 11**
- Check for your specific enrollment time beginning the week of November 4 via the Course Search & Enroll app in MyUW
- Pre-Enrollment To-Dos (MUST complete to enroll)
 - [Terms and Conditions Agreement](#)
 - Check for HOLDS: <https://kb.wisc.edu/registrar/4139>
 - Find in the “Tasks” tile of your MyUW Student Center



Courses & Schedules

A screenshot of the Law School Academic Calendar website. The page has a white background with a red header bar at the top. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a red heading 'Courses & Schedules' followed by a red horizontal line, then the text 'Course Schedules'. Below this are two sub-sections: 'Upcoming & Current Schedules' and 'Past Schedules', each with a list of links. The right column is a white sidebar with a red header 'Academics & Programs' and a list of menu items. At the bottom of the page is a dark grey button labeled 'Law School Academic Calendar'.

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](#)

Academics & Programs


- Courses & Schedules
- Curriculum & Programs
- Dual Degrees
- Exams
- Grades
- Initial Assignments
- International Law & Study Abroad
- Mock Trial
- Moot Court

Law School Academic Calendar

<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>



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, Civ Pro I, LRW I & 2, Intro to Sub Crim Law, Torts, Property, Elective)
- Professional Responsibilities
- Legal Process
- Experiential Learning Requirement
- Upper-Level Writing Requirement
- 2.0 Cumulative GPA



Required Courses – Legal Process Options (SH 4.4.2)



Courses that will satisfy the Legal Process Requirement in Spring 2025:

730: Federal Law & Indian Tribes

744: Administrative Law

790: Law of Democracy

871: International Trade Law

922: Jurisprudence

More may be added; look for emails
& this symbol





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
- 853: Mock Trial Competition
- 950: Lawyering Skills Course (several sections to earn the 6 cr total)
- 950: Advanced Legal Research
- 950: Deposition Skills
- 950: Litigation Process

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

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
- 904: First Amendment (up to 5 – 3L students)
- 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
- 940: SDRI Research Seminar
- 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



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 (in addition to JD-required classes):
 - Constitutional Law I & II
 - Introduction to Criminal Procedure
 - Jurisdiction of Courts (Civ Pro II, Fed Juris, Conflicts)
 - 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 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	
	Legal Research & Writing I	X	3	3	0	
	Intro to Substantive Criminal Law*	X	4	4	4	
	Torts I*	X	4	4	4	
	Legal Research & Writing II	X	3	3	0	
	Property*	X	4	4	4	
	11 Elective (include in electives section)					
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>						
Legal Process						
Elective Law Courses	Constitutional Law I*					
	Intro to Criminal Procedure*					
	Jurisdiction of Courts course*					
	Evidence*					
	Trusts & Estates*					
	Con Law II*					
Any 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)		26			
64-Credit Rule (ABA Standard 304(b))	Sufficient Credits in Courses with Regular Class Sessions (64 credits required)			26		
60-Credit Rule	Diploma Privilege				20	
Total Pending Credits						

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CREDIT GUIDE (Always refer to Course Guide)

COURSE	CRDTS TO			total
	90	64	60	
Clinical	All	All		5
Externship	All	Rarely for Externs		
Lawyering Skills	All	All		5
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:	64
64 credit rule:	38
60 credit rule:	40

J.D. 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.](#)



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)



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



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 (Angela Nash*)
- Real Estate Law (Angela Nash)

Contact faculty advisor or Angela Nash for more information



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



Graduation

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Important Dates

- **Monday, November 4:** 10am to 3pm, Room 3268
WI Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) Q&A “Office Hours”
- **Monday, November 11:** Enroll in spring classes
- **Sunday, December 15:** Winter commencement @ Kohl Center
- **Tuesday, January 14:** Swearing-in Ceremony for December graduates
- **Friday, May 9:** Law School Hooding Ceremony
- **Saturday, May 10:** Spring commencement @ Camp Randall
- **Thursday, May 29:** Swearing-in Ceremony for May graduates
- **NOTE:** August & December graduates may attend the Hooding Ceremony that works best for them.



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)



When are you graduating?

Please confirm:

- **Law School survey** sent out in an email on Sept. 9 & Oct. 2

If you haven't filled it out:

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0cWlrVBvxyiQwom

- **“Apply to Graduate”** campus process; ensures your diploma lists your name accurately & is sent to the correct address

Instructions:

<https://kb.wisc.edu/registrar/4128>



FERPA Protection

It is your right to protect your directory information, however, if you would like your name in the graduation program and/or acknowledgement of any awards or honors, you must make sure that you've adjusted your settings.

1. <https://kb.wisc.edu/registrar/18785>

OR

2. When you “apply to graduate”

***Commencement Ceremony** May 2024 Commencement

I want my name in use/preferred name, not my primary/legal name, printed in the commencement program and used for other commencement-related events, publications and/or communications. Yes No

FERPA Hold Waiver: I want my name printed in the Commencement program and used for other commencement-related events, publications and/or communications regardless of my [FERPA](#) status at the time they are created or published. Yes No

Deadline Date Acknowledgement

I understand that I must apply to graduate by the deadline for the commencement ceremony term I selected above. If I do not apply by the deadline, my name will not appear in the printed commencement program.



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 the Registrar confirming the authenticity.



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



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*



Graduation Honors ([SH 4.13.5](#))

Graduation: Latin honors designations

- 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 honorary 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!)





Bar Prep & Beyond

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Bar Admission in States Other Than Wisconsin (SH 4.12)

- Look into it now
 - Forms – where are they & when are they due?
 - Special requirements? (pro bono hours for NY)
 - Other deadlines?

New Bar Prep staff member is starting Oct 14!

Office of Career and Professional Development (SH 11.4)



Check in with your OCPD advisor for assistance with job related questions.

Contact: career@law.wisc.edu

Website: <https://law.wisc.edu/career/>



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/>