**ADVISING AT-A-GLANCE FOR THE JD STUDENT**

Please see the *Law School Bulletin* for further details.

**84 Credits required for graduation**

Non-transfer students need 67 graded credits (minimum required to graduate); 17 Credit/No Credit (pass/fail)
Transfer students need 48 graded credits (minimum required to graduate); 8 Credit/No Credit (pass/fail)

**6.0 Enrollment Units required* for graduation** (*part-time students required to meet 84 credits only)

*Enrollment Units are earned each semester as follows: 12+ credits = 1 unit, 11 credits = .8 units,
10 credits = .7 units, 9 credits = .65 units, 8 credits = .6 units, 7 credits = .5 units, 6 credits = .4 units,
5 credits = .35 units, 4 credits = .3 units, 3 credits = .2 units, 2 credits = .15 units, 1 credit = .075 units

**Three requirements beyond the first-year curriculum:**

1. Legal Writing (journal participation or 8000 word (minimum) research paper evaluated as B- or better)
2. Professional Responsibility & Ethics (2 or 3 credit course for letter grade)
3. Experiential Learning Credits (6 total credits required; select from designated courses/experiences, must register for letter grade unless otherwise specified)

**Credit/No Credit Categories – the below courses may contribute to the CR/NC credits available to students**

1. Clinics (1-6 credits per semester, however, the majority of Clinics are graded)
2. Conversion* of a graded elective courses (6 credits maximum, C- or better grade required, only 1 per semester)
   
   *This category is not available to transfer students.
3. Dean’s Fellows or Writing Center Fellows (2 credits per semester)
4. Field Placement Program (1-4 credits per semester, 8 credits maximum, 2 credit graded co-requisite)
5. GW Graduate Courses (6 credits maximum, related to legal studies, and B- or better grade required)
6. Joint degree candidates (up to a maximum of 12 cross-over credits allowed toward 84 total credits)
7. Journal (4 credits, 4 semester commitment)
8. Advocacy Competitions: ADR, Moot Court and/or Mock Trial (maximum of 3 during course of study, only 1 per semester)
9. Summer law courses at other law schools (6 credits maximum, C- or better grade required)
10. Other: Upper Level Writing, Reading Groups, etc.

**Full Time Status:** 12 credit minimum to 15 credit maximum (transfer students must average 14 credits per semester)

**Part Time Status:** 8 credit minimum to 11 credit maximum

**REGISTRATION TIPS**

1. Exam dates/times are not negotiable. Two or even three final exams on the same date will not constitute a conflict. Plan accordingly by consulting the exam schedule when you register.
2. Make a master list of all courses you might like to take. Plan out in detail all semesters for which a class and exam schedule is available. You may certainly change the plan, but start with a good road map of where you intend to be by the time you graduate.
3. Take advantage of the course syllabi and course evaluations available online on the web portal and in the library. Ask advice from professors with whom you have already studied and from professors whose courses you intend to take.
4. Plan a balanced program of study as explained in detail on the second side of this guide. Carefully select CR/NC electives.

Updated 3/16/2020
COURSE SELECTION GUIDELINES

The Law School offers a large curriculum and minimal upper-level requirements which give students substantial freedom to tailor their upper-level courses to their own interests. The freedom in course selection permitted by this elective policy places responsibility on each student to plan a coherent academic program. Students should seek guidance on their course selection from faculty members, the Dean of Students Office, the Law School Bulletin, and the Supplement to the Law School Bulletin.

Plan a Balanced Program: Some students choose to pursue a particular area of the law in special depth or breadth because of career inclinations or intellectual interest. You cannot foresee future career changes and challenges, and lawyers are not expected to be specialists when they graduate from law school. To design a well-balanced program, try to select a variety of courses from the following categories each semester: (1) upper-level requirements, prerequisites or co-requisites; (2) subject matter or professor of interest to you; (3) preparation for the bar; and/or (4) preparation for your field of practice. It is also important to strike a balance each semester between exam courses and those that offer other methods of evaluation, including research paper seminars, clinics, field placement, and skills and simulation courses.

Experiential Learning Credits (6 total credits required): The American Bar Association and the law faculty mandate that all students take 6 experiential learning credits as a requirement. The below serves as examples of courses/experiences that will count towards this requirement:

1. Eligible Courses: Courses designated with an “(E)” in the Law School Bulletin will qualify for experiential learning credit. Examples include: Advanced Appellate Advocacy; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Client Interviewing and Counseling; Legal Drafting; Mediation; Negotiations; Trial Advocacy and Pre-trial Advocacy. This is not an exhaustive list of eligible courses, and not all sections of the above-listed courses will qualify. See the web portal or Law School Bulletin for more information.

2. Clinics: Clinics include Criminal Appeals and Post-Conviction Services; Domestic Violence Project; Environmental Law; Family Justice Litigation; Health Rights Law; Immigration; International Human Rights; Law Students in Court; Prisoner & Reentry; Public Justice Advocacy; Small Business and Community Economic Development; and Vaccine Injury Litigation.

3. Field Placement Program: An unpaid externship with a judicial, government, or non-profit organization for a maximum of 4 credits in any semester and a maximum of 8 credits towards graduation. A co-requisite course evaluated on the basis of a letter grade must also be completed to earn the externship credits.

4. Advocacy Competitions: Alternative Dispute Resolution; Mock Trial; Moot Court Competition (*Note only external competitions count towards the experiential learning credit requirement).

5. Other Opportunities: Prisoner’s Project.

State Bar Exams: Each state/jurisdiction administers a two-day exam (2.5 or 3 days in a few states) each February and July. Character and fitness determinations, similar to a security clearance, are an equal component of the bar licensing process. In addition, the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) is a separate, 60 question, two-hour, multiple-choice, ethics exam offered every March, August, and November, which may be taken before graduation and is required by all jurisdictions except MD, WI, and PR. To access comprehensive and updated information, see the National Conference of Bar Examiners site which lists all state bar web-pages at www.ncbex.org. The most widely selected choice of bar exams for GW Law graduates is the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE), the score from which can be transferred to as many as 27 jurisdictions, without a required period of law practice. Consider whether you will enroll in all courses tested on the second day of the UBE, known as the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE). The MBE tests knowledge in Civil Procedure I & II, Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, Contracts I & II, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Property, and Torts (courses in italics are electives at GW Law). Strategically plan which other bar exam subjects you will take, and those you reserve for a bar review course and further self-study.

Updated 3/16/2020