

JD ACADEMIC PLANNING 2026-2027 For Rising 3Ls

COURSE PLANNING OVERVIEW

CHRONOLOGY

- Friday April 24** **[Course Catalog](#) and [Course Schedules](#) published.
[Course Request](#) page activated with clinic results included.**
- Wednesday May 6** **Deadline for [Course Request](#) Submissions 12:00 PM.**
- Monday May 12** **[Course Request](#) results and Autumn add codes available.
[MyUW](#) Registration for Autumn opens.**
- Monday June 15** **Priority registration deadline Autumn clinics and courses
9:00 AM.**

[Planning Packet](#) available on the [Students](#) page.



JD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- CREDITS
 - 135 TOTAL = 45 1L + 90 2L/3L
- REQUIRED COURSES
 - LAW A 509 Administrative Law
 - LAW A 515 Business Organizations
 - LAW B 503 Evidence
 - LAW B 510 Professional Responsibility
 - Perspectives Distributional Requirement
 - Global Law Distributional Requirement
- ADVANCED WRITING
- EXPERIENTIAL
- PUBLIC SERVICE

Make an appointment:



TRACKING DEGREE REQUIREMENTS - THE DARS AUDIT

Every student is responsible for making sure that they satisfy all graduation requirements.

The Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) is available through MyUW for students to track degree progress.

Questions about your audit? Contact

Pontus Niklasson pniklass@uw.edu / (206) 543-0634

Jennifer Llamas jennll@uw.edu / (206) 543-3278

Academic Services mylaw@uw.edu / (206) 543-0453.

Make an appointment:



ADVANCED WRITING REQUIREMENT

A student may satisfy the [Advanced Writing Requirement](#) in the following ways:

1. By writing and revising a paper, brief or other writing in any 2L or 3L course which carries at least 3 credits. Advance consent of the instructor is required.
 2. By completing 1-2 credits of LAW E 500 Independent Advanced Writing, when the work involves revision of work begun in a class, externship, or moot court competition, under the supervision of a faculty member.
- Students should satisfy the [Advanced Writing Requirement](#) by the end of the second-to-last quarter of enrollment before graduation, unless they will satisfy it in a course that continues into the last quarter of enrollment.
 - A course that is used to meet the [advanced writing requirement](#) may not also meet the [public service](#) or [experiential](#) requirements.

[Advanced Writing Requirement Agreement](#)



EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENT

J.D. students must complete at least 9 credits of experiential coursework in their 2L and 3L years.

What is experiential coursework?

- Simulation Courses
- Law Clinics
- Externships

PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIREMENT

J.D. students must perform at least 50 hours of public service legal work during their second or third year of law school in a pre-approved course or program, under the supervision of a judge, attorney, or otherwise qualified individual.



HOW THE EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENT FITS WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIREMENT

- A multi-quarter clinic may count towards the Experiential Requirement (9 credits) and the Public Service Requirement (2 credits)
- The same credits cannot be used to cover experiential and public services or advanced writing requirement at the same time (no double dipping).
- An externship in a For-Profit Small Firm (LAW C 530) or Corporate Counsel (LAW C 535) will count towards the Experiential requirement but it will not count towards the Public Service Requirement.



GRADUATION DATES

2026-2027

SUMMER 8/21/2026

WINTER 3/19/2027

AUTUMN 12/18/2026

SPRING 6/11/2027

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- These are the dates on which degrees at UW are conferred.
 - These are the dates that appear on your transcript and diploma.
 - These are the dates you should use when you fill bar exam applications, and any other time you need to list your graduation date.
 - The [JD Graduation Application](#) is due by the end of week 3 of the quarter in which you seek to graduate.



Public Service / Pro Bono Graduation Requirement



Public Service Graduation Requirement

- JD students must:
 - Perform at least 50 hours of *public service legal work
 - During their second or third year of law school
 - In a pre-approved course or program
 - Under the supervision of a judge, attorney, or otherwise qualified individual

**See slide on compensated public service legal work below*

- Requirements outlined on UW Law's website at ["J.D. Public Service Requirement"](#)



“Public Service Legal Work”

- Providing legal services to:
 - Persons of limited means; or
 - Charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, and educational organizations in matters which are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means

OR...



“Public Service Legal Work”

- Providing law-related public service by:
 - Helping groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties, or public rights;
 - Helping charitable religious, civic, community, governmental, and educational organizations not able to afford legal representation;
 - Participating in activities providing information about justice, the law, or the legal system to those who might not otherwise have such information; or
 - Engaging in activities to enhance the capacity of the law and legal institutions to do justice.



“During Second or Third Year”

- Work completed **during 1L** year does not count towards the graduation requirement, but does count towards the Pro Bono Honors Society (discussed further later)
- Qualifying work completed during **summer after 1L** year can count towards the 50 hours



“Pre-Approved Course or Program”

- Options for completing pro bono hours, as outlined on the [J.D. Public Service Requirement](#) page:
 - Complete a clinic, public service/public interest externship (B530, B535, B538, B539, or B560), Street Law (B514), or Rural Alaska Tax Program (T506) (***automatically counted; no documentation required***)
 - Participate in a non-enrollment “UW Law-based” or “student-led” pro bono program (***submit in 12Twenty; explained below***)
 - “Community-based” pro bono program (***submit in 12Twenty***)



“UW Law-Based” & “Student-Led” Programs

- UW Law-based pro bono programs:
 - Moderate Means Program (*no longer offered, but work in previous years accepted*)
- Student-based pro bono legal program examples:
 - Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project
 - SAI Justice Pro Bono Projects
 - Environmental Law Society Pro Bono Projects



“Community-Based” Pro Bono Program

- Community-based pro bono programs/projects:
 - Completed through an outside employer or organization
 - Must still meet the definition of supervised “public service legal work” to count towards the graduation requirement
- Examples of community-based pro bono:
 - Completing a 1L or 2L summer internship with a nonprofit or government employer
 - Pro bono volunteer activities, such as:
 - Communities Rise Volunteer Legal Clinics
 - Kids in Need of Defense Pro Bono Support
 - Benefits Law Center Social Security Clinics



Compensated “Public Service Legal Work”

Nonprofit or Government Employer:

- Compensated public service legal work employer will count towards the requirement
- Includes direct pay from employer or funding through a third-party grant or fellowship (e.g., PILA Fellowship)

Private Firm, In-House, and Other For-Profit Employers:

- Only pro bono work for which the client is not charged a fee will qualify



Getting Credit for Public Service Hours

- If hours done for academic credit through a clinic, public service/public interest externship, Street Law, or Rural Alaska Tax Program, *compliance is automatic (no need to submit any documentation)*
- If done through a UW Law-based, student-led, or community pro bono program (not for credit), must submit hours through 12Twenty's "Experiential Learning Module"
 - See [Step-by-Step Guide](#) for entering hours
 - Requires a project description, Hour Log, and approval by Gates PSL Program and your pro bono supervisor



Pro Bono Honors Society



Pro Bono Honors Society (PBHS)

- Voluntary program run by the Gates PSL Program recognizing significant pro bono volunteer work
- Eligibility requirements outlined on UW Law's [Pro Bono Honors Society](#) page
- Report hours through 12Twenty's "Experiential Learning" Module (see [Step-by-Step Guide](#) for instructions)



PBHS Recognition & Awards

- Special recognition based on meeting certain standards:
 - 50 hours: General PBHS member
 - 100 hours: PBHS with Distinction
 - 150+ hours: PBHS with High Distinction
- All PBHS members recognized in graduation pamphlet and receive silver pro bono honors cords
 - Graduating 3Ls must submit all remaining law school hours by mid-April to be counted for graduation (see notices from Gates PSL)
- Accept nominations in the spring for the “Ann Spangler Pro Bono Student of the Year Award”



PBHS – Frequently Asked Questions

- Compensation:
 - Hours completed for academic credit (clinic, externship) or compensation (direct pay or fellowship) are generally **not eligible**
 - Exception for “excess hours”—work done beyond the number of hours required to earn your credits or satisfy a full-time internship
- Summer internships:
 - Limited to reporting 20 hours for eligible activities done as part of your summer internship (N/A to separate volunteer work)
- RSO hours:
 - Maximum 20 hours for general RSO (or other community service) participation during law school
 - Hours meeting definition of supervised “public service legal work” are not subject to this limitation



Questions on Public Service or Pro Bono Requirements?

- Questions about eligible activities to satisfy the Public Service Graduation Requirement or the Pro Bono Honors Society and submitting your hours, contact:
 - **Travis Pietila**, Assistant Director & Head of Pro Bono Initiatives, Gates PSL Program at tpietila@uw.edu
- Questions about verifying your completion of the Public Service Graduation Requirement for graduation, contact:
 - **Pontus Niklasson**, Director, Academic Services at pniklass@uw.edu



THE BAR



The Evolving Bar Landscape

- > Washington adopts NextGen UBE this summer (July 2026). You will be the third group of graduates to take this bar exam in July 2027.
- > Alternative pathways to licensure - The applicable pathway (post-graduation apprenticeship) should be available by summer 2027, but we will know more details in the coming months. We are still in this phase mentioned in the Supreme Court's Order: *"(t)he Executive Director of the Washington State Bar Association shall convene and support an implementation committee to propose rule changes and identify next steps necessary to implement the recommendations."* For more information, please visit the WSBA's website at www.wsba.org



NextGen UBE Adoption Timeline

July 2026:

Connecticut, Guam, Idaho, Maryland, Missouri, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Palau, Virgin Islands, Washington

July 2027:

Arizona, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming

February 2028:

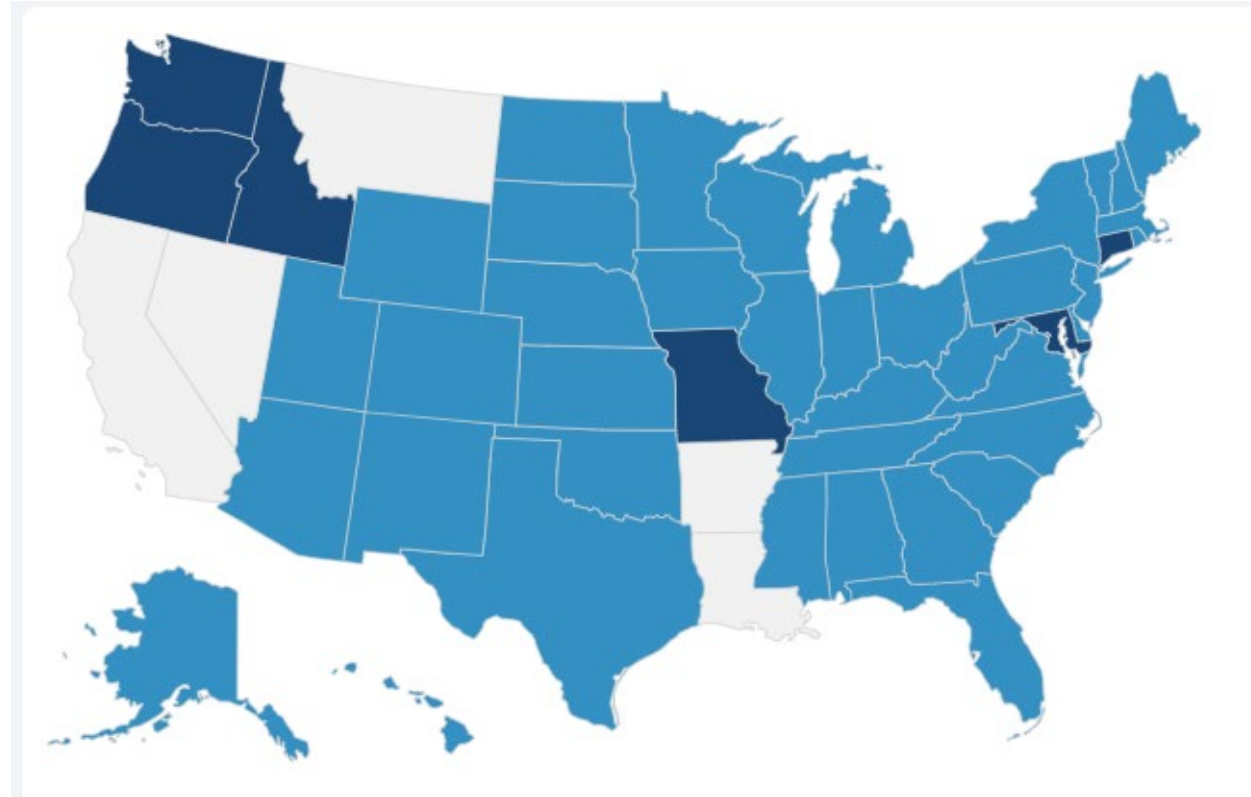
Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois

July 2028:

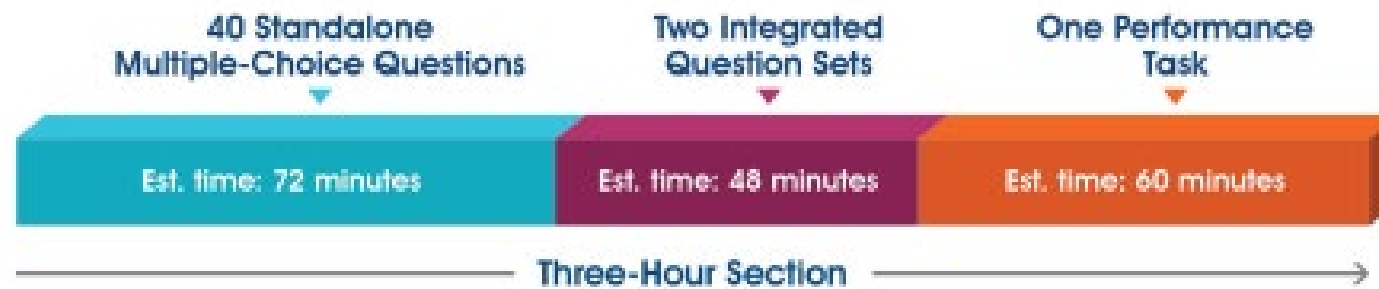
Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin

Date TBD:

Mississippi



The NextGen UBE is made up of three sections of three hours each, administered over one and half days.



Content Scope of NextGen UBE

- Business Associations
- Civil Procedure
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Criminal Law and Constitutional Protections of Accused Persons
- Evidence
- Real Property
- Torts
- Family Law**
- Trusts & Estates**

SUBJECT ADDED:

Professional Responsibility

SUBJECTS REMOVED:

Secured Transactions
Conflict of Laws

Course Planning Considerations

- > Don't overload your 3L Spring Quarter.
- > Be mindful of which of your Spring Quarter courses have final exams vs. papers. If you select a paper course, get your paper done early when possible.
- > Do not leave your Advanced Legal Writing Requirement until Spring Quarter if possible.
- > The same goes for your Pro Bono Requirement. Get that done before Spring Quarter.
- > Decide now when you will take the MPRE (Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam).
- > Bar-Related Prep Courses offered next year:
 - E578 for NextGen UBE ONLY offered in both Winter (Tuesdays 1:30-3:20) and Spring (Tuesdays 3:30-5:20 with 1 Friday session). The class cannot be taken both quarters as it repeats in the Spring.
 - B599 for UBE/CA bars ONLY offered in Spring. (3 Fridays from 1:30-4:20)



Washington Bar Exam - Key Dates For Summer 2027 Bar

Regardless of which bar you are taking, research the state in which you attend to sit over the summer. Educate yourself about costs, requirements, and deadlines. Put those dates in your calendar now. We don't want anyone to miss an important deadline. More information and details can be found on the Academic Success Canvas Page under the module, "The Bar Exam – General Information."

February 1 Washington Summer 2027 Bar Application Opens.

(WSBA will visit during UW Law's annual Bar Week in late January/early February.)

March 5 WSBA deadline for Summer 2027 Application

April 5 WSBA \$300 Late Fee deadline for Summer 2027 application

May 8 ADA Reasonable Accommodation Requests Deadline

(At least 80 days before the first day of the exam but submit early. Contact Britt Neff for support.)

May 15^{ish} Commercial Bar Review Calendar Begins

May 24-29 Final Exams at the law school

June 7 Graduation Ceremony

(Note that we typically have a reception the day before as well. Plan for two days.)

July 27 First day of the bar exam



Other admission requirements

Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam

The Washington Law Component

Academic Success Program's
5th Annual Bar Week
will be in late January 2027 and our
Summer Bar Sessions
will begin in early May of 2027.



For more information on the bar, please visit the modules on the Academic Success Program's [Canvas Page](#).