

JD ACADEMIC PLANNING 2025-2026 For 3Ls and Rising 3Ls

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UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

125 YEARS OF UW LAW
— SINCE 1899 —



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- CREDITS
 - **135 TOTAL = 45 1L + 90 2L/3L**
- 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

<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx>



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

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

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.

More info at <https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#Writing>

AWR form: <http://www.law.washington.edu/Students/Forms/Documents/AdvancedWritingRequirement.pdf>



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**

More info and list of approved simulation courses at <https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#Experiential>

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 APPLICATION

The [JD Graduation Application](#) is due by the end of week 3 of the quarter in which you seek to graduate.

DEADLINES

	<u>2025-2026</u>
SUMMER	July 11, 2025
AUTUMN	October 10, 2025
WINTER	January 23, 2026
SPRING	April 17, 2026



GRADUATION DATES

2024-2025

SUMMER 2024: 8/16/2024

AUTUMN 2024: 12/13/2024

WINTER 2025: 3/21/2025

SPRING 2025: 6/13/2025

2025-2026

SUMMER 2025: 8/22/2025

AUTUMN 2025: 12/12/2025

WINTER 2026: 3/20/2026

SPRING 2026: 6/12/2026

-
- 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.

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), Moderate Means Program Practicum (E552), 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 (outside of E552) (*not offered in 2024-25, 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 “public service legal work” to count towards the graduation requirement
- Recent examples of community-based pro bono:
 - Riverton Park United Methodist Church Asylum Clinics
 - Communities Rise Volunteer Legal Clinics
 - International District Legal Clinic



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 Grant)

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, Moderate Means Practicum, 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

- Voluntary honors program administered by Gates PSL
- Special recognition based on meeting certain standards:
 - 50 hours: Pro Bono Honors Society (PBHS)
 - 100 hours: PBHS with Distinction
 - 150+ hours: PBHS with High Distinction
- All PBHS members recognized in graduation pamphlet
 - 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 – Eligibility and Reporting Hours

- Current program eligibility requirements outlined on UW Law’s [Pro Bono Honors Society](#) page
 - Several changes for 2024-25 school year, so read them closely (including “Effective Date and Previously-Completed Hours” for any work completed prior to September 23, 2024)
- Report hours through 12Twenty’s “Experiential Learning Module”
 - See [Step-by-Step Guide](#) for instructions
 - No need to re-submit hours already submitted to Gates PSL before the start of the 2024-25 school year (email gatespsl@uw.edu if you want to verify previously-submitted hours)



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, 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



NextGen Bar Exam: It's Here!

- NextGen UBE Bar Exam* debuts in July 2026. This is the bar you will take if you are planning to be a Washington attorney. You can find the list of states that have adopted NextGen [here](#).
- The current UBE remains the bar exam in most jurisdictions.

*The NCBE announced the name change of the new bar exam yesterday. (4-16-25)



What's the difference between the NextGen UBE and the current UBE?

Uniform Bar Exam (current)

4 sessions over 2 days

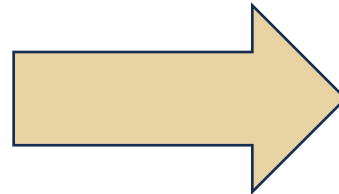
Day 1

Six Essays (30 minutes each)

Two Performance Tests (90 minutes each)

Day 2

200 Multiple-Choice Questions (6 hours total)



NextGen UBE Bar Exam (new)

3 sessions over 1.5 days

Each session contains:

- Performance Tests (60 minutes each)
- Multiple-Choice Questions
- Integrated Question Sets

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
(you will be provided resources)

SUBJECTS REMOVED:

Secured Transactions
Conflict of Laws

Content Scope Outlines on NextGen UBE: Starred v. Unstarred Topics

Starred Topics

Starred topics require an examinee to rely *solely on recalled knowledge* (memorize the topic).

v.

Unstarred Topics

Unstarred topics require an examinee to spot issues and work efficiently with provided legal resources to perform analyses and evaluation tasks.

Foundational Skills Tested on NextGen UBE

- Issue spotting and analysis, investigation and evaluation
- Client counseling and advising, negotiation and dispute resolution, client relationship and management
- Legal research
- Legal writing and drafting

Integrated Question Sets: A New Format

- Integrated question sets **replace** essays and are worth approximately 30% of total score.
- Each integrated question set is based on a common fact scenario and may include some legal resources and/or supplemental documents (e.g., a police report or an excerpt from a deposition).
- Answers include a mixture of multiple-choice and short-answers. Some integrated question sets will focus on drafting or editing a legal document; other sets will focus on counseling and/or dispute resolution.
- Collection of 6 questions per Integrated Question Sets.

Integrated Question Sets: Examples

The client is in a month-to-month lease. The lease identifies the landlord as “Rentals LLC.” The lease was signed by both your client and the property manager, who signed as “the Managing and Sole Member of Rentals LLC.” *The lease includes the following provision:*

[LEASE CLAUSE]

You are an associate at a small law firm. You attend a meeting between your supervisor and a new client, a homeowner in a dispute with a contractor. *The following is an excerpt from the transcript of the interview:*

[INTERVIEW NOTES]

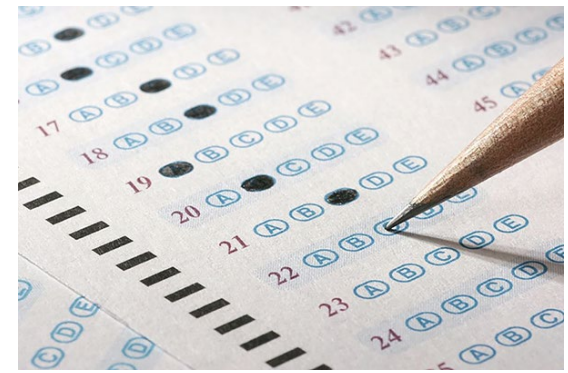
The lease does not include any provision on what damages may be available in the event of breach. Your jurisdiction has a residential landlord-tenant statute that applies to the lease. *The following is an excerpt from that statute:*

[STATUTE]

Question prompt examples:

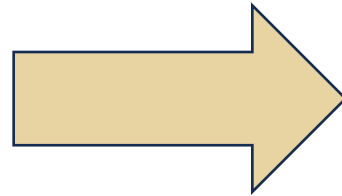
List two legal or practical drawbacks of hiring another contractor to repair the pool and complete the patio in time for the party. *The length of each answer should be about one sentence or phrase.*

Multiple-Choice Section Changes



Uniform Bar Exam

- 50% of exam
- Two 3-hour sessions on Day 2
- 200 MCQS
- One type of question of single select with four answer choices and one correct answer.



NextGen UBE Bar Exam

- 40% of exam
- Present in each of the three sessions
- Two types of questions: Single select with four answer choices and one correct answer and multiple select with four to six answer choices and one or more correct answers

Performance Tasks

Very similar to the current Multistate Performance Test (MPT), but less time! Examinees must demonstrate the ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in realistic situations, completing tasks that a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish.

Potential tasks may include a short-constructed response to questions focused on research skills (yet to be seen), multiple choice questions (yet to be seen) or a longer writing assignment involving one of the tasks below:

- Objective memo
- Complaint
- Affidavit
- Persuasive brief in support of a motion
- Client letter or email
- Demand letter
- Closing statement
- Contract provisions
- Articles of incorporation
- Bench memo

Washington Bar Exam - Key Dates for July 2026

Make a note in your calendar now!

February 1st WSBA Summer 2026 Bar Application Opens (\$595 fee)

March 5th WSBA deadline for Summer 2026 Application

April 5th WSBA \$300 Late Fee deadline for Summer 2026 application

May 9th ADA Reasonable Accommodation Requests Deadline

(at least 80 days before the first day of the exam, but submit early)

May 18^{th-ish} Commercial Bar Review Calendar Begins

Late May Last Day of Final Exams for Spring Quarter (schedule earlier)

Early June Graduation Ceremony

July 28th first day of the bar



Washington Application Process

You can hear directly from the WSBA about their application process, including details about Character and Fitness on the Academic Success Canvas page [here](#). Note that this is the recording for 2025 and there might be changes before you apply. We will invite the WSBA back to campus in early 2026 to talk with you.

You should also visit the Washington State Bar Association website [here](#) and review the FAQs, including the requirements for the Character and Fitness determination.

Not taking the Washington Bar? Please visit the NCBE's [Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements](#).



MPRE

Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam


TEST ADMINISTRATION	RECOMMENDED SUBMISSION DATE TO APPLY FOR ACCOMMODATIONS	REGISTRATION DEADLINE FEE: \$160
March 26 or 27, 2024	December 5, 2023	January 25, 2024
August 13 or 14, 2024	April 24, 2024	June 12, 2024
November 7 or 8, 2024	July 24, 2024	September 18, 2024

The Washington Law Component



Academic Success Bar Programs for the July 2025 Bar Exam

To give you a sense of our comprehensive programming.

- Bar Week (January 27- Feb 1)
 - WSBA Presentation 
 - Early Bar Prep Guidance (Spring Quarter Planning Considerations)
 - Saturday Simulated MBE Exam
- E578 Foundations in American Law Tested on the Bar Exam offered Winter and Spring Quarters. You can take either quarter.

(Next year, I also plan to offer a 1-credit Performance Test course in Spring Quarter.)
- Bar Review Company Orientation Workshops with Representatives from Barbri (April 29) and Themis (May 1)
- MPT Workshop Bootcamp (May 3)
- Early Bar Prep Q&A (May 7)
- Regularly Scheduled Emails with Tips and Strategies to Bar Takers
- Essay Writing Workshops (every week in June)
- In-Person Simulated All-Day Exam (July 9)
- Post-Simulated Exam Workshop (July 10)
- Individual assistance available throughout the year

**For more information, please visit the modules on the
Academic Success Program's Canvas Page.**

