

JD COURSE PLANNING 2025-2026

Rising 2L and 3L students who expect to attend during any quarter of the academic year should review this packet and submit course requests by the indicated deadlines. Course requests should cover the full academic year and **are limited to 18 credits per quarter. Requests in excess of 18 credits will be disregarded in this process.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, April 3	Clinic Registration Fair 12:30 – 1:20 pm (Room 138)
Friday, April 4	Clinic Bidding Opens
Tuesday, April 8	Clinic Tabling 12:00 – 1:20 pm (Galleria)
Wednesday, April 9	Clinic Tabling 12:00 – 1:20 pm (Galleria)
Monday, April 14	Clinic Bidding Closes 12:00 pm
Tuesday, April 15	1L Course Planning 12:30 – 1:20 pm (Room 138)
Thursday, April 17	2L Course Planning/Finishing Strong 12:30 – 1:20 pm (Room 138)
Monday, April 21	Drop-In Advising 12:30 – 1:20 pm (Room 127)
Friday, April 25	Course Catalog and Course Schedules published. Course Requests page activated, with clinic results included.
Wednesday, May 7	Deadline for Course Requests submissions 12:00 pm <i>Failure to submit by the deadline excludes students from course lotteries.</i>
Monday, May 12	Course Requests results and Autumn add codes available.
	Autumn Registration opens on MyUW
Monday, June 16	Deadline for priority registration for Autumn clinics and courses. <i>Failure to register may result in the loss of a spot in a clinic or high-demand course.</i>
Monday, June 23	Summer classes begin.

RESOURCES

Academic Calendar	https://www.law.washington.edu/students/calendar.aspx?YR=2025
Course Catalog	https://www.law.washington.edu/coursecatalog/default.aspx
MyLaw Course Requests:	https://www.law.washington.edu/students/private/default.aspx?s=planning
Course Schedules	https://www.law.washington.edu/coursecatalog/schedules/default.aspx?v2
JD Graduation Requirements	https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx
Registration Instructions	https://www.law.washington.edu/students/registration/default.aspx
Exam Information	https://www.law.washington.edu/students/exams/default.aspx
Concentration Tracks	https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/concentration/default.aspx
Specialized Practice Areas	https://www.law.washington.edu/career/students/findingajob/practicearea.aspx
Student Handbook	https://www.law.washington.edu/students/studenthandbook.pdf

Please note that course offerings are subject to change. The actual offering of courses is subject to enrollment, faculty availability, and funding. We plan to offer the published courses if (a) pre-enrollment justifies it; (b) appropriate faculty are available; and (c) the required funding is available. *The Autumn [Time Schedule](#) on MyUW may not reflect recent changes.*

I. J.D. Graduation Requirements

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

- a. 135 credits
- b. 8 residence quarters
(<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#Res>)
- c. First-year curriculum
(<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#1L>)
- d. Upper-Level Courses
(<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#23L>)
 - i. [LAW A 509 Administrative Law](#) (at least 4 credits)
 - ii. [LAW A 515 Business Organizations](#) (at least 4 credits)
 - iii. [LAW B 503 Evidence](#) (at least 4 credits)
 - iv. [LAW B 510 Problems in Professional Responsibility](#) (PR) (at least 4 credits)

3L students will receive priority in required classes in the course selection process, but not for a particular section or quarter.

A NOTE ABOUT THE MPRE

Students are encouraged to take the MPRE (Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam) before graduation. The MPRE is administered in August, November, and March. See the National Conference of Bar Examiners website (<https://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/registering-mpre>) for registration and deadlines. *Register early to ensure your preferred testing location!*

NOTE: Any UW disability accommodations do not automatically transfer for the MPRE or the Bar exam. They have separate criteria. If you have questions, you can contact Britt Neff at neffb@uw.edu.

- e. Perspectives Distributional Requirement
(<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#Perspectives>)
- f. Global Law Distributional Requirement
(<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#Global>)
- g. Advanced Writing Requirement
(<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#Writing>)
 - i. All JD students must successfully complete an advanced writing project. This ABA requirement ensures students have significant experience developing skills in research, analysis, and writing. Writing projects vary, but must be substantial, providing evidence of high-level research and analysis. Faculty supervision and student revision are essential. The project should extend over two or more quarters but may, with the faculty supervisor's approval, be completed in one quarter. **We strongly encourage students satisfy this requirement by the end of the quarter before their final quarter, whenever possible.** Students may fulfill this requirement in one of two ways:
 1. By writing and revising a writing project (or set of projects) in any UW School of Law course (including a seminars or clinics) that is open to second- or third-year law students and that carries at least 3 credits, provided that the course either requires completion of a substantial writing project or offers a substantial writing component as an option. To satisfy the Advanced Writing Requirement in this way, the student must: (1) obtain permission, prior to the first day of the third week of classes, from the faculty member teaching the course; (2) meet with the faculty supervisor to discuss at least one draft of the project or set of projects; and (3) submit the revised project or set of projects

to the faculty supervisor on or before the due date he or she specifies (This is Option 1 on the [Advanced Writing Agreement Form](#)).

2. By revising a preexisting and substantial writing project that the student initially drafted after that student's 1L year in any course (including a seminar or a clinic), externship, moot court competition, or while working on a journal. To satisfy the Advanced Writing Requirement in this way, the student must: (1) obtain permission from a full-time faculty member willing to supervise revision of the preexisting writing project; (2) meet with the faculty to discuss at least one revised draft of the writing project; and (3) submit the final revised writing project to the faculty supervisor on or before the due date he or she specifies. For purposes of satisfying the Advanced Writing Requirement in this way, students must enroll in LAW E 500 ("Independent Writing Project") for either one or two credits (This is Option 2 on the [Advanced Writing Agreement Form](#)).

h. Experiential Requirement

(<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#Experiential>)

All JD students must complete at least 9 credits of experiential course work through simulation courses, law clinics, or externships. Courses satisfying this requirement must be primarily experiential in nature, integrating doctrine, theory, skills, and ethics, with opportunities for performance & self-evaluation.

i. Public Service Requirement

(<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/graduation.aspx#PService>)

All JD students must perform at least 50 hours of uncompensated public service legal work during their 2L or 3L year in a pre-approved course or program, under the supervision of a judge, attorney, or otherwise qualified individual. The Gates Public Service Law Program maintains a list of pre-approved courses and projects, including student-led pro bono projects. Courses include clinics, public service externships, or Street Law. UW Law-based programs include the Moderate Means Program and the Rural Alaska Tax Program. **All externships must be approved by the Externship Program in advance.**

II. General Policies & Information

- a. The ABA limits the number of credits earned outside of regularly scheduled law school courses. This rule provides the maximum number of credits a JD student may count in each of the below categories:
 - i. LAW 600 C, D, E or F (Independent Study) – 8 credits.
Credits for Moot Court or journal editorial work should be claimed in the quarter of completion or the quarter following.
 - ii. LAW E 500 (Advanced Writing Project) – 3 credits.
 - iii. Non-LAW courses (those taken in other units of the University) and externships – 18 credits.
 - iv. LAW 600 Independent Study and LAW E 500 Advanced Writing Projects are required to be supervised by full-time faculty. *Part-time faculty may supervise LAW E 500 projects only with the permission of an Associate Dean.*
- b. Cautionary note on Credit/No Credit courses. UW Law does not restrict the number of ungraded credits. The Order of the Coif, the national honor society for the top 10% of the graduating JD class requires that at least 75% law school courses.

An analysis of bar results shows a correlation between a high number of ungraded credits and failure to pass the bar exam on the first attempt. *3L students are strongly encouraged to take several exam-based courses in their final two quarters before graduation.*

- c. Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory (S/NS) grading (<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/jdprogram.aspx?vw=2L3L#grading>). JD students may take up to 8 credits of non-required classes on a Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory (S/NS) basis. These individual elections are not visible to faculty. Grades of "C" (2.0) or above convert to S ("Satisfactory"). Courses taken on an S/NS basis count as non-graded courses for the purposes of qualifying for Order of the Coif. Students may elect S/NS through the last day of the quarter.
- d. Spring Quarter – All upper-level courses meet for eight weeks in Spring quarter.

III. General Planning Advice

- a. What's the normal upper-level course load?
 - i. In order to complete the JD in 9 quarters, students need to take an average of 15 credits per quarter in their 2L and 3L years. Most upper-level students take 16-17 credits a quarter (4-5 courses).
 - ii. Students seeking to graduate in 2+ years should review the Accelerated JD page (<http://www.law.washington.edu/Students/Academics/AcceleratedJD.aspx>).

A NOTE ABOUT RULE 9 LICENSED LEGAL INTERN ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to be a WSBA Rule 9 Licensed Legal Intern (<https://www.wsba.org/for-legal-professionals/join-the-legal-profession-in-wa/rule-9-licensed-legal-interns>) you must complete 90+ credits.

Submit a Rule 9 Certification Request Form to request certification:

<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/forms/documents/Rule9CertificationRequest.pdf>.

- b. How do I know if there is an exam or final paper?
The [Exams](https://www.law.washington.edu/students/exams/default.aspx) page (<https://www.law.washington.edu/students/exams/default.aspx>) lists known exam and paper courses; some faculty finalize this decision closer to the quarter.
- c. What are strongly recommended upper-level courses?
 - i. [LAW A 519 Trusts and Estates](#)
 - ii. [LAW A 530 Individual Income Tax](#)
 - iii. [LAW A 592 Constitutional Law II](#)
 - iv. [LAW B 500 Civil Procedure II](#)
 - v. [LAW B 515 Criminal Procedure: Investigation](#)
- d. How do JD students satisfy the Advanced Writing Requirement? The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that each student develops skills in research, analysis, and writing by working on a writing project during the 2L or 3L year under faculty supervision. The project may take the form of a scholarly work, or it may involve producing a practice-oriented document such as a brief, transactional document, or draft legislation. Whatever form it takes, the project must be substantial and demonstrate a high level of research, analysis, and writing. The project must also be completed under faculty supervision and involve at least one revision.
- e. What about the Bar Exam?
 - i. You can find general information about the bar exam on the Academic Success Program's website here: <https://www.law.uw.edu/student-life/academic-success-program/information-about-the-bar>.

To determine the admissions requirements (and specific subjects tested) in the state in which you intend to practice, see the National Conference of Bar Examiners' *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admissions Requirements* posted at <http://www.ncbex.org/publications/bar-admissions-guide/>.

- ii. Washington State Bar applicants must pass the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). The UBE consists of:

1. The Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) - Subjects tested include Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Real Property and Torts;
 2. The Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) - Subjects that may be covered include Business Associations, Conflicts of Law, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law & Procedure, Evidence, Family Law, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts, Trusts & Estates, and Secured Transactions courses; and
 3. The Multistate Performance Test (MPT) – This portion of the exam tests lawyering skills such as drafting a memo, a brief, a client letter, etc.
- iii. Washington applicants must also pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) no more than 3 years prior to or 40 months after the successful UBE.
 - iv. Finally, applicants must pass the Washington Law Component (WLC) within 40 months of the date of the administration of the UBE in which the applicant achieves a passing score.
- f. What courses should I take if I am thinking about a judicial clerkship?
- i. Select courses strategically to maximize the knowledge and skills needed for clerking and to build strong relationships with faculty.
 - ii. See the materials posted at <https://www.law.washington.edu/clerkships/> for specific recommendations.
- g. Why should I consider doing a Concentration Track?
- i. To gain expertise in a specialized practice area and to prepare for practice. Tracks include Asian Law; Dispute Resolution; Environmental Law; Global Business Law; Health Law; Intellectual Property & Technology Law; International & Comparative Law; Law, Business and Entrepreneurship; and Public Service Law.
 - ii. See the Concentration Tracks page for details: <https://www.law.washington.edu/students/academics/concentration/default.aspx>.
- h. Graduate Law Courses
- i. Courses with the prefix of LAW H, LAW P, or LAW T are offered by the graduate programs in Health, Intellectual Property and Tax. LLM students have registration priority.
 - ii. JD students may take these courses if they meet the prerequisites or obtain permission from the program director. Some courses restrict enrollment to graduate students; for example, LAW B 588 Leadership in Sustainable Development Colloquium is restricted to graduate students in the SID program. Most tax (LAW T) classes require completion of [LAW A 530 Individual Income Tax](#).
- i. Clinics – Policies
- i. Clinical Requirements: Enrollment in all clinics is limited. Some clinics are open to both 2L and 3L students. Some clinics require students to be Rule 9 certified which requires completion of at least 90 credits, or 3L standing. Several clinics have prerequisites or co-requisites. For an overview of requirements, including FAQs, see <https://www.law.washington.edu/students/clinics/default.aspx>. A chart of each clinic's requirements is at <https://www.law.washington.edu/students/clinics/schedule.aspx>.
 - ii. Enrollment Priorities for Clinics: In general, priority is given to: (1) 3L students with no prior clinic; (2) 2L students with no prior clinic; (3) 3L students with a prior clinic; and (4) 2L students with a prior clinic. Each clinic may have additional selection criteria; see the eligibility chart on the clinics page: <https://www.law.washington.edu/students/clinics/schedule.aspx>.
 - iii. Selection Process: Students must submit the online Clinic Request Form and associated applications by the published deadline. ***Students offered a place in a clinic that begins Autumn Quarter must accept and register by the published deadline.***

- iv. Clinic Policy for Multi-Quarter Clinics: For most multi-quarter clinics, students must commit to enrolling for the entire academic year, and they will receive credit only upon completion of all three quarters.
- v. Early Graduation: A faculty member, on an overload basis, may allow a 3L student graduating early to enroll in and receive credit for fewer than all quarters of a multi-quarter clinic. This policy requires clinic supervisor approval before enrolling in the clinic.
- j. Limited Enrollment Courses:
 - i. The number of students requesting each course will be tallied to assess whether there are more requests than spaces available. If the requests do not exceed available space or enrollment limitation, all students will be approved.
 - ii. For over-subscribed courses selection is done by lottery.
 - iii. Registration for limited enrollment classes: ***Students awarded a space by lottery must register for the class by the deadline or they will lose their space to students on the wait list.***
- k. Non-law Courses for JD Credit

A law student may earn up to 18 quarter-hours of credit toward the JD degree for non-law coursework. Students must seek approval through the [Credit for Non-Law Course](#) form to document how such course work contributes to their professional education. ***Only graded, graduate-level or courses numbered 400-level or above will be approved.***

Non-law courses and externship credits combined cannot exceed a total of 18 credits. A full-time externship will limit the amount of non-law credits that can be counted toward a JD degree.

IV. Study Abroad

We believe that meaningful and closely monitored educational opportunities abroad help our students become culturally competent leaders and lawyers.

- a. Planning Considerations:

Before enrolling in a study abroad program students must obtain academic approval from UW Law and develop a written plan that defines the student’s objectives for the study abroad. Students must also follow all steps outlined by the UW Study Abroad program (<https://www.washington.edu/studyabroad/>).
- b. Tuition and Financial Aid:

Students participating in UW Law or UW exchange programs are eligible to pay UW tuition for study abroad rather than the overseas tuition. The student must enroll concurrently in the foreign institution and UW and pay a concurrent enrollment fee each quarter. Students should consult with the Law School Financial Aid Office about financial aid for study abroad. Travel scholarships include funding through the Asian Law Center and the Bretschneider Scholarship to Study Intellectual Property Law Abroad.
- c. UW Law School Study Abroad Partners:

The Law School has exchange agreements with the law faculties of the universities listed on UW Study Abroad page: <https://www.washington.edu/studyabroad/>.
- d. Grades from study abroad programs are not posted to the transcript or calculated into the UW Law GPA.

V. Planning/Advising Resources

- a. See the “Academic Advising” section in the [Student Handbook](#).
- b. Talk to your faculty, administrators, upper-level students.
- c. Talk with Center for Career Development to clarify what courses would be best for your career goals.