

To: All Returning Students  
From: Widener Law Commonwealth Faculty  
Re: Required/Menu Classes  
Date: April 2017

This Memo will assist you in selecting classes for the 2017-18 academic year. Under the current curricular requirements there are three categories of classes: REQUIRED CLASSES, MENU CLASSES, and ELECTIVE CLASSES.<sup>1</sup>

## **REQUIRED CLASSES**

There are two groups of REQUIRED CLASSES: the First Year Classes and the Upper Level Required classes.

The First Year Classes are Civil Procedure I & II, Contracts I & II, Criminal Law, Legal Methods I & II, Property I & II and Torts I & II. All Regular Division students must take these classes in their first year. Extended Division Students also must take these classes in their first year, except for Property I & II and Criminal Law, which are taken in the second year.

The Upper Level Required Classes are Administrative Law, Business Organizations, Constitutional Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Fundamentals of the Bar Exam, Legal Methods III, Professional Responsibility, and Sales & Leases. Additionally, all students must complete the Upper Level Writing requirement and the Experiential Learning requirement.

All students must take and pass all of the required classes. *Do not put off most of your required courses until your last semester because not all required courses are offered every semester.*

### **Experiential Learning Classes**

Students who matriculated in August 2015 or after must take 6 credit hours of Experiential Learning classes. Of those 6 credits, 2 credits must be satisfied by enrollment in a clinic, externship, or practicum. The ABA rule previously required “substantial instruction in ... professional skills” but now requires “experiential course(s) totaling at least six credit hours.” Generally, most existing skills classes meet the new definition of experiential learning. Classes that have been certified as complying with the new definition are noted as such on the class schedule. For students who matriculated before August 2015, the old rule requiring one Skills class remains applicable.

## **MENU CLASSES**

The Menu system is designed to give you more flexibility both in choosing which classes you will take as well as when you will take them. During the second year of law school all students have the opportunity to take at least one Menu or Elective class.

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<sup>1</sup> For a complete list of graduation requirements, see §1-201 of the Academic Code.

As you begin to consider which Menu classes to take in the next semester you need to consider how many Menu classes you will need to take to graduate. The more Menu classes that you need, the earlier you should begin to take some of them.

There are two groups of MENU CLASSES: Menu A and Menu B.

The Menu A classes are Family Law (3 credits), Federal Income Tax, First Amendment, Remedies, Secured Transactions and Wills and Trusts.

The Menu B classes are Advanced Criminal Procedure, Bankruptcy, Conflicts, Copyright and Trademark, Disability Law, Employment Discrimination, Environmental Law, Federal Courts, Immigration, Labor Law, Legislation, Payment Systems, Real Estate Transactions (3 credits), State Constitutional Law, and Taxation of Business Entities.

### **DETERMINING HOW MANY MENU CLASSES YOU MUST TAKE**

The number of MENU CLASSES that you must take depends on your grade point average in required and menu courses at the end of the semester in which you have attempted 40 credits. For most RD students this is after your third semester. For most ED students this is after your fourth semester. The number of attempted credits includes classes in which you have received a letter grade (including an F), the grade of Pass/Fail, and the grade of IW for exceeding the permitted number of absences. Your GPA for the purpose of determining the number MENU CLASSES or MENU hours that you will be required to take is calculated based only on the REQUIRED and MENU CLASSES that you have taken at the end of the semester in which you have attempted 40 credits.

#### ***Current 1RD, 2RD, 1ED, and 2ED students:***

For students who matriculated in August 2015 or after, students with a GPA of 3.000 or above must take and pass 9 credit hours or more of courses from either Menu A or Menu B. Students with a GPA of 2.500 to 2.999 must take and pass 15 credit hours or more of menu courses, 7 or more of which must be from Menu A. Students with a GPA of 2.499 or below must take and pass 18 credit hours or more of menu courses, 10 or more of which must be from Menu A.

#### ***Current 3ED students:***

For students who matriculated before August 2015, students with a GPA of 3.000 or above must take and pass 3 or more classes from either Menu A or Menu B. Students with a GPA of 2.500 to 2.999 must take and pass 2 or more classes from Menu A and 3 or more additional classes from either Menu A or Menu B. Students with a GPA of 2.499 or below must take and pass 3 or more classes from Menu A and 4 or more additional classes from either Menu A or Menu B.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have taken the required number and type of MENU CLASSES that you need in order to graduate. If you are unsure if you are on track to complete the requirements, please check with the Registrar or the Director of Student Affairs.

### **CHOOSING WHICH MENU CLASSES TO TAKE**

In making your course selections, consider not only classes that are of interest to you but also consider that some classes have prerequisites that you will need to complete before taking a particular class.

For example, students have the opportunity to earn certificates in Law and Government ([Constitutional/Administrative Law](#) or [Legislation](#)), [Environmental Law](#), [Business Advising](#) and [Advocacy](#). Each of these certificate programs has prerequisites for doing advanced coursework.

- If you are interested in the Law & Government certificate, RD students should take Administrative Law in the second year and ED students should take Administrative Law in the fall of their second or third year fall as it is a prerequisite for many advanced Law & Government classes.
- If you are interested in the Advocacy certificate, Regular Division students should take Evidence and Professional Responsibility in the fall of the second year and Extended Division students should take these courses no later than the fall of the third year because these courses are prerequisites for most of the required advocacy courses.
- If you are interested in the Environmental Law Certificate, you should take Environmental Law during your second year or third year for extended division students to prepare you for more advanced coursework in this area.
- If you are interested in the Business Advising Certificate, RD students should take Business Organizations and Federal Income Tax in the fall of their second year. ED students should take either Business Organizations or Federal Income Tax in the spring of their second year. Taking these foundational courses as soon as possible prepares you for more advanced coursework in business law.

If you have questions about which classes you should take or if you are interested in a particular area of the law you should consult a faculty member who teaches in that area or the Director of Student Affairs. We caution you, however, not to focus too narrowly in any one area, but to use your time in law school to understand and explore a variety of areas of the law.

If you are undecided about what kind of legal career you would like, we suggest that you choose classes to give yourself a broad range of substantive classes and acquire as many skills as you can. This will help you decide what you like and don't like while giving you the greatest flexibility to take advanced courses. Additionally, you should work with the Career Development Office to learn more about the best ways to prepare for different legal careers.

We provide students with a variety of opportunities to gain practical experience through our Clinics and Extern programs. To participate in the Civil Law Clinic, the Clinical Extern Program, or be certified as a Legal Intern, you must successfully complete Professional Responsibility and Evidence. Section 1-304 of the Academic Code defines successful completion of these classes as having earned the grade of C or better. *We urge Regular Division students to take Professional Responsibility and Evidence in your second year. We urge Extended Division students to take Professional Responsibility and Evidence in your second or third year so that you will have the prerequisites to participate in these programs.*

### **PARTICULAR REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FALL 2017:**

**Current 1 ED students** will be registered for Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, and Property I by the Registrar's Office for the fall 2017 semester. Please know that Criminal Law is only offered in the evening every other year.

**Current 2 ED students** should register for Sales & Leases and Criminal Law for the fall 2017 semester. Please know that Sales & Leases and Criminal Law are only offered in the evening every other year. You should also begin taking your Experiential Learning classes in your third year, paying particular attention to the requirement that 2 of the 6 experiential learning credits must come from the clinic, an externship, or a practicum.

**Current 3ED students** should register for Sales & Leases and Fundamentals of the Bar Exam in the fall semester. If you had a cumulative GPA of 2.700 or above after completing 40 credits, you may waive out of Fundamentals.

In addition, 3ED students should consider any remaining graduation requirements including Menu, Skills, and other class requirements in selecting your courses for the fall 2017 semester. Finally, if you have not completed the writing requirement for graduation, you are encouraged to register for a seminar during the fall semester.

**Note for all ED Students:** *Because not all required courses are offered each year in the extended division, deviations from the scheduling of required courses may only be done in consultation with the Director of Student Affairs. Postponing a required class may delay your graduation or require you to take a day class.*

**Current 1 RD students** should register for Constitutional Law in the fall 2017 semester. It is recommended that you register for two or more additional required classes for the fall 2017 semester. You should also begin taking your Experiential Learning classes paying particular attention to the requirement that 2 of the 6 experiential learning credits must come from the clinic, an externship, or a practicum.

**Current 2 RD students** must register for any required courses that you have not yet taken. You also should consider any remaining graduation requirements including Menu, Experiential, and other class requirements in selecting your courses for the fall

2017 semester. In addition, if you have not completed the writing requirement for graduation, you are encouraged to register for a seminar during the fall semester. As a 2RD student, you may enroll in Fundamentals of the Bar Exam in the fall semester (evening). If you do not enroll in the fall evening section of Fundamentals, you must enroll in the spring day section. If you had a cumulative GPA of 2.700 or above after completing 40 credits, you may waive out of Fundamentals.

## REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

### **A. Required Classes** – All classes must be taken:

#### 1. First Year Required Classes:

Civil Procedure I & II	Torts I & II
Contracts I & II	Legal Methods I & II
Property I & II	Criminal Law

#### 2. Upper Level Required Classes:

Administrative Law	Fundamentals of the Bar Exam
Business Organizations	Legal Methods III
Constitutional Law	Professional Responsibility
Criminal Procedure	Sales & Leases
Evidence	Upper Level Writing Requirement
Skills or Experiential Learning:	
- Skills Class – 2 credits ( <i>current 3ED students only</i> )	
- Experiential Learning Courses – 6 credits, 2 of which must be clinic, externship, or practicum ( <i>current 1RD, 2RD, 1ED and 2ED students</i> )	

### **B. Menu Classes** – Number of classes or credit hours required depends on GPA:

#### 1. Menu A Classes:

Family Law (3 credits)	Remedies
Federal Income Tax	Secured Transactions
First Amendment	Wills & Trusts

#### 2. Menu B Classes:

Advanced Criminal Procedure	Immigration
Bankruptcy	Labor Law
Conflicts	Legislation
Copyright & Trademark	Payment Systems
Disability Law	Real Estate Transactions (3 credits)
Employment Discrimination	State Constitutional Law
Environmental Law	Taxation of Business Entities
Federal Courts	

#### 3. Menu Class GPA & Requirements: Your GPA for Menu purposes is calculated using Required and Menu classes taken. It is not your cumulative GPA.

<i>Current 3ED students</i>	<b>Menu A</b>	<b>Menu A or B</b>
GPA = 2.499 or lower	3 classes	4 classes
GPA = 2.500 → 2.999	2 classes	3 classes
GPA = 3.000 or higher		3 classes

<i>Current 1RD, 2RD, 1ED, and 2ED students</i>	<b>Menu A</b>	<b>Menu A or B</b>
GPA = 2.499 or lower	10 credits	8 credits
GPA = 2.500 → 2.999	7 credits	8 credits
GPA = 3.000 or higher		9 credits