

To: All Returning Students
From: Widener Law Commonwealth Faculty
Re: Required/Menu Classes
Date: October 2016

This Memo will assist you in selecting classes for the 2016-17 academic year. Under the current curricular requirements there are three categories of classes: REQUIRED CLASSES, MENU CLASSES, and ELECTIVE CLASSES.¹

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 after their first 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.

Students who matriculated before August 2015 must take one Skills class. Students who matriculated in August 2015 or after must take 6 credit hours of Experiential Learning classes in lieu of taking one Skills Class.

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.*

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.

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.

¹ For a complete list of graduation requirements, see Section 1-201 of the Academic Code.

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 Enterprises.

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, 1ED, 2RD, 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 3RD, 3ED, and 4ED 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, you should take Administrative Law 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 (c) 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 SPRING 2017:

First year students will automatically be registered for their spring courses.

December 2017 graduates should register for all their remaining required courses if possible. Do not assume that all required courses will be offered next fall.

Current 2 ED students should register for Business Organizations, Property II and Professional Responsibility. Students may choose a 2 or 3-credit menu course or elective. Please be advised that Business Organizations will only be offered in the evening every other year.

Current 3ED students should register for Business Organizations and may choose 7-8 credits of menu or elective courses. Please be advised that Business Organizations will only be offered in the evening every other year.

In addition, 3ED students should consider any remaining graduation requirements including Menu, Skills, and other class requirements in selecting your courses for the spring 2017 semester. Finally, if you have not completed the writing requirement for graduation, you are encouraged to register for a seminar during the spring 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 2 RD students should register for at least two required courses, particularly if you have three or four remaining required courses to complete. You also should consider any remaining graduation requirements including Menu, Experiential, and other class requirements in selecting your courses for the spring 2017 semester. In addition, if you have not completed the writing requirement for graduation, you are encouraged to register for a seminar during the spring semester.

REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

A. REQUIRED CLASSES – You must take all of these classes

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	
Skills Class (current 3RD, 3ED, 4ED students)	
Experiential Learning Courses – 6 credits (current 1RD, 1ED, 2RD and 2ED students)	
Upper Level Writing Requirement.	

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	

MENU CLASS REQUIREMENTS

*** NOTE: Your GPA for determining the number of Menu classes required is calculated using Required and Menu classes taken – not cumulative GPA. ***

Current 3RD, 3ED, and 4ED students	Menu A	Menu A or 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

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