

To: All Students  
From: Commonwealth Law Faculty  
Re: Required & Menu Classes

The memo will assist you in selecting your classes for the fall 2026 semester and keep you on schedule to meet all graduation requirements.<sup>1</sup> You are responsible for ensuring that you have taken the necessary Required, Menu, and other classes that you need in order to graduate. If you are unsure of the requirements or your progress in meeting them, please see the Registrar or the Dean of Students.

### **PARTICULAR REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FALL 2026:**

Current 1RD students should register for Constitutional Law. It is recommended that you register for two or more additional required classes.

Current 1ED students should register for Constitutional Law, Torts II, and Property I.

Current 2RD students should 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. In addition, if you have not completed the writing requirement for graduation, you are encouraged to register for a seminar during the summer or fall semester. As a current 2RD student, you may enroll in Fundamentals of the Bar Exam in the fall semester (evening). If you do not, then you must enroll in the spring day section. If you had a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or above after completing 40 credits, you may waive out of FOBE.

Current 2ED students should register for First Amendment\* and Administrative Law\*.

Current 3ED students should register for Administrative Law\*, First Amendment\*, and Fundamentals of the Bar Exam. If you had a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or above after completing 40 credits, you may waive out of FOBE.

In addition, 2ED and 3ED students should consider any remaining graduation requirements including Menu, Experiential, and other class requirements in selecting your courses. Finally, if you have not completed the writing requirement for graduation, you are encouraged to register for a seminar during the summer or fall semester.

**Note for all Upper Level Students:** You should consider the number of Menu courses that you are required to complete to ensure Menu requirements will be met prior graduation. Do not leave more than one Menu course for your final semester.

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

**\*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 be done only in consultation with the Assistant Dean of Students. Postponing a required class may delay your graduation or require you to take a day class. In particular, please note that Administrative Law and First Amendment are offered in the evening every other year and will not be offered again until fall 2028.*

## **THE CURRICULUM**

### **REQUIRED CLASSES**

Generally. The Required classes are divided between 1L Required Classes and Upper Level Required Classes. All RD students must take the 1L Required Classes in their first year; ED students must take these classes as they are scheduled in their first or second year. **Do not put off your Upper Level Required classes until your last semester because not all Required courses are offered every semester.**

Experiential Learning Classes. You 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.

Writing Requirement. Each student must successfully complete an intensive upper level writing experience through a designated course prior to graduation. It is suggested that you do not wait until your final semester to complete the writing requirement. RD students should consider registering for a course that satisfies the requirement in the spring of their second year or fall of their final year and ED students during their third year or fall of their final year.

### **MENU CLASSES**

When Determined. The number of Menu course credits you must take is determined at the end of the semester in which you have attempted 40 credits. For most RD students this will be after your third semester. For most ED students this will be after your fourth semester. In determining whether you have attempted 40 credits, any class in which you have received a letter grade, including an F or a Pass, is included.

How Determined. The number of Menu credits you must take depends on your GPA. For this purpose, your GPA is calculated based only on the grades earned in Required and Menu classes that you have taken to this point. Grades in elective classes are not included.

How Many. If your GPA is below a 3.000 after 40 attempted credits, you must take and pass three menu courses from the following list – Family Law, Federal Courts, Federal Income Taxation, Products Liability, and Remedies. If your GPA is above a 3.000 after 40 attempted credits, you will not have a menu course requirement.

**Note for all Upper Level Students with GPA below a 3.000:** If you have successfully completed Secured Transactions by the end of the Spring 2026 semester, you will be permitted to use that course as one of your three required menu courses.

## **COURSE SELECTION**

**Generally.** As you begin to consider which classes to take next semester you should consider which Menu or Elective classes are of interest or may be useful to you. In particular, the more Menu classes you need to graduate, the earlier you should begin taking them. Also, remember to take any prerequisite classes for the upper level classes that you want to take. If you have questions about which classes to take or if you are interested in a particular area of the law, please consult a faculty member who teaches in that area or the Dean of Students.

**What If I Don't Know What Kind of Law I Want to Practice?** 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 different types of substantive classes and to acquire as many skills as you can. This will give you the greatest flexibility after law school and also help you decide what you like and don't like. Additionally, you should work with the Career Development Office to learn about the best ways to prepare for different legal careers.

**What if I Want to Complete a Certificate Program?** You have the opportunity to earn certificates in Law and Government (specifically: [Administrative/Constitutional Law](#), [Environmental Law](#), [Government Contracting](#), and/or [Legislation & Public Policy](#)) [Business Advising](#) and [Advocacy](#)). Each of these certificate programs has prerequisite classes for doing advanced coursework, which should be taken as soon as possible.

- For 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 third or fourth year.
- If you are interested in the Environmental Law Certificate, you should take Environmental Law during your second year or third year for ED students.
- For the Business Advising Certificate, RD students should take Business Organizations and Federal Income Tax their second year. ED students should take Business Organizations in the spring of their second or third year and Federal Income Tax in the summer, if offered, or the fall of the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year.
- For the Advocacy Certificate, RD students should take Evidence and Professional Responsibility in the fall of the second year and ED students should take these courses no later than the spring of the third year.

**Clinics, Externships, and Certified Legal Intern Status.** 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 a Certified Legal Intern, you must have successfully completed or be enrolled in Professional Responsibility (check with Professor Simcox regarding additional requirements for your specific externship). Academic Code §304(c) defines

successful completion as earning a grade of C or better. **We urge RD students to take Professional Responsibility and Evidence in your second year. We urge ED students to take Professional Responsibility and Evidence in your second or third year.**

## 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	Criminal Law
Essential Legal Skills	

#### 2. Upper Level Required Classes:

Administrative Law	Fundamentals of the Bar Exam
Business Organizations	Legal Methods III (Wri for the Bar if 1L GPA <2.5)
Constitutional Law	Professional Responsibility
Criminal Procedure: Investigation	Property II
Evidence	Sales & Leases
First Amendment (students matriculating Aug 22 or later)	

#### 3. Upper Level Writing Requirement

#### 4. Experiential Learning:

6 credits, 2 of which must be clinic, externship, or practicum

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

#### 1. Menu Classes – students with a GPA below 3.00 after 40 credits must choose three:

Federal Courts	Products Liability
Remedies	Federal Income Tax
Family Law	
Secured Transactions (if completed prior to the Fall 2026 semester)	

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