

MEMORANDUM

To: All Students
From: Commonwealth Law Faculty
Re: Registration for Spring 2026

The memo will assist you in selecting your classes for the spring 2026 semester and keep you on schedule to meet all graduation requirements.¹ 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 SPRING 2026:

December 2026 graduates. You should register for all of your remaining Required classes if possible. Do not assume that all Required classes will be offered next fall.

All 1Ls. You will be registered automatically for your spring classes.

2RD students. You should register for at least two Required classes, particularly if you have three or four remaining Required classes to complete.

2ED students. You will be registered automatically for: Criminal Procedure, Property II, Professional Responsibility, and Criminal Law. If you took ILA in the spring, you will be registered for Civil Procedure II in lieu of Professional Responsibility.

3ED students. You will be registered automatically for Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure: Investigation. Then you may choose 4-5 credits of Menu, experiential or elective classes.

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 two Menu courses for your final 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 Dean of Students. Postponing a required class may delay your graduation or require you to take a day class. In particular, please note that Criminal Procedure: Investigation and Criminal Law are offered in the evening every other year and will not be offered again until spring 2028.*

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

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. 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. Menu classes are divided into two menus. The number of credits you must take from each Menu 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 credits you must take from each Menu 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.

Students matriculating August 2022 or later

How Many. All students must take Secured Transactions OR Federal Income Tax. If your GPA is below a 3.000, you must also take and pass two additional menu courses - Federal Courts, Products Liability, Remedies, Federal Income Tax (if not taken to satisfy the Code Menu requirement) and Secured Transactions (if not taken to satisfy the Code Menu Requirement).

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 Earn a Certificate? 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 Administrative/Constitutional 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.
- For the Environmental Law Certificate, RD students should take Environmental Law in the second year and ED students should take it in the third year.
- 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 3rd or 4th 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 fall 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

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	Property II
Evidence	Sales & Leases
First Amendment (students matriculating Aug 22 or later)	
Upper Level Writing Requirement	
Experiential Learning: 6 credits, 2 of which must be clinic, externship, or practicum	

B. Menu Classes (students matriculating August 2022 or later) – Number of classes or credit hours required depends on GPA:

1. Code Menu Classes- all students must take one:

Federal Income Tax	Secured Transactions
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2. Additional Menu Classes – students with a GPA below 3.00 after 40 credits must choose two:

Federal Courts	Products Liability
Remedies	Federal Income Tax (if not taken as Code Menu)
Secured Transactions (if not taken as Code Menu)	

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