



Preparing to Register and Tracking Progress to Graduation



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Topics to Be Covered

- Essential Resources: Academic Webpage & Student Handbook
- Enrollment
- Requirements for Graduation & Diploma Privilege
- Advising and Curriculum
- Grades & Academic Honors
- Graduating Early & Graduation
- Pro Bono
- Bar Admission other than Wisconsin
- OCPD Resources



Essential Resources

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The Student Handbook

<https://law.wisc.edu/studenthandbook/>

- The Student Handbook is a collection of practical information about the UW Law School.
- Focus on Sections Two and Four for course information, graduation, and bar admissions.



The Academics Webpage

<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/>

- Calendars and Schedules
- My Student Info
- Academic Forms & Policies
- Curricular Requirements, Offerings, and Planning Resources
- Law School Rules and the Student Handbook



Registering for Classes

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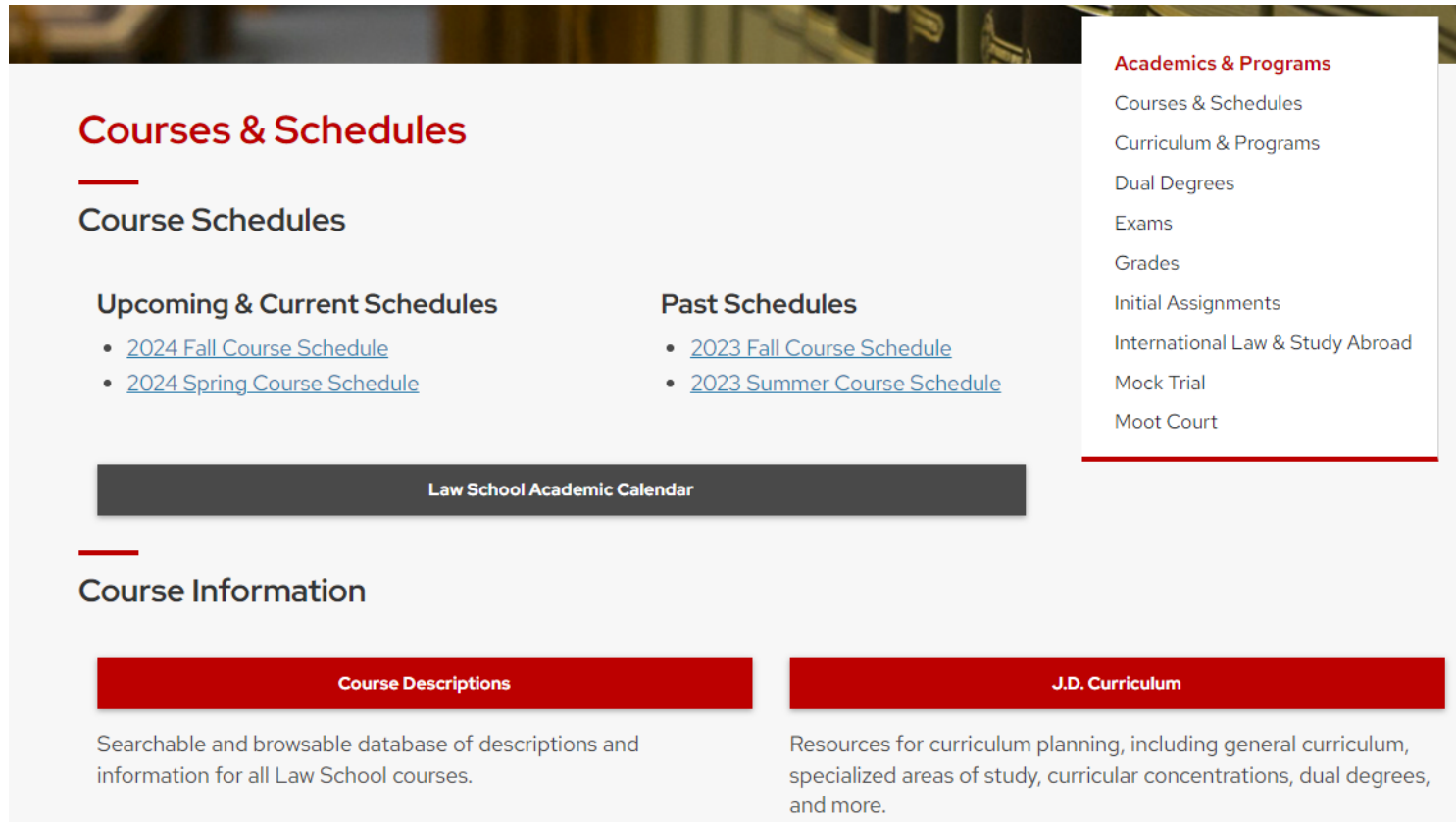


Enrollment Dates & Times

- Fall 2024 Enrollment
 - Opens Monday, April 8 for 3Ls
- Summer 2024 Enrollment
 - Early April although Law School schedule may not yet be available
- Check your specific enrollment time on the Course Search & Enroll tile in MyUW



Courses & Schedules



The screenshot displays the Law School Academic Calendar website. The main heading is "Courses & Schedules" in red. Below it, the "Course Schedules" section is divided into "Upcoming & Current Schedules" and "Past Schedules". The "Upcoming & Current Schedules" section lists two links: "2024 Fall Course Schedule" and "2024 Spring Course Schedule". The "Past Schedules" section lists two links: "2023 Fall Course Schedule" and "2023 Summer Course Schedule". A dark grey button labeled "Law School Academic Calendar" is positioned below these sections. The "Course Information" section is also visible, featuring two red buttons: "Course Descriptions" and "J.D. Curriculum". Below the "Course Descriptions" button, there is a description: "Searchable and browsable database of descriptions and information for all Law School courses." Below the "J.D. Curriculum" button, there is a description: "Resources for curriculum planning, including general curriculum, specialized areas of study, curricular concentrations, dual degrees, and more." On the right side of the screenshot, a white sidebar menu titled "Academics & Programs" lists various options: "Courses & Schedules", "Curriculum & Programs", "Dual Degrees", "Exams", "Grades", "Initial Assignments", "International Law & Study Abroad", "Mock Trial", and "Moot Court".

Courses & Schedules

Course Schedules

Upcoming & Current Schedules

- [2024 Fall Course Schedule](#)
- [2024 Spring Course Schedule](#)

Past Schedules

- [2023 Fall Course Schedule](#)
- [2023 Summer Course Schedule](#)

[Law School Academic Calendar](#)

Course Information

Course Descriptions

Searchable and browsable database of descriptions and information for all Law School courses.

J.D. Curriculum

Resources for curriculum planning, including general curriculum, specialized areas of study, curricular concentrations, dual degrees, and more.


Academics & Programs

- Courses & Schedules
- Curriculum & Programs
- Dual Degrees
- Exams
- Grades
- Initial Assignments
- International Law & Study Abroad
- Mock Trial
- Moot Court

<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/courses/>



Registering for Classes (SH 2.3)

- Consult the [Law School Course Schedule](#)
 - Check “Notes” column for graduation and WI Diploma Privilege requirements
 - Use credit columns to determine how credits apply to 90, 64, and 60 credit rules.
 - Pay attention to **highlights** and recent changes 
 - NEW: Course numbers & title changes
- Enroll through the Course Search & Enroll App at your enrollment time!
 - Wait list process
 - Consent of instructor courses



Part-time Enrollment (SH 10.3)

- Enrolled for fewer than 12 credits
- For financial implications see the Law School Director of Scholarship Administration in the Admissions Office, Lori Hickman
- If fewer than 12 credits: UW Law Scholarship disbursement may be reduced or eliminated
- If fewer than 6 credits: Federal loan deferment expires; grace period begins unless already used up.
- International students: check with ISS



Requirements for Graduation & Diploma Privilege



Student Handbook Section 4



JD Degree Requirements

- 90 Law Credits to graduate
- 64 credits in regularly-scheduled classes
- 1L Program (Contracts, Civ Pro I, LRW I & 2, Intro to Sub Crim Law, Torts, Property, Elective)
- Professional Responsibilities
- Legal Process
- Experiential Learning Requirement
- Upper-Level Writing Requirement
- 2.0 Cumulative GPA





Required Courses - Legal Process Options (SH 4.4.2)

Courses that will satisfy the Legal Process Requirement in Fall 2024:

Administrative Law
International Law
Int'l Business Transactions
WI Constitution, Govt & Society
Public Law & Private Power

Previously Offered Courses that have satisfied the Legal Process Requirement:

Jurisprudence/Philosophy of Law
Sociology of Law
WI Constitution, Law & Society
Comparative Constitution-Making
Federal Law & Indian Tribes
Law of Democracy
Legislation
International Trade Law



Experiential Learning Requirement (SH 4.4.2)

Courses potentially meeting the Experiential Learning Requirement in Fall 2024 (6 credits required):

- Clinical Programs
- Judicial Internships & Externships (enrolled)
- Negotiations/Mediation
- Moot Court: Skills Building
- Mock Trial: Trial Advocacy
- Pre-Trial Advocacy
- Trial Advocacy
- Deposition Skills
- International Commercial Arbitration
- Technology and Artificial Intelligence in Law Practice
- Litigation Practicum - Products Liability
- The Litigation Process: from Pre-filing through Appeal

You cannot meet the ULWR & Experiential Learning requirement in the same course, same term.

Upper-Level Writing Requirement (ULWR) (SH 4.4.2)



- Requirements: 20 pages, double-spaced (total); feedback on draft; final submission
- **May NOT be met in the same course, same term as Experiential Learning Requirement**
- Submit completed form
- Unsure? Check *My Student Info* page
- It's **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** you do not leave this to your final semester

FORMS

All forms are provided as PDF files. Fillable PDFs only work when viewed in Adobe Acrobat.

JD GRADUATION

- [JD/Diploma Privilege Graduation Credit Evaluation Worksheet](#)

Graduation Intentions Survey for 2020-21 graduates, please contact the Registrar directly at registrar@lawwisc.edu

UPPER-LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENT

- [Upper-Level Writing Requirement Form](#)

CLASSES, PROGRAMS, & EXAMS

- [Notification of Dual Degree](#)
- [Permission to Take a Graduate Level Non-Law Academic Course for Law Credit](#)
- [Petition for Rescheduling an Examination](#)
- [Proposal for Directed Reading or Directed Research](#)
- [Registration as a Candidate for a University Certificate](#)
- [Application for Readmission](#)



Upper-Level Writing Requirement (SH 4.4.2) Options

Courses that potentially meet the Upper-Level Writing Requirement in Fall 2024 (as marked by LW on Course Schedule):

- Wisconsin Constitution, Government & Society
- Sentencing & Corrections
- Law of Indian Tribes
- Intro to Estate Planning
- Law & Development
- International Commercial Arbitration*
- Litigation Practicum - Products Liability*
- Clinical Programs (consult with faculty member)*

*You cannot meet the ULWR & Experiential Learning requirement in the same course, same term.

Diploma Privilege Requirements

(SH 4.6.2)



- JD Degree
- Mandatory classes:
 - Constitutional Law I & II
 - Introduction to Criminal Procedure
 - Jurisdiction of Courts: Conflict of Laws, Civil Procedure II, or Federal Jurisdiction
 - Evidence
 - Trusts & Estates
- 60 credits in Diploma Privilege subjects



Determining 60-Credit Rule

(SH 4.6.3)

The Supreme Court requires 60 credits in Diploma Privilege subjects (identified on Course Schedule)

Application of 60-Credit Rule for Clinics, Trial Advocacy, Lawyering Skills, & PR

Course	Credits to 90-Credit Rule:	Credits to 64-Credit Rule:	Credits to 60-Credit Rule:	Credits to Experiential Learning Rule:
Clinical courses and Externships	All	Dependent upon the clinical or externship experience (refer to Course Schedule).	5	All
Lawyering Skills Course	All	All	5	All
Professional Responsibilities	All	All	1	0
Trial Advocacy	All	Instructor-led classes count; competitions do not.	4	All



Required Grades for Diploma Privilege (SH 4.6.5)

- 2.0 GPA in mandatory Diploma Privilege classes
- 2.0 GPA in Diploma Privilege 60-credit rule classes





Tracking Your Progress Worksheet

Requirement	Course	Complete	Credits toward 90-Credit Rule	Credits toward 64-Credit Rule	Credits toward 60-Credit Rule	
First Year Program	Contracts I*	X	4	4	4	
	Civil Procedure I*	X	4	4	4	
	Legal Research & Writing I	X	3	3	0	
	Intro to Substantive Criminal Law*	X	4	4	4	
	Torts I*	X	4	4	4	
	Legal Research & Writing II	X	3	3	0	
	Property*	X	4	4	4	
	1L Elective (include in electives section)					
Professional Resp. (PR) Req. <i>Not used for EL or ULW</i>						
Experiential Learning (EL) Req. (6 cr) <i>Not used for PR or ULW</i>						
Upper-Level Writing (ULW) Req. <i>Not used for EL or PR</i>						
Legal Process						
Elective Law Courses	Constitutional Law I*					
	Intro to Criminal Procedure*					
	Jurisdiction of Courts course*					
	Evidence*					
	Trusts & Estates*					
	Con Law II*					
Any Non-Law Courses for Law Credit (Rule 3.08) or Dual Degree Credits (Rule 3.16)						
90-Credit Rule (Rule 9.01)	J.D. Degree Total (90 credits required)		26			
64-Credit Rule (ABA Standard 304(b))	Sufficient Credits in Courses with Regular Class Sessions (64 credits required)			26		
60-Credit Rule	Diploma Privilege				20	
Total Pending Credits						

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CREDIT GUIDE (Always refer to Course Guide)

COURSE	CRDTS TO			total
	90	64	60	
Clinical	All	All		5
Externship	All	Rarely for Externs		
Lawyering Skills	All	All		5
Trial Advocacy	All	Instructor Led;		4
		Not Competitions		

OTHER IMPORTANT RULES

Professional Responsibilities	All	All		1
Directed Reading		8	0	0
Directed Research		6	0	0
Non-law courses w permission only		6	0	0

Left to Complete

90 credit rule:	64
64 credit rule:	38
60 credit rule:	40

JD Requirements: 1st year program, including mandatory elective; PR; Exp. Learning (6 crs); Legal Process; 64-credit rule.

* = Mandatory subject matter courses required for diploma privilege.

Can apply up to five clinical credits (including internships and externships); four credits of Trial Advocacy; and 5 credits of Lawyering Skills to the 60-credit rule (see chart above).

[See Section 4.6.4 of Student Handbook for breakdown of experiential learning credits under 60-credit rule.](#)



Advising & Curriculum

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Am I On Track?

90 credits required to graduate

- Should average 15 credits per semester (90 credits ÷ standard 6 semesters (3 years) of law school)

Which means:

- At the end your 1L year: 29 credits completed
- At the end of your 2L year: 60 credits completed
- At the mid-point of your 3L year: 75 credits completed

Summer credits may expedite graduation



What to Take?

Primary Course Selection Considerations

- Graduation and WI Diploma Privilege Requirements
- Practice specialization or curricular concentration
- Broad legal education
- Instructors or courses that interest you
- Improve skills
- Bar exam subjects and MPRE

Need Academic Advising?

- Schedule an appointment through Starfish app in MyUW (in-person, Zoom, or phone meetings available)
- Email quick questions (angela.nash@wisc.edu)
- Review the online [Guide to Planning Your Academic Program](#)



Considering Taking the Bar?

AEP Recommendations for Bar Exam Readiness

Taking 2026 & Beyond

Subjects Tested on the Bar

- 1.Civil Procedure
- 2.Constitutional Law
- 3.Contracts
- 4.Evidence
- 5.Torts
- 6.Real Property
- 7.Criminal Law
- 8.Criminal Procedure
- 9.Business Organizations I

Taking Bar Exam 2024 or 2025

Subjects Tested on the Bar

- 1.Civil Procedure
- 2.Constitutional Law
- 3.Contracts
- 4.Evidence
- 5.Torts
- 6.Real Property
- 7.Criminal Law
- 8.Criminal Procedure
- 9.Business Organizations I
- 10.Family Law
- 11.Trusts & Estates
- 12.Secured Transactions
- 13.Conflict of Laws



Curricular Concentrations

<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/dualdegree/certificateprograms.html>

- Business Law (Prof. Nili)
- Criminal Law (Prof. Klingele)
- Family Law (Prof. Brito)
- Estate Planning Law (Prof. Erlanger)
- International & Comparative Law (Prof. Klug)
- Labor & Employment Law (Angela Nash*)
- Real Estate Law (Angela Nash)

Contact faculty advisor or Angela Nash for more information



Non-Law Classes (SH 2.5)

- Requires completion of 1L Program
- Up to six (6) credits of graduate level or foreign language course work may count towards 90 credits needed for JD, subject to conditions.
- **Must have permission to receive credit**, form available on [forms](#) page.
- Must receive a “B” or better.
- Does not factor into GPA, 64- or 60-credit rules



Study Abroad (SH 12.3)

- Will count toward JD degree and may count toward Diploma Privilege requirements
- Programs in: Germany ♦ Netherlands ♦ Italy ♦ Chile ♦ Peru ♦ South Africa ♦ United Kingdom ♦ France ♦ Brazil ♦ India ♦ Thailand
- See Study Abroad webpage for full details:
<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/international/foreignex.html>



Grades, GPAs, Class Standing & Honors



Student Handbook Section 9



Pass/Fail Option (SH 9.3)

- 2 *elective* P/F classes allowed by Law School Rules
- Courses eligible for P/F Option indicated on Course Schedule as PF
- Mandatory Pass/Fail do not count against elective limit (indicated on the Course Schedule as PF Only)



Pass/Fail Option (SH 9.3) Chart

Law School letter grade reported by instructor	Grade recorded on transcript if use Pass/Fail Option	Factored into your GPA?	Counts as one of your two Pass/Fail Options
B+, A-, A or A+	B+, A-, A, or A+	Yes	Yes
C, C+, B-, or B	S	No	Yes
F, D-, D, D+, or C-	F, D-, D, D+, or C-	Yes	Yes

Recorded grades are factored into the GPA and count as graded credits for The Order of the Coif & Dean's List eligibility



Transcript (SH 9.6)

- Official UW transcript – request through MyUW Student Center or University Office of the Registrar at <https://registrar.wisc.edu/transcript/>
 - No charge for official transcripts
 - Includes degree earned, conferral date, honors earned
 - Does **not** list Law School GPA
- Unofficial transcript, available through OCPD
 - Does list Law School GPA



Ranking & Class Standing

(SH 9.5)

- Rank vs. Class Standing
- The Law School does not make available students' class rank (except to the ten rising 3Ls with the highest GPAs)
- Class standing tables (updated each term) are provided relating grade averages to approximate position in the class (based on credits earned)
- Find more updated class standing table here:
https://law.wisc.edu/career/new_grading_system.html#class_standing



Dean's Honor List (SH 9.7.2)

- Completion of at least 12 new credits in the fall or spring semester
- A GPA of at least 3.3 (on the 4.3 scale) on those credits, at least 8 of which must be graded on the 4.3 scale
- Completion of the credits by the due date for turning in grades at the end of the semester in question (no incompletes or late grades)
- Recorded on official transcript



Graduation Honors (SH 4.13.5)

Graduation Honors:

- Cum laude - 3.5 final GPA
- Magna cum laude - 3.75 final GPA
- Summa cum laude - 3.95 final GPA

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

- 3.5 GPA in penultimate semester
- Allows you to wear an honors stole at commencement



The Order of the Coif (SH 9.7.4)

A national honor scholastic society recognizing those law students who attain a high grade of scholarship

- Top 10% of graduating class (or so)
- Requires 68 graded law credits
- Last year's GPA **cutoff** was 3.66

Note: If you exercise the elective pass-fail option and a grade is recorded, it counts as graded credits.





Graduation & Beyond

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Graduating Early (SH 4.3)

- No more than 18 credits/semester
- Notify Registrar
- Meet with your OCPD Advisor
- You will not be forced to graduate early
- Attend separate graduation presentation in your penultimate semester



Commencement Ceremony Options ([SH 4.13.3](#))

December Graduates

- UW Winter Commencement Ceremony (December)
- Law School Hooding Ceremony (May)
- UW Spring Commencement Ceremony (May)

May Graduates

- Law School Hooding Ceremony (May)
- UW Spring Commencement Ceremony (May)

August Graduates

- Law School Hooding Ceremony (May)
- UW Spring Commencement Ceremony (May)
- UW Winter Commencement Ceremony (December)



Graduation (SH Section 4)

Law School Graduation Checklist:

<https://law.wisc.edu/studenthandbook/04.0.html#4.13>

Law School Commencement Page:

<https://law.wisc.edu/current/commencement/index.html>



Pro Bono and Pro Bono Society

(SH 13.4)



Excellent resume builder and opportunity to explore practice areas

- Lindsay Slaker oversees both
- School's website has helpful details: <https://law.wisc.edu/probono/>
- Pro Bono Society (50 or 100 hours)
 - Log in Symplicity as you go
- New York Bar Exam has 50 hour pro bono requirement
<https://law.wisc.edu/studenthandbook/04.0.html#4.12.2>



Bar Admission in States Other Than Wisconsin (SH 4.12)

- Multi-State Professional Responsibility Exam
 - Required in all jurisdictions except Wisconsin and Puerto Rico
 - When do most students take it?
- Start learning about the bar exam
 - One-on-one advising
 - Informational presentations during Fall semester
 - Start registering over winter break of 3L year



Questions?

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Angela Nash: angela.nash@wisc.edu

Megan Zurbriggen:

megan.zurbriggen@wisc.edu



Links to Bookmark

Student Handbook: <https://law.wisc.edu/studenthandbook/>

Law School Academic Webpage: <https://law.wisc.edu/academics/>

Law School Course Schedule:
<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/courses/>

Law School Academic Forms: <http://law.wisc.edu/current/forms.htm>

Class Standing/Ranking Tables:
https://law.wisc.edu/career/new_grading_system.html#class_standing

Law School Commencement website:
<https://law.wisc.edu/current/commencement/>

UW Law Pro Bono Program: <http://law.wisc.edu/probono/>

Transcripts: <https://registrar.wisc.edu/transcript/>