

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE J.D. DEGREE

Approved by the faculty on October 8, 2015  
Amended May 19, 2016 and November 29, 2016

### III. Graduation Requirements for the J.D. Degree

#### A. Overview

To be eligible for a J.D. degree, a student must:

1. Meet the credit hour requirements;
2. Meet the length of study requirements;
3. Achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.1;
4. Take and complete all required courses;
5. Satisfy the writing requirements; and
6. Satisfy the experiential course requirement.

#### B. Credit Hour Requirements

A student must receive credit for 84 credit hours of course work. For purposes of these Graduation Requirements, “course” and “course work” refer to any credit-bearing activity recognized by the College of Law. Of the 84 credit hours required for graduation:

1. At least 64 must be earned through courses that require attendance in regularly scheduled classroom sessions or direct faculty instruction (“faculty instruction courses”). Faculty instruction courses shall be so designated in the course registration materials. (The definition of “faculty instruction course” is subject to ABA Standards; among the courses that are excluded from the definition, as of January 2016, are co-curricular (student-run) courses, field placements, independent studies, supplementary writing, directed writing and research, and non-law courses.)

2. No more than 6 may be earned through participation in co-curricular (student-run) courses. Co-curricular courses shall be so designated in the course registration materials.
3. No more than 6 may be earned through independent studies, supplementary writing, and directed writing and research, except as permitted by the Dean or the Dean's designate.
4. No more than 9 may be earned through field placements, except that a student may, with the approval of the Dean or the Dean's designate, count up to 14 such credits toward graduation. A student may count toward graduation up to 3 credits from a summer legal placement in addition to the number otherwise permitted by this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph, a "field placement" includes the student's on-site experience as well as any associated seminars, tutorials, and other forms of guided reflection on that experience.
5. No more than 28 may be earned through studies, activities, or field placements outside the United States.
6. No more than 12 may be earned through distance education courses, except that a student may, with the approval of the Dean or the Dean's designate, count up to 15 such credits toward graduation. Distance education courses shall be so designated in the course registration materials.
7. None shall be from distance education courses taken before the student enrolled at the College of Law.
8. None shall be for course work taken before the student enrolled in a law school.
9. No more than 34 may be from credits transferred from other ABA-accredited law schools, and no more than 30 such credits may be earned prior to enrolling at the College of Law.
10. None shall be transferred from non-ABA-accredited law schools in the United States, except as permitted by the Dean or the Dean's designate and applicable ABA Standards.
11. No more than 20 may be earned through non-law courses. Credits from a non-law course may count toward the J.D. degree only if

approved by the Dean of Students pursuant to the College of Law's policy on Registering and Receiving Credit for Non-Law Courses.

To receive credit for a course, a student must satisfactorily complete all course requirements established by the instructor. In courses with a final exam, the instructor may preclude a student from taking the final exam if the student has not first satisfied all of the instructor's course requirements as to class attendance, written work, special readings, oral reports, etc.

A course shall not count toward the number of credits required for graduation unless the student receives a course grade of 1.8 or higher, or, in a course taken Pass/Fail, a grade of Pass.

#### C. Length of Study Requirements

A student must complete the required course work in no fewer than 27 months and, except in extraordinary circumstances and with permission of the Dean, no more than 84 months after the student has commenced law study at the College of Law or at a law school from which the College of Law has accepted transfer credit, whichever was earlier.

If the College of Law grants credit for prior law study at a law school outside the United States as permitted under ABA Standard 505, only the time commensurate with the amount of credit given counts toward the length of study requirements.

#### D. Required Courses

Required law school courses include:

1. All first-year courses: Civil Procedure; Constitutional Law I; Contracts; Criminal Law; Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning; Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research I and II; Property; and Torts;
2. Constitutional Law II;
3. A qualifying course in Professional Responsibility. Qualifying courses shall be so designated in the course registration materials.

Entering first-year students are required to take all of the first-year courses and one elective and cannot register for different courses or fewer hours without permission of the Dean of Students.

E. Writing Requirements

See infra page \_\_\_.

F. Experiential Course Requirement

A student must complete one or more experiential courses totaling at least six credit hours. Experiential courses shall be so designated in the course registration materials.

G. Designation of courses

The designation of a course as an experiential course, faculty instruction course, distance education course, writing course, co-curricular course, or qualifying Professional Responsibility course shall be valid only for the particular semester(s) that the course is so designated.

A student may not count any course toward both the experiential and professional responsibility requirements. At least one of the courses a student counts toward the upper-level writing requirement involving direct and ongoing faculty supervision must not be counted toward the experiential or professional responsibility requirements.

H. Effective date

These requirements shall apply only to students entering the College of Law as first-year students in the Fall of 2016 or later and students entering the College of Law as transfer students or two-year J.D. students in the Fall of 2017 or later. Students entering the College of Law prior to those effective dates shall be subject to the prior version of our graduation requirements. (See Attachment A.)