

FINAL

To: 1RD, 1ED, 2RD, 2ED, 3ED Students
From: Curriculum Committee
Re: Required/Menu Classes
Date: March 26, 2014

The purpose of this Memo is to assist you in making choices in registering for the fall 2014 semester and to help you determine which classes you will need to take to meet the graduation requirements.

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 must take these classes as they are scheduled in their first or second year.

The second group of REQUIRED CLASSES is the Upper Level Required Classes. These classes are Administrative Law, Business Organizations, Constitutional Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Legal Methods III, Professional Responsibility and Sales and Leases. Additionally, all students must take one Skills Class and meet the Upper Level Writing Requirement. All students must take all of these classes.

MENU CLASSES

There are two categories 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

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

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. The number of attempted credits includes classes in which you have received a letter grade (including an F), the grade of Pass/Fail or the grade of IW for exceeding the permitted number of absences. **The Grade Point Average for purposes of determining the MENU CLASSES 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.**

Students with a GPA of 3.00 or above must take and pass at least three classes from either Menu A or Menu B. Students with a GPA of 2.5 to 2.999 must take and pass at least two classes from Menu A and at least three additional classes from Menu A or Menu B. Students with a GPA of 2.499 or below must take and pass at least three classes from Menu A and at least four additional classes from 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 Dean of Students.

CHOOSING WHICH MENU CLASSES TO TAKE

The Menu system is designed to give all students more flexibility both in choosing which classes they will take as well as when they 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. You should also keep track of required courses. **Do not put off most of your required courses until your last semester, as not all required courses are offered every semester.**

You should consider which Menu or Elective classes are of interest or may be useful to you. In making your choices, you should also consider that some classes have prerequisites. For example:

- If you are interested in Law & Government certification, you should take Administrative Law in the second year 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 either the Environmental Law Certificate or the new Business Advising Certificate, you should begin taking the necessary courses to

satisfy the certificate requirements as soon as practicable to insure you have sufficient opportunity to complete them by graduation. You should take the foundation course for these certificates (Environmental Law or Business Organizations respectively) during your second year (or third year for extended division students) to prepare you for more advanced coursework in these areas.

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 the area that you are interested in or the Dean of Students. 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 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 what you don't like. 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 have successfully completed Professional Responsibility and Evidence. Section 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.**

Certificate Programs

On the Harrisburg campus, students can earn certificates in Law and Government ([Constitutional/Administrative Law](#) or [Legislation](#)), [Environmental Law](#), [Business Advising](#) and [Advocacy](#). For more information on each of the certificate programs, go to <http://law.widener.edu/Academics/Programs/JurisDoctorPrograms/CertificatePrograms.aspx>.

PARTICULAR REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FALL 2014:

Current 1 ED students will be registered for Constitutional Law, Evidence and Property I for the Fall 2014 semester. The Registrar's Office will register students for all three courses. Please be advised that Evidence will only be offered in the evening every other year. Deviations from the scheduling of required courses must be approved by Dean Sealing.

Current 1 RD students must register for Constitutional Law and at least two additional required classes for the Fall 2014 semester. *(If you are interested in the Law and Government program, you should take Administrative Law in the second year. If you are interested in the Advocacy certificate, take Evidence and Professional Responsibility as early as possible. If you are interested in Environmental or Business Advising certificate programs, you should take the foundation courses for those certificates - Environmental Law or Business Organizations respectively – in your second year.)*

Current 2 ED students will be registered for Evidence and Administrative Law for the Fall 2014 semester. The Registrar's Office will register students for both courses. Please be advised that Evidence and Administrative Law will only be offered in the evening every other year. Deviations from the scheduling of required courses must be approved by Dean Sealing.

Current 3ED students will be registered for Fundamentals of the Bar Exam in the fall semester (the Registrar's Office will register students for this course). Students with a cumulative GPA above a 2.700 after completion of 40 credits may waive out of this required course. In addition, 3ED students must register for any remaining required courses (Administrative Law) and should consider the Menu, Skills, and other requirements in selecting their courses for the Fall 2014 semester. Those students who have not already completed the writing requirement for graduation are strongly encouraged to register for a seminar during the fall semester of the final year.

Current 2 RD students must register for required courses that they have not yet taken and should consider the Menu, Skills, and other requirements in selecting their courses for the Fall 2014 semester. In addition, those students who have not already completed the writing requirement for graduation are strongly encouraged to register for a seminar during the fall semester of the final year. 2RD students may enroll in Fundamentals of the Bar Exam in the fall semester (evening). Students who do not enroll in the fall evening section of Fundamentals will be automatically enrolled in the spring day section. Students with a cumulative GPA above a 2.700 after completion of 40 credits may waive out of this required course.

Note to ED Students: *Deviations from the scheduling of required courses for extended division students should only be done in consultation with Dean Sealing*

REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

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

1. First Year Required Classes

Civil Procedure I & II
Contracts I & II
Property I & II
Torts I & II
Legal Methods I & II
Criminal Law

2. Upper Level Required Classes

Administrative Law
Business Organizations
Constitutional Law – MUST TAKE DURING FALL OF 2nd YEAR
Criminal Procedure
Evidence
Legal Methods III
Professional Responsibility
Sales and Leases
Skills Class
Upper Level Writing Requirement.

B. MENU CLASSES – number of classes required depends on GPA

1. Menu A Classes

Family Law (3 credits)
Federal Income Tax
First Amendment
Remedies
Secured Transactions
Wills and Trusts

2. Menu B Classes – number of classes required depends on GPA

Advanced Criminal Procedure
Bankruptcy
Conflicts
Copyright & Trademark
Disability Law
Employment Discrimination
Environmental Law
Federal Courts
Immigration
Labor Law, Legislation

Payment Systems
Real Estate Transactions (3 credits)
State Constitutional Law
Taxation of Business Entities

MENU CLASS REQUIREMENTS

***** NOTE – GPA FOR DETERMINING MENU CLASSES IS CALCULATED USING REQUIRED AND MENU CLASSES TAKEN – NOT CUMULATIVE GPA *****

	Menu A	Menu A or B
GPA = 2.499 or lower	3	4
GPA = 2.5 → 2.999	2	3
GPA = 3.0 or higher		3