# **William & Mary Law School**

# **Policy on Academic Concentrations**

## Introduction

This policy provides overall requirements and guidance for students who pursue a concentration as part of the J.D. program at the Law School. Concentrations indicate focused coursework and experiential learning or independent research in a particular area of study beyond the required curriculum. Students who successfully complete the concentration will receive a notation on their Law School transcripts.

## Requirements

The requirements for particular concentrations are included in the Appendices and may be revised from time to time, depending on course and instructor availability.

Each concentration requires successful completion of (1) two or more foundational courses, (2) three or more approved courses, and (3) an independent research paper or an experiential course. The number of courses required in (1) and (2) are specific to the individual concentration being pursued; students must meet their particular concentration’s requirements as noted in the Appendices. Students may petition the Vice Dean to approve, in his or her discretion, courses not included in the Appendices if the course is substantially related to the area of concentration.

A student will be deemed to have satisfied the requirements for completion of the concentration only upon approval of the Concentration Completion Form by the Vice Dean. The Form must be submitted by February 1 for May graduates, by May 1 for August graduates, and by September 1 for December graduates. The Vice Dean may provisionally approve completion if the Form indicates that the concentration’s requirements will be completed through pending coursework or a pending research paper.

## Other Policies

Students pursuing a concentration register for courses in the same manner as other students and do not receive priority registration in a course. Accordingly, students are encouraged to consider in a timely manner course selection and plans for fulfilling concentration requirements and to prioritize concentration courses in their registration process.

Students may pursue a maximum of two concentrations. Students who pursue two concentrations must complete the requirements for each independently and may not count a single course or experience as satisfying two concentrations.

Students may use a single course to satisfy both the Law School’s six-credit experiential learning requirement and the experiential course option in Group C of a concentration.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all concentration requirements. Any questions or concerns in this regard, or any identification of errors or ambiguities in the Appendices, should be brought to the Vice Dean as soon as possible.

The Vice Dean may, in his or her discretion, interpret this Policy as required. Amendments to the Appendices, including additions to or removal of available concentrations, may be effected by the Vice Dean in consultation with faculty teaching in the concentration.

# Appendix A: Business Law Concentration

# Requirements

Students must complete courses in the following groups, as noted:

## GroupA

Complete all three of the following courses:

Business Associations *or* Corporations

Federal Income Taxation

Securities Regulation *or* Securities Litigation

## GroupB

Complete at least three additional courses from the following list:

Accounting and Finance for Lawyers

Antitrust

Bankruptcy Survey

Business & Financial Literacy

Consumer Bankruptcy

Corporate Counsel: Legal Issues and Practice Difficulties

Corporate Finance

Corporate Taxation

Economic Analysis of the Law

Employee Benefits and ERISA

Insurance

International Business Transactions

International Taxation

Law and Entrepreneurship

Legal Aspects of Corporate Finance

Mergers & Acquisitions

Non-Profit Law Practice

Partnership Taxation

Real Estate Transactions

Regulation of Markets

Sales

Selected Topics in Insurance Regulation

Selected Topics in Securities Regulation

Secured Transactions

State and Local Taxation

Taxation of Mergers & Acquisitions Seminar

## GroupC

Complete at least one of the following experiential learning courses or a two-credit independent research paper on a business law topic (with prior approval):

Business Law–Related Externship (two or more credits)

Drafting for Corporate and Finance Lawyers

Federal Tax Clinic

Mergers & Acquisitions Simulation

Planning a Chapter 11 Filing

*Not all courses will be available each year. In the sole discretion of the Vice Dean, a course other than those listed in Groups B and C may be counted toward those requirements.*

*All independent research paper topics must be approved by the Vice Dean before the student registers for the course. A student note written for a law journal may qualify with advance approval from the Vice Dean.*

# Appendix B: Criminal Law and Procedure Concentration

# Requirements

Students must complete courses in the following groups, as noted:

## GroupA

Complete all three of the following courses:

Evidence *or* Applied Evidence in a Technological Age

Criminal Procedure I

Criminal Procedure II

## GroupB

Complete at least three additional courses from the following list:

Federal Courts *or* Section 1983 Litigation

International Criminal Law

Selected Topics in Criminal Justice Seminar

Selected Topics in Criminal Law Seminar

The Death Penalty Seminar

Trial Advocacy

Virginia Criminal Procedure

The Wire: Crime, Law & Policy

White Collar Crime

## GroupC

Complete at least one of the following experiential learning courses or a two-credit independent research paper on a criminal law topic (with prior approval):

Criminal Justice Practice Skills

Domestic Violence Clinic

Innocence Project Clinic

Prosecutor Externship (two or more credits)

Public Defender Externship (two or more credits)

Technology Augmented Trial Advocacy

U.S. Attorney Externship (two or more credits)

*Course listings may change from year to year depending on availability. Not all courses will be available each year. In the sole discretion of the Vice Dean, a course other than those listed in groups B and C may be counted toward those requirements.*

*All independent research paper topics must be approved by the Vice Dean before the student registers for the course. A student note written for a law journal may qualify with advance approval from the Vice Dean.*

# Appendix C: Intellectual Property Concentration

# Requirements

Students must complete courses in the following groups, as noted:

## GroupA

Complete three of the following courses:

Copyright Law

Intellectual Property

Patent Law

Trademark Law

## GroupB

Complete at least three additional courses from the following list:

Copyright Law Litigation Seminar

Corporate Security, Counterintelligence, Counterespionage, and the Insider Threat

Cybersecurity Law

Electronic Discovery

Entertainment Law Litigation Seminar

First Amendment: Free Speech and Press

Food and Drug Law

Health Law

International Intellectual Property Law

Law and Entrepreneurship

Patent Litigation Seminar

Privacy Law

Sports Law

Telecommunications Law and Policy

## GroupC

Complete at least one of the following experiential learning courses or a two-credit independent research paper on an intellectual property law topic (with prior approval):

Legal Drafting for a Transactional Practice

Intellectual Property–Related Externship (two or more credits)

*Not all courses will be available each year. In the sole discretion of the Vice Dean, a course other than those listed in groups B and C may be counted toward those requirements.*

*All independent research paper topics must be approved by the Vice Dean before the student registers for the course. A student note written for a law journal may qualify with advance approval from the Vice Dean.*