

# 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:

**Group A:** Complete all three of the following courses:

- **LAW 320** Business Associations **or** **LAW 303** Corporations
- **LAW 311** Federal Income Taxation
- **LAW 423** Securities Regulation **or** **LAW 697** Securities Litigation

**Group B:** Complete at least three additional courses from the following list:

- **LAW 422** Accounting and Finance for Lawyers
- **LAW 411** Antitrust
- **LAW 306** Banking Law
- **LAW 306** Bankruptcy Survey
- **LAW 335** Business & Financial Literacy
- **LAW 318** Business Torts
- **LAW 434** Commercial Law Survey
- **LAW 371** Complex Transactions in Regulated Industries
- **LAW 406** Consumer Bankruptcy
- **LAW 508** Corporations & International Law
- **LAW 437** Corporate Counsel: Legal Issues and Practice Difficulties
- **LAW 794** Corporate Finance
- **LAW 438** Corporate Taxation
- **LAW 350** Cryptocurrency Regulation
- **LAW 454** Economic Analysis of the Law
- **LAW 337** Employee Benefits and ERISA
- **LAW 452** Employment Discrimination
- **LAW 456** Employment Law
- **LAW 546** Government Contracts Seminar
- **LAW 387** Human Resource Management
- **LAW 408** Insurance
- **LAW 497** International Business Transactions
- **LAW 499** International Dispute Resolution – International Commercial Arbitration
- **LAW 483** International Taxation
- **LAW 675** Law and Entrepreneurship
- **LAW 694** Legal Aspects of Corporate Finance
- **LAW 464** Mergers & Acquisitions
- **LAW 473** Non-Profit Law Practice
- **LAW 326** Partnership Taxation
- **LAW 352** Private Equity: Structure & Issues
- **LAW 420** Real Estate Transactions
- **LAW 328** Regulation of Markets
- **LAW 435** Sales
- **LAW 663** Selected Topics in Insurance Regulation
- **LAW 536** Selected Topics in Securities Regulation
- **LAW 404** Secured Transactions
- **LAW 322** State and Local Taxation
- **LAW 644** Taxation of Mergers & Acquisitions Seminar

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**Group C:** 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):

- **LAW 799** Business Law Clinic
- Business Law–related Externship (two or more credits)
- **LAW 371** Complex Transactions in Regulated Industries
- **LAW 525** Drafting for Corporate and Finance Lawyers
- **LAW 473** Federal Tax Clinic
- **LAW 688** Mergers & Acquisitions Simulation
- **LAW 737** Planning a Chapter 11 Filing
- **LAW 352** Private Equity – Structure and Issues

*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 approval from the Vice Dean.*

## Appendix B: Criminal Law and Procedure Concentration

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

**Group A:** Complete all three of the following courses:

- **LAW 309** Evidence *or* **LAW 308** Applied Evidence in a Technological Age
- **LAW 401** Criminal Procedure I
- **LAW 402** Criminal Procedure II

**Group B:** Complete at least three additional courses from the following list:

- **LAW 542** American Jury Seminar
- **LAW 533** Current Issues in Criminal Justice Litigation Seminar
- **LAW 415** Federal Courts or **LAW 477** Section 1983 Litigation
- **LAW 385** International Criminal Law
- **LAW 342** Life or Death
- **LAW 500** Police Interrogation of Suspects
- **LAW 431** Prosecutorial Ethics – Doing What Is Right and Just
- **LAW 531** Selected Problems in Criminal Justice Seminar
- **LAW 598** Selected Topics in Juvenile Law
- **LAW 630** The Death Penalty Seminar
- **LAW 529** The Military Commissions Seminar
- **LAW 720** Trial Advocacy
- **LAW 397** Virginia Criminal Procedure
- **LAW 369** The Wire: Crime, Law & Policy
- **LAW 440** White Collar Crime

**Group C:** 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):

- **LAW 140C** Criminal Justice Practice Skills
- **LAW 745** Domestic Violence Clinic
- **LAW 747** Innocence Project Clinic
- **LAW 770** Prosecutor Externship (two or more credits)
- **LAW 771** Public Defender Externship (two or more credits)
- **LAW 738** Technology Augmented Trial Advocacy
- **LAW 756** 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 approval from the Vice Dean.*

## Appendix C: Environmental Law Concentration

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

**Group A:** Complete two or more of the following courses:

- **LAW 453** Administrative Law
- **LAW 424** Environmental Law
- **LAW 425** Land Use Control

**Group B:** Complete three or more supporting electives from the following list:

- **LAW 587** Animal Law Seminar
- **LAW 608** Eminent Domain & Property Rights Seminar
- **LAW 426** Energy Law
- **LAW 424** Environmental Policy
- **LAW 346** Fundamentals of Environmental Science for Policy
- **LAW 511** International Environmental Law
- **LAW 432** Ocean and Coastal Regulation
- **LAW 367** Oil and Gas and Energy Economics
- **LAW 319** Regulation of Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste
- **LAW 383** The Laws of Clean Energy

**Group C:**

Complete at least one of the following:

- **LAW 704** Independent Research
- **LAW 741** Virginia Coastal Policy Practicum I
- **LAW 791** Virginia Coastal Policy Practicum II
- Environmental Law-related externship

*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 approval from the Vice Dean.*

## Appendix D: Intellectual Property Law Concentration

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

**Group A:** Complete three of the following courses:

- **LAW 372** Bioethics
- **LAW 465** Copyright Law
- **LAW 448** Intellectual Property
- **LAW 447** Patent Law
- **LAW 442** Trademark Law

**Group B:** Complete at least three additional courses from the following list:

- **LAW 453** Administrative Law
- **LAW 428** AI & More; Legal Issues Likely to Arise; AI & Related Emerging Technology
- **LAW 372** Bioethics
- **LAW 567** Copyright Law Litigation Seminar
- **LAW 670** Art & Cultural Heritage Law
- **LAW 665** Cyber and Information Security Essentials
- **LAW 341** Cybersecurity Incident Responses
- **LAW 358** Electronic Discovery
- **LAW 310** Electronic Discovery & Data Seizure
- **LAW 693** Entertainment Law Litigation Seminar
- **LAW 400** First Amendment: Free Speech and Press
- **LAW 370** Food and Drug Law
- **LAW 458** Health Law & Policy
- **LAW 675** Law and Entrepreneurship
- **LAW 544** Patent Litigation Seminar
- **LAW 348** Privacy Law
- **LAW 430** Selected Topics in International Intellectual Property and International Trade
- **LAW 663** Sports Law
- **LAW 793** Telecommunications Law and Policy
- **LAW 415** The Federal Courts or **LAW 413** Remedies

**Group C:** 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):

- **LAW 351** Alternative Dispute Resolution Survey
- Intellectual Property Law–related externship (two or more credits)
- **LAW 722** Mediation

*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 approval from the Vice Dean.*

## Appendix E: International Law Concentration

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

**Group A:** Complete two of the following courses (one of which must be International Law):

- **LAW 409** International Law (*formerly Public International Law*)
- **LAW 496** International Business Transactions
- **LAW 380** Comparative Law

**Group B:** Complete at least four additional courses from the following list:

- **LAW 441** Admiralty Law
- **LAW 691** Advanced Applied International Research
- **LAW 496** International Business Transactions
- **LAW 706** Comparative Constitutional Systems
- **LAW 380** Comparative Law
- **LAW 410** Conflict of Laws
- **LAW 508** Corporations as International Actors
- **LAW 338** European Union Law
- **LAW 683** Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
- **LAW 485** Immigration Law
- **LAW 417** International and Comparative Women's Rights
- **LAW 385** International Criminal Law
- **LAW 382** International Human Rights Law
- **LAW 516** International Organizations
- **LAW 497** International Trade Law
- **LAW 604** Islamic Law
- **LAW 519** Law of the Sea
- **LAW 514** Laws of War
- **LAW 475** National Security Law International
- **LAW 394** Post-Conflict Justice
- **LAW 528** Refugee Law and Policy
- **LAW 430** Selected Topics in International Intellectual Property and International Trade
- **LAW 483** International Taxation
- **LAW 499** International Dispute Resolution/International Arbitration
- **LAW 511** International Environmental Law

**Group C:** Complete **LAW 691** Advanced Applied International Research for two-credits, or at least one international law-related externship (two or more credits) or a two-credit independent research paper on an international law topic (with prior approval from the Vice Dean), or student note written for law journal with advanced approval.

*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 international law-related externships and 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 approval from the Vice Dean.*

## Appendix F: Public Interest and Social Justice Concentration

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

**Group A:** Complete one course from each of the three following subgroups:

- **A.1:** **LAW 441** Administrative Law **or** **LAW 412** Legislation / Statutory Interpretation
- **A.2:** **LAW 415** The Federal Courts **or** **LAW 477** Section 1983 Litigation
- **A.3:** **LAW 401** Criminal Procedure I (Investigation) **or** **LAW 402** Criminal Procedure II (Adjudication) **or** **LAW 403** Criminal Procedure Survey<sup>1</sup>

**Group B:** Complete at least three additional courses from the following list:

- **LAW 587** Animal Law Seminar
- **LAW 532** Children's Rights
- **LAW 595** Citizen Lawyer's Seminar – Lessons in Legal Leadership
- **LAW 401** Criminal Procedure I (Investigation)
- **LAW 402** Criminal Procedure II (Adjudication)
- **LAW 533** Current Issues in Criminal Justice Seminar
- **LAW 398** Election Law
- **LAW 452** Employment Discrimination
- **LAW 424** Environmental Law
- **LAW 345** Environmental Policy
- **LAW 485** Immigration Law
- **LAW 407** Labor Law
- **LAW 500** Police Interrogation of Suspects
- **LAW 431** Prosecutorial Ethics – Doing What Is Right and Just
- **LAW 685** Race, Law, & Lawyering in Diverse Environments
- **LAW 528** Refugee Law and Policy Seminar
- **LAW 528** Role of the State Attorney General
- **LAW 628** Selected Topics in Race & American Legal History Seminar
- **LAW 630** The Death Penalty Seminar
- **LAW 369** The Wire: Crime, Law & Policy
- **LAW 319** Regulation of Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste
- **LAW 488** Youth Law

**Group C:** Complete at least one of the following:

- Public Interest and Social Justice Law-related Externship 2-credits
- **LAW 704 Independent Research** paper on a relevant topic 2-credit
- **LAW 789** Appellate & Supreme Court Clinic
- **LAW 745** Domestic Violence Clinic
- **LAW 784** Elder & Disability Law Clinic I

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<sup>1</sup> Students should note that enrollment in Criminal Procedure Survey precludes enrollment in either Criminal Procedure I or Criminal Procedure II for credit.



- **LAW 416** Family Law Clinic
- **LAW 743** Federal Tax Clinic
- **LAW 786** Immigration Clinic
- **LAW 747** Innocence Project Clinic I
- **LAW 780** Puller Veterans Clinic – Disability Compensation & Appeals
- **LAW 798** Puller Veterans Clinic – Military Sexual Trauma
- **LAW 782** Special Education Advocacy Clinic I (PELE)
- **LAW 741** Virginia Coastal Policy Practicum I

*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. The following Externships qualify towards the Concentration: Judicial, Federal Government, Nonprofit Organization, Prosecutor, Public Defender, State/Local Government, U.S. Attorney, and Virginia Attorney General. Students must obtain pre-approval from the Vice Dean in order for externships not listed to count towards the concentration. 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.*