

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:

- Business Associations **or** Corporations
- Federal Income Taxation
- Securities Regulation **or** Securities Litigation

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

- Accounting and Finance for Lawyers
- Antitrust
- Bankruptcy Survey
- Business & Financial Literacy
- Business Torts
- Commercial Law Survey
- Complex Transactions in Regulated Industries
- Consumer Bankruptcy
- Corporations & International Law
- Corporate Counsel: Legal Issues and Practice Difficulties
- Corporate Finance
- Corporate Taxation
- Economic Analysis of the Law
- Employee Benefits and ERISA Employment Law
- Employment Discrimination
- Employment Law
- Government Contract
- Human Resource Management
- Insurance
- International Business Transactions
- International Dispute Resolution – International Commercial Arbitration
- International Taxation
- Law and Entrepreneurship
- Legal Aspects of Corporate Finance
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Non-Profit Law Practice
- Partnership Taxation
- Private Equity: Structure & Issues
- 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

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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):

- Business Law Clinic
- 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 approval from the Vice Dean.

Appendix B: Criminal and Procedure Law Concentration

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

Group A: Complete all three of the following courses:

- Evidence or Applied Evidence in a Technological Age
- Criminal Procedure I
- Criminal Procedure II

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

- American Jury Seminar
- Federal Courts or Section 1983 Litigation
- International Criminal Law
- Life or Death
- Police Interrogation of Suspects
- Prosecutorial Ethics
- Selected Problems in Criminal Justice Seminar
- Selected Topics in Juvenile Law
- The Death Penalty Seminar
- The Military Commissions Seminar
- Trial Advocacy
- Virginia Criminal Procedure
- The Wire: Crime, Law & Policy
- 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):

- 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 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:

- Administrative Law
- Environmental Law
- Land Use Law

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

- Animal Law Seminar
- Energy Law
- Environmental Policy
- Fundamentals of Environmental Science for Policy
- International Environmental Law
- Ocean and Coastal Regulation
- Oil and Gas and Energy Economics
- Regulation of Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste
- The Laws of Clean Energy

Group C:

Complete at least one of the following:

- Experiential Course
- Independent Research
- Virginia Coastal Policy Practicum I
- Virginia Coastal Policy Practicum II
- Environmental Externship
- Research Paper

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:

- Bioethics
- Copyright Law
- Intellectual Property
- Patent Law
- Trademark Law

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

- Artificial Intelligence & More
- Copyright Law Litigation Seminar
- Cybersecurity Incident Responses
- Electronic Discovery
- Electronic Discovery & Data Seizure
- Entertainment Law Litigation Seminar
- First Amendment: Free Speech and Press
- Food and Drug Law
- Health Law & Policy
- Selected Topics International Intellectual Property & International Trade
- Law and Entrepreneurship
- Patent Litigation Seminar
- Privacy Law
- Selected Topics in International Intellectual Property and International Trade
- Sports Law Telecommunications Law and Policy

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):

- 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 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):

- International Law (*formerly Public International Law*)
- International Business Transactions
- Comparative Law

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

- Admiralty Law
- Advanced Applied International Research
- Business Transactions
- Comparative Constitutional Systems
- Comparative Law
- Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
- Immigration Law
- International and Comparative Women's Rights
- International Criminal Law
- International Human Rights Law
- International Organizations
- International Trade Law
- Islamic Law
- Law of the Sea
- Laws of War
- National Security Law International
- Post-Conflict Justice
- Refugee Law and Policy
- Selected Topics in International Intellectual Property and International
- Taxation International Dispute Resolution/International Arbitration
- Trade International Environmental Law

Group C: Complete 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).

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.