

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
- 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

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–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:

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:

- 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

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 advance approval from the Vice Dean.

Appendix C: Intellectual Property Concentration

Requirements

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

Group A

Complete three of the following courses:

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

Group B

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
- 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 advance approval from the Vice Dean.