

The seal of the Lincoln Memorial University - Duncan School of Law is a circular emblem. It features a central image of a pair of scales of justice resting on a pedestal. The background of the seal shows a building with a gabled roof. The text "DUNCAN SCHOOL OF LAW" is arched across the top, and "LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY" is arched across the bottom. The years "1897" and "2009" are positioned on the left and right sides, respectively, separated by small dots.

Lincoln Memorial University – Duncan School of Law

# CATALOG 2026-2027

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This catalog/handbook is a supplement to the Lincoln Memorial University *General Graduate Catalog*, which students should consult for information on matters not covered in this document.

# Mission, Purpose, Goals, and Learning Outcomes

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## Law School Mission Statement and Programmatic Learning Outcomes

### A. Duncan School of Law Mission Statement

The mission of the Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law is:

1. To provide legal educational opportunities for the people of the underserved regions of the United States.
2. To offer solid, competent, practice-focused, legal education to students of widely disparate socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds with the goal that those students will successfully pass the Bar and with the thought that those students will return to and serve those communities from which they originate.
3. To prepare lawyers for careers in law that enable them to address the underserved legal needs of Appalachia and other underserved regions.

### B. Programmatic Learning Outcomes

ABA Standard 302 provides as follows:

A law school shall establish and publish learning outcomes that shall, at a minimum, include competency in the following:

1. Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law;
2. Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication in the legal context;
3. Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system; and
4. Other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.

***PLO # 1: Graduates will use their knowledge of substantive and procedural law to accurately identify legal issues and apply law and facts to thoroughly analyze legal issues.***

Graduates may demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by:

1. Applying knowledge of foundational concepts and principles of substantive and procedural law to identify which legal issues are implicated by client or hypothetical fact scenarios.
2. Identifying and assessing relevant facts and gaps in information needed to evaluate a case.
3. Using knowledge of substantive and procedural law to analyze and explain how rules of law apply to client or hypothetical fact scenarios, including anticipating and evaluating potential counterarguments.
4. Analogizing client or hypothetical facts to, and distinguishing those facts from, precedent case facts.
5. Reaching a sound legal conclusion when advising a client on a potential course of action or the likely outcome of a client's case.

***PLO # 2: Graduates will effectively identify, research, and synthesize sources of law.***

Graduates may demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by:

1. Identifying legal sources that apply to or are needed to resolve a legal issue and assessing their weight of authority.
2. Identifying and resolving ambiguities in law or articulating valid interpretations of the law.
3. Developing and executing a research plan using available research tools and technology.

4. Synthesizing different legal sources to extrapolate the rule of law needed to solve a legal problem.

***PLO # 3: Graduates will exhibit the ability to ethically and professionally participate in the practice of law.***

Graduates may demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by:

1. Identifying the ethical and professional responsibilities owed to clients, the legal system, and the public, including to those of limited means or within underrepresented communities.
2. Analyzing and resolving professional responsibility issues that arise in the practice of law.
3. Identifying the skills or values needed to responsibly and effectively manage a professional workload and develop a professional identity.

***PLO #4: Graduates will be prepared to enter practice by demonstrating professional skills, using appropriate lawyering strategies, and applying problem solving techniques.***

Graduates may demonstrate achievement of this learning outcome by:

1. Using professional judgment to select effective lawyering strategies.
2. Drafting and revising effective professional and legal documents or other written communications.
3. Demonstrating effective oral communication skills.
4. Demonstrating skill in persuasively advocating on behalf of a client.
5. Counseling and advising clients in a manner consistent with their objectives, interests, and constraints.

## Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

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Lincoln Memorial University is an Equal Opportunity educational institution. In support of its Mission Statement, LMU is committed to equal opportunity in recruitment, admission, and retention for all students and equal opportunity in recruitment, hiring, training, promotion, and retention for all employees. In furtherance of this commitment, Lincoln Memorial University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, veteran status, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and genetic information in all University programs and activities. Lincoln Memorial University prohibits retaliation against any individual for 1) filing, or encouraging someone to file, a complaint of discrimination; 2) participating in an investigation of discrimination; or 3) opposing discrimination. "Retaliation" includes any adverse action or act of revenge against an individual for filing or encouraging someone to file a complaint of discrimination, participating in an investigation of discrimination, or opposing discrimination. The Office of Institutional Compliance investigates allegations of prohibited discrimination, harassment, and retaliation involving members of the LMU community. Please see the LMU Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Policy online at <https://www.lmunet.edu/office-of-institutional-compliance/equal-opportunity-affirmative-action-and-nondiscrimination-policy>

LMU is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination, including gender or sex-based discrimination. All LMU employees are Mandatory Reporters; this means that if you inform any LMU employee of a situation that may involve sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, dating violence, or any other form of prohibited gender or sex-based discrimination, the employee is required to report the information to the Title IX Coordinator. Please use the the form online at [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?LincolnMemorialUniv&layout\\_id=50](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?LincolnMemorialUniv&layout_id=50). If you would like to speak with an individual who does not have this obligation, confidential counseling is available to students free of charge through the LMU Office of Mental Health Counseling. Law students desiring confidential counseling are encouraged to schedule an appointment online at <https://www.lmunet.edu/counseling/index.php>.

Help and support is available. LMU offers support to help individuals navigate campus life, access health and counseling services, and obtain academic and/or housing accommodations. For more information about resources available on and off campus, and to view the harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct policies, visit <https://www.lmunet.edu/office-of-institutional-compliance/>.

# Campus Facilities

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The School of Law's facility is a significant asset. Constructed in 1848, the building has served many purposes over the years. Properly cared for, it will continue to serve as a valuable resource and a source of pride for the LMU Law community.

Duncan School of Law  
Lincoln Memorial University  
601 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
Ph. 865.545.5300

## Facilities Information

### A. Guidelines for Building and Equipment Usage

1. Furniture Set-ups in Classrooms and Public Areas: The building is furnished with high-quality tables, chairs, and casual seating. Please take care of them. Maintain appropriate furniture arrangements in classrooms and keep the public areas free of tables, chairs, and other furniture that are not being used. If it is necessary to rearrange the furniture in a classroom for a particular purpose, please move it back to its original configuration when finished.
2. Tables and Chairs for Events: Tables and chairs are available for events and activities sponsored by recognized law student organizations. If you need tables or chairs, please contact the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services.
3. Announcements and Notices: Notices of meetings, events, or other signs should be posted only on bulletin boards and easels. To post an announcement digitally, please contact the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services. Easels are also available, but please return them promptly when you are finished with them. Notices should not be posted on walls, woodwork, or pillars in any of the classrooms or Law Library. Notices posted on restricted areas will be removed.

### B. Lockers

Student lockers are located on the lower level of the School of Law. All new students will be able to request a locker at the start of the school year. Students will keep the same locker for the entire year but must remove their belongings before leaving for the summer. Lockers may be reassigned each August to upper-level students depending upon availability. Each student's locker is subject to searches for items prohibited by the University, the School of Law, state, and federal law. By using a locker, each student waives his or her right to privacy to items within the locker. Items that remain in lockers after May 31 of each year will be subject to disposal at the discretion of the School of Law.

### C. Lost and Found

Students should check for lost items at the receptionist desk.

### D. Student Lounge

There is a student lounge located on the first floor of the School of Law. Tables, chairs, microwave ovens, coffeemakers, a toaster, and refrigerators are provided so that students may eat in the lounge. A vending area is also located in the lounge. Students are responsible for cleaning up after using the lounge.

### E. Mail

Students may not receive mail addressed to them at the School of Law. Any mail sent to a student in care of the School of Law will be returned to the sender.

## F. Pets

Pets are prohibited on campus. Individuals may bring service animals to campus as permitted by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or other applicable provisions of federal or state law. A student who needs to use a service animal on campus must request an ADA accommodation from the University's Office of Accessible Education Services.

## G. Parking

Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law provides no parking to students enrolled in law school.

The faculty/staff lot is reserved for faculty and staff. There is no parking available for students in the faculty/staff parking lot except after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. On weekends, the faculty/staff lot is generally available for student parking unless a special event is being held. No student parking is allowed at any time in the alley directly behind the School of Law. If a student parks a vehicle in a law school parking area that is not permitted, the vehicle will be ticketed for each offense and the fine will be placed on the student's account.

## H. Tobacco-Free Policy

Lincoln Memorial University cares about your health. The University promotes a healthy, sanitary environment free from tobacco smoke and tobacco-related debris. The LMU community acknowledges that long-term health hazards may accrue to people who use tobacco products or who are subjected to second-hand smoke.

LMU is a Tobacco-Free Campus, with smoking and all other tobacco usage prohibited. This policy applies to all University buildings/grounds, including residence halls, parking lots, and cars parked on LMU properties; all LMU-affiliated off-campus locations and clinics; and any buildings owned, leased, or rented by LMU. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, contractors, and visitors of LMU and is in effect 24 hours a day, year-round.

For purposes of this policy, "tobacco-use" means, but is not limited to, the personal use of any tobacco product, whether intended to be lit or not, which shall include smoking tobacco or other substances that are lit and smoked, as well as the use of cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, hookahs, electronic cigarettes, or any other nicotine delivery through vapor devices; chewing tobacco; smokeless pouches; any form of loose-leaf, smokeless tobacco; and the use of unlit cigarettes, cigars, and pipe tobacco.

Understanding the addictive nature of tobacco products, LMU will make every effort to assist those who may wish to stop using tobacco. Students who wish to stop using tobacco are encouraged to contact the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services for information about smoking cessation programs.

All members of the LMU community shall be responsible for compliance with this policy. It is expected that all faculty, staff, students, contractors, and visitors will voluntarily comply with the spirit and intent of this policy. Violations of this policy will be dealt with in a manner that is consistent with University procedures.

The success of this policy will depend on the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of both tobacco users and non-users. Fines and citations will not be a part of the basic enforcement of this policy; however, Violations of this policy by students should be brought to the attention of the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services. There shall be no reprisals against anyone reporting violations of this policy.

# Tuition and Fees

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Cost of Attendance: 2026-2027

# Admissions and Financial Aid

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## Admissions

### [LMU Law Admissions](#)

The Law School maintains and regularly updates an Admission Policies and Procedures Manual, which includes all policies and procedures governing its admissions process and standards. That admissions manual is posted on the Law School's website under Admissions > How to Apply.

## Financial Aid

Lincoln Memorial University recognizes the problem of increasing educational costs and thus offers a substantial financial aid program to help students pay for their education. The university makes every effort to ensure that qualified students can attend despite their limited financial resources. After the student submits the necessary acceptance forms, the Office of Student Financial Services will determine the student's eligibility for financial assistance. Each applicant for financial aid must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA should be submitted to the federal processing center in time to process and pay tuition for students entering the following fall. The priority deadline to apply for financial aid is June 1.

For financial aid purposes, full-time enrollment is defined as 9 credit hours or more per semester. Students must be enrolled in at least 6 hours to be eligible for federal student loans. Students who are considered less than full-time will receive a pro-rated amount of federal student loans. Financial aid can be affected by a student's academic performance. Failure to achieve or remain in good standing or to comply with any rules or policies of the School of Law that result in a student's dismissal or involuntary withdrawal could result in a financial aid warning or suspension of financial aid.

To remain eligible for financial aid, a student must successfully complete 67% of the credits attempted within an academic term and maintain a 2.0 GPA. Assuming a student is in good standing, a student who completes 67% of the credits attempted within an academic term shall be deemed to have made satisfactory academic progress. Failure to make satisfactory academic progress could result in a financial aid warning or suspension of financial aid.

A student who has failed to remain in good standing or fails to make satisfactory academic progress will be placed on financial aid warning for the next consecutive term in which the student is enrolled. Financial aid eligibility will not be suspended during the initial probationary semester; however, failure to achieve or remain in good standing or to make satisfactory progress by the end of the probationary semester will result in a loss of eligibility to receive financial aid for any subsequent academic terms.

A student dismissed from the School of Law cannot file an Appeal seeking reconsideration of their financial aid status until the Academic Standards Committee has granted a Petition for Readmission. An appeal of a decision regarding financial aid may be filed with the Office of Financial Aid. The Office of Financial Aid shall forward the Appeal to the Lincoln Memorial University Financial Aid Appeals Committee.

All students who have received loans in furtherance of their undergraduate, graduate, or legal education shall be required to complete debt counseling during their last academic year at the School of Law and at other times after matriculation. Failure to complete such counseling could result in withholding your degree or disenrollment from the School of Law.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at the School of Law by email at [finaid@lmu.net](mailto:finaid@lmu.net) or by telephone at (423) 869-6336. A representative of the Financial Aid Office will also regularly hold office hours via Zoom for students at the School of Law.

### [LMU Financial Aid Requirements](#)

# Scholarships

**Merit Scholarships** All merit scholarships are automatically renewed each academic year so long as the recipient remains in good academic standing. To remain in good academic standing, the recipient must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.000. The determination of whether a recipient is in good academic standing for scholarship purposes is made following the spring semester of each academic year.

**Merit Scholarship Reductions and Revocations** The Admissions and Scholarships Committee has the discretion to reduce or revoke the merit scholarships of recipients no longer in good academic standing following the spring semester of each academic year. Additionally, the Committee has the discretion to reduce or revoke the merit scholarships of recipients who have violated the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Code of Conduct.

**Merit Scholarship Increases** Following the spring semester of each academic year, qualifying returning second-, third-, and fourth-year students may apply for an increase in their merit scholarship. To qualify, a student must have completed at least 19 credit hours and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.400.

However, funding for merit scholarship increases is limited and meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee that an increase will be awarded. The Admissions and Scholarships Committee relies on a number of factors in awarding merit scholarship increases. These include the information contained in the recipient's application, the amount originally awarded, and academic achievement.

Recipients who have had their merit scholarships reduced or revoked for failure to remain in (or achieve) good academic standing may apply to have a portion of their initial scholarship amount reinstated if they have a cumulative grade point average of 2.200 following the spring semester of the academic year following the reduction or revocation. Applications for reinstatement of a merit scholarship will be decided using the same application and at the same time as applications for scholarship increases.

# Veterans

In accordance with the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, Section 367(e) of title 38 (Public Law 115-407), a student who is entitled to educational assistance under Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment, or Chapter 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill® \*benefits shall be permitted to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the educational institution a Certificate of Eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under Chapter 31 or 33 (a Certificate of Eligibility can also include a "Statement of Benefits" obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs website- eBenefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for Chapter 31) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from the VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following receipt of the Certificate of Eligibility.

The university shall not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or require the student to borrow additional funds, in order to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under Chapter 31 or 33.

Beginning with the terms starting after December 17, 2021, students using their Post 9/11 GI Bill will be required to verify their enrollment at the end of each month. Students receiving the Montgomery GI Bill will not be impacted by this change. They are already required to verify their enrollment.

After December 17, 2021, all impacted students with a US mobile phone number on file with the VA will receive an opt-in text as their next enrollment period approaches. Students who do not have a mobile phone number on file will not be able to use text verify. They will be automatically enrolled into email verification.

\* GI Bill is a registered trademark of the US Department of Veteran Affairs.

# Policies and Requirements

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## Policy Regarding Changing Student Status

### **Policy for Transfer Requests between the Traditional and Part-Time/Hybrid Options**

The Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law admits students to complete our J.D. program under one of two options: (1) a traditional, full-time option designed to allow students to earn their J.D. degrees in three years, primarily by taking traditional, in-person classes; and (2) a part-time/ hybrid option designed to allow students to earn their J.D. degrees in four years by taking a combination of distance education courses and residential classes held over long weekends. The structure and curriculum sequence for each program is described in further detail later in this Handbook. When students are admitted to the School of Law, they are admitted either as full-time students or as part-time/ hybrid students.

#### I. Transfer from the Full-Time to the Part-Time/Hybrid Option

Enrollment in the Part-Time/Hybrid Option is limited to a set number of students. Students enrolled in the Full-Time Option may transfer to the Part-Time/Hybrid Option only if there are a sufficient number of vacant slots available. Student requests for transfer will be referred to the Admissions Committee whose members will make decisions in consultation with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Students seeking a transfer should submit a transfer application form to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

#### II. Transfer from the Part-Time/Hybrid to the Full-Time Option

Because of limits by the American Bar Association on the number of distance education credits students may complete, transfer opportunities from the Part/Time Hybrid Option into the Full-Time Option will be limited. Assuming the availability of vacant slots, students who have not exceeded the allowable number of distance education credits may request transfer. Student requests for transfer from the Part-Time/Hybrid to the Full-Time Option will be referred to the Admissions Committee whose members will make decisions in consultation with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

## Attendance Requirements for Full-Time Students

1. Regular and punctual class attendance is required of all students in all courses. Faculty members are required to take attendance in all courses. Students must indicate their attendance of each class meeting in the manner prescribed by the professor. If a question later arises as to whether a student attended a particular class, the professor shall make that determination.
2. No student may miss more than twenty percent (20%) of the scheduled class meetings in any course. Students enrolled in their first semester of study may miss no more than fifteen percent (15%) of the scheduled class meetings in any course. Students on academic probation may miss no more than ten percent (10%) of the scheduled class meetings in any course. "Scheduled class meetings" is defined as the total number of classes that are established for a particular course, pursuant to the school calendar, with such number remaining the same regardless of any modifications that might arise during the semester (e.g., cancellations because of inclement weather). When multiplying the number of scheduled class meetings by the percentages described above, the resulting number shall be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.
3. Nothing in this rule shall prohibit a professor from adopting a more restrictive attendance policy for a particular course. To the extent a professor adopts such a policy, that policy shall control. A student who is tardy or who exits class early may, at the discretion of the professor, be marked as absent for the entire class.
4. The attendance requirement is not subject to modification by a professor; nor may a professor "excuse" an absence. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant leave and relief from the attendance requirements in extraordinary circumstances, such as (1) representing the law school at a co-curricular interscholastic competition, conference, or function (i.e., Moot Court, Mock Trial, or Law Review) or official bar function, (2) jury duty, (3) religious observances, (4) the birth of a child, (5) the death of an immediate family member (to include grandparents), or (6) major non-elective surgery or a prolonged hospital stay. Students must provide proof of the reason for the absence.

5. Students must keep track of their absences. Students should not expect the School of Law to warn them when their absences are close to exceeding that which is allowed. Any such warning that might be given is gratuitous by a specific professor, advisor, or dean, and shall not be construed as creating an obligation on the part of the School of Law to provide a warning to any student.
6. Students who fail to comply with the attendance requirements in any course shall be immediately administratively withdrawn from the course, and a grade of "AW" shall be given, except in the following academic success courses: Legal Foundations, Advanced Legal Reasoning, Legal Practice Skills, and Solving Legal Problems. Students who fail to comply with the attendance requirements in one of these academic success courses shall remain enrolled in the course, receive a presumptive grade of "F," and be required to complete the next academic success course in the curriculum. However, at the instructor's discretion, a student may be given the option to complete additional assignments to raise the student's grade to no higher than a grade of "D." To enable students to satisfy all graduation requirements while providing them with appropriate academic support, a student who receives a grade of "F" in a required academic success course may be permitted to complete a different academic success course instead of repeating the course, at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
7. The School of Law reserves the right to require students to attend workshops, presentations, or meetings, as deemed necessary by the administration of the School of Law, to facilitate the legal education of each of its students. The School of Law will provide as much notice as possible to students of the scheduling of such events that require student attendance. Failure to attend such events without prior approval or subsequent waiver from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs could result in sanctions.
8. Students must attend a minimum of *four (4)* designated "Professionalism Series" presentations prior to graduation, with attendance at a minimum of one each fall and spring term in which the student is enrolled at the School of Law, until the student has attended *four (4)* designated presentations. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant leave and relief from the attendance requirements in extraordinary circumstances.
9. Students must also attend a minimum of *four (4)* designated "Professional Identity" group meetings prior to graduation, with attendance at a minimum of one each fall and spring term their second and third years in which the student is enrolled at the School of Law. Each student will be assigned a particular group their second and third years and will be given details as to the group's assigned topic for each group meeting. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant leave and relief from the attendance requirements in extraordinary circumstances.
10. **Orientation Attendance Policy.** Orientation at LMU Law contains substantive information that incoming students need when they begin law school and is different than undergraduate orientation programs. In addition to information about law school life, Orientation covers fundamental skills and substantive legal information that is key to first semester success. The decision to begin law school includes a commitment to attend the mandatory law school Orientation and incoming students must plan accordingly. The dates for 1L student Orientation are designated on the Academic Calendar. All incoming 1L students must attend all Orientation sessions as a prerequisite to enrollment in law school classes. However, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant leave and relief from this policy in extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances do not include a planned vacation or the timing of a student's move to the Knoxville area. A student requesting relief from this policy must submit a petition to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in advance of Orientation that explains the student's extraordinary circumstance preventing attendance at Orientation. If a student experiences an emergency during Orientation, the student may submit a petition as soon as possible following resolution of the emergency. If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs agrees that the student's circumstance warrants relief, he or she may permit the student to watch recordings of Orientation sessions and complete alternate assignments that are designed to develop the same skills that the student would have learned and practiced during Orientation. These may include written assignments, online or in-person coursework, readings, or additional meetings with faculty or staff. If the student fails to watch the recordings and complete the alternate assignments by the drop/add deadline for classes, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall administratively withdraw the student from classes or impose an alternate consequence. An example of such an alternate consequence is that the student would immediately accrue one absence in each of the student's Fall semester courses, thereby effectively heightening the student's attendance requirement for the semester. No person may "excuse" a student's absence from Orientation, other than by the above method.

# Attendance Requirements for Part-Time/Hybrid Students

Regular and punctual class attendance is required of all students in all courses. Faculty members are required to take attendance in all courses. Students must indicate their attendance of each class meeting in the manner prescribed by the professor. If a question later arises as to whether a student attended a particular class, the professor shall make that determination.

In the event that these rules addressing attendance requirements for part-time/hybrid students conflict with rules for the full-time students, these rules apply.

Students must keep track of their absences. Students should not expect the School of Law to warn them when their absences are close to exceeding allowable limits. Any such warning that might be given is gratuitous by a specific professor, advisor, or dean, and shall not be construed as creating an obligation on the part of the School of Law to provide a warning to any student.

Nothing in this rule shall prohibit a professor from using other methods to document attendance in addition to those listed below or from adopting a more restrictive attendance policy for a particular online course or for a module of a particular course. To the extent a professor adopts such a policy, that policy shall control.

## Attendance Requirements for Online Modules

Except as otherwise noted herein, no student may miss more than twenty percent (20%) of the scheduled online modules in any course. Students on academic probation may miss no more than ten percent (10%) of the scheduled online modules in any course. For each course, the number of online modules will be determined based on the academic calendar and will be indicated on the course syllabus. When multiplying the number of scheduled modules by the percentages described above, the resulting number shall be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

Student attendance in online modules is defined as active participation in the course as described in the individual course syllabus. Online courses will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for student participation, which can be documented by any or all of the following methods:

- Completion of tests or quizzes
- Discussion forums
- Submission / completion of assignments
- Video sessions

Instructors have the discretion to specify what level of student participation satisfies attendance requirements as documented by one or more of the methods set forth above. Attendance requirements should be set forth in the course syllabus.

## Attendance Requirements for Residential On-Campus Sessions

In relation to the residential component of hybrid courses, attendance at each in-person residential component is expected. During the term of a course, no student may miss more than 15% of the scheduled on-campus class hours for any course. Students on probation may miss no more than ten percent (10%) of the scheduled on-campus hours for any course. For computation purposes involving periods of less than one hour, at the discretion of the professor, the student may be marked as absent for the entire hour.

## Violations of the Attendance Policy

Students who fail to comply with the attendance requirements in any course shall be immediately administratively withdrawn from the course, and a grade of "AW" shall be given, except in the following academic success courses: Legal Foundations, Advanced Legal Reasoning, Legal Practice Skills, and Solving Legal Problems which are addressed below. The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs has the discretion to excuse absences for good cause shown. A request for an excused absence, however, may not be submitted and will not be considered prior to the time the student has exceeded the allowable limit of absences or anticipates having to do so.

For Legal Foundations, Advanced Legal Reasoning, Legal Practice Skills, and Solving Legal Problems, students who fail to comply with the attendance requirements shall remain enrolled in the course, receive a presumptive grade of "F," and be required to complete the next academic success course in the curriculum. However, at the instructor's discretion, a student may be given the option to complete additional assignments to raise the student's grade to no higher than a grade of "D." To enable students to satisfy all graduation requirements while providing them with appropriate academic support, a student who receives a grade of "F" in a required academic success course may be permitted to complete a different academic success course instead of repeating the course, at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

A professor does not have the authority to excuse an absence.

### Orientation Attendance Policy

Orientation at LMU Law contains substantive information that incoming students need when they begin law school and is different than undergraduate orientation programs. In addition to information about law school life, Orientation covers fundamental skills and substantive legal information that is key to first semester success. The decision to begin law school includes a commitment to attend the mandatory law school Orientation and incoming students must plan accordingly. The dates for 1L student Orientation are designated on the Academic Calendar. All incoming 1L students must attend all Orientation sessions as a prerequisite to enrollment in law school classes. Additionally, class sessions for some Fall semester courses are held for students in the Part-Time Hybrid program. Absences from these sessions will be treated as set forth above in the sections "Attendance Requirements for Residential On-Campus Sessions" and "Violations of the Attendance Policy." Other portions of Orientation may be excused by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs only in extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances do not include a planned vacation or the timing of a student's move to the Knoxville area.

## Credit Hour Policy

### A. Scheduling – Traditional Program of Instruction

For courses in which a final exam will be administered, compliance with ABA Standard 310 requires an amount of classroom or direct faculty instruction of no less than 48 hours for four-credit courses, 36 hours for three-credit courses, 24 hours for two-credit courses, and 12 hours for one-credit courses. Courses in which a final exam will not be administered require an additional amount of classroom or direct faculty instruction of no less than four hours for four-credit courses, three hours for three-credit courses, two hours for two-credit courses, and one hour for one-credit courses.

To ensure compliance with section A.1, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or his or her designee shall create the academic schedule as follows:

1. Four-credit courses: 52 hours of in-class or direct faculty instruction (i.e., 26 two-hour meetings or 39 1.5-hour meetings).
2. Three-credit courses: 39 hours of in-class or direct faculty instruction (i.e., 26 1.5-hour meetings or 39 one-hour meetings).
3. Two-credit courses: 26 hours of in-class or direct faculty instruction (i.e., 13 two-hour meetings or 26 one-hour meetings).
4. One-credit courses: 13 hours of in-class or direct faculty instruction (i.e., 13 one-hour meetings).

The law school defines an "hour" for classroom or direct faculty instruction as sixty minutes, rather than the fifty minutes required by ABA Interpretation 310-1.

All courses must be structured to ensure two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks for each credit hour awarded, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. This means a minimum amount of out-of-class student work of 120 hours for four-credit courses, 90 hours for three-credit courses, 60 hours for two-credit courses, and 30 hours for one-credit courses. The law school defines an "hour" for out-of-class student work as sixty minutes, which is consistent with Interpretation 310-1.

## B. Scheduling – Online Components

The ABA defines “Distance Education Course” as “one in which all instruction is delivered exclusively via distance education methods as described in Standard 306(a), notwithstanding some in-person, non-instructional activities such as orientation, testing, and academic support services.” ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools, Definitions § 8. Distance education courses are subject to the same rules as set forth above in regard to instructional time.

Direct faculty instruction required for distance education courses and online sessions held in non-distance education courses is generally considered as audio or video lecture presentations; faculty use of a discussion board for responses to an entire class as a group; faculty feedback provided to class members as a group in relation to quizzes, exams, and other assessments; and faculty use of podcasts and other recorded instruction.

## C. Scheduling – Irregularly Scheduled Credit-Bearing Academic Activities

For credit-bearing academic activities that do not meet on a regular weekly academic schedule, such as field placements, clinics, Mock Trial, Moot Court, and Law Review, the total work required for the course should be the equivalent of that required above when considering instructional and out-of-class work together.

## Pro Bono Requirement

Each student must complete thirty (30) hours of community service prior to graduation from the School of Law. Community Service is limited to service for which the student receives no remuneration and which is approved by the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services. Pro Bono requirements are the same for students in the Part-Time/Hybrid program as those in the Full-Time programs. Each student is personally responsible for submitting all of their Community Service hours through the following link: [Pro Bono Completion](#)

1. Upon completion, the student must submit confirmation of the performance of pro bono service to the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services. If such service, in the discretion of the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services, satisfies the requirements enumerated herein, the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services shall provide written approval to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
2. At least ten (10) hours of the community service completed must involve the rendering of meaningful law-related service to persons of limited means or to organizations serving such persons.
3. Prior to a student’s completion all of his/her First-Year Required Courses, the number of pro bono hours a student may complete to satisfy this requirement is capped at the ten (10) law-related service hours. These law-related service hours may not be completed during the first semester of study at the law school.
4. Students that show an exemplary commitment to serving the community will be eligible to receive a Pro Bono Award upon graduation. Any pro bono award a student receives at the graduation ceremony will be calculated based upon hours completed at the end of the midterm period before the student graduates.

General Oliver O. Howard Pro Bono Award: 100–250 hours

President Abraham Lincoln Pro Bono Award: 250 hours or more

## Work Policy

Due to the significant time commitment required for full-time legal study, full-time students are not permitted to work in their first semester of study. Full-time students who complete fifteen (15) credit hours in their first semester and earn a GPA of at least 3.000 may work a maximum of twenty (20) hours per week during their second semester. Qualifying full-time students who choose to work during their second semester must provide written notice of their intent to do so to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs before they commence their employment. During any subsequent fall or spring semester, full-time students who are in good standing may work a maximum of twenty (20) hours per week. During a summer term, full-time students in good standing who are enrolled in six or more credit hours may work a maximum of twenty (20) hours per week. During a summer term, full-time students in good standing who are enrolled in fewer than six (6) credit hours are not subject to any limitation as to the number of hours they may work. Full-time students who are not in good standing may not work during any semester in which they are enrolled in courses at the School of Law, including a summer term.

## Part-Time/Hybrid Program Fall Break, Spring Break, and Summer Recess

Classes shall not be held during Fall Break, Spring Break, or Summer Recess. For purposes of this policy, "classes" includes in-person meetings, synchronous online meetings, and deadlines for portions of asynchronous online modules. The time period allocated for Fall Break includes the weekend before or after the weekdays designated on the Academic Calendar for Fall Break. The time period allocated for Spring Break and Summer Recess includes the weekends before and after the weekdays designated on the Academic Calendar for Spring Break and Summer Recess.

## Curriculum

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The Law School curriculum shall have as its objective to maintain an educational program that prepares its students for admission to the bar and effective and responsible participation in the legal profession. The curriculum is designed to prepare students to be effective attorneys by developing their abilities in critical thinking and problem-solving. The curriculum reflects a traditional legal education, while at the same time adopting the best practices for effective learning.

The School of Law operates on a semester system and requires successful completion of ninety (90) credit hours for conferment of the J.D. degree. All requirements must be completed no earlier than twenty-four (24) months and no later than eighty-four (84) months after a student has commenced law study at the School of Law or an institution from which the School of Law has accepted transfer credit.

Students in the full-time program have the option of applying to participate in several combined degree completion pathways, which allow students to earn another graduate degree as they complete the requirements of the program of legal education. Approved pathways available to students at the School of Law include the Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, and Master of Public Administration. More information regarding these pathways is available on the law school website. Some of these pathway programs may allow you to count J.D. courses toward a Master's degree. However, no student may earn credit toward their J.D. degree except those offered by the School of Law or another ABA-accredited law school, as described in the "Transfer Students" policy.

No full-time student may enroll in more than sixteen (16) credit hours during any fall or spring semester without approval from the student's academic advisor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Under no circumstances may any full-time student be allowed to enroll in coursework that, if successfully completed, would exceed eighteen (18) credit hours during any fall or spring semester.

Part-time/hybrid students shall enroll in courses according to the curriculum prescribed in this Handbook, except in extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. There will be a rebuttable presumption that requests to accelerate a student's course of study do not constitute extraordinary circumstances.

No student may enroll in more than seven (7) credits during a summer semester. The number of credits includes those attributed to courses in other ABA-approved law schools. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may, in his or her discretion, make an exception to the restriction on summer credits if a student enrolls in a summer study program at or sponsored by another law school that does not conflict with the summer semester at the Duncan School of Law.

Graduation requirements for full-time and part-time/hybrid students are identical. The only distinction among cohorts is the time it takes to complete the program of legal education and the format and timing of course available.

Where a course is divided into multiple sections and students are assigned to a section by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, a request by a student to switch out of an assigned section into another section shall be made to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and granted or denied at his or her discretion. Typically, a request to switch sections will only be granted if the student has a verifiable and unavoidable scheduling conflict. Requests based upon faculty preferences will generally be denied.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may cancel any scheduled course, even after enrollment by students, if fewer than ten (10) students are enrolled therein.

## First-Year Curriculum: Traditional Program of Study

The first-year curriculum is designed to give students a broad understanding of the American legal system and the role of law in society. First-year courses provide a solid foundation upon which upper-level courses will build, while offering a structure designed to build and strengthen students' skills in legal analysis, reasoning, research, problem solving, and oral communication.

Unless waived by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, as determined in his or her sole discretion, full-time students must take all required courses during the academic terms and in the sequence recommended.

Notwithstanding this requirement, students may apply to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to complete the J.D. program on an accelerated basis. The application may be made after the spring semester of the student's first year of study. If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs grants the application for accelerated study, then a full-time student may complete the J.D. program on an accelerated basis. This will allow the student to take the Bar Exam Skills II course in spring of the second year. Full-time students must complete the accelerated program in three fall, two spring, and two summer semesters. As a result, the student engaging in accelerated study would graduate in December prior to the May graduation of his or her original cohort. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant or deny the application for accelerated study in his or her discretion, except that both full-time students are eligible to apply only if they have a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or better after the spring semester of their first year.

In the fall of the first year, full-time students shall take Legal Communication I (2 hours); Legal Research I (1 hour); Legal Foundations (1 hour); Civil Procedure I (3 hours); Torts I (3 hours); Contracts and Sales I (3 hours); and Criminal Law (3 hours). In the spring, students will take Legal Communication II (3 hours); Legal Research II (1 hour); Civil Procedure II (3 hours); Torts II (3 hours); Property I (3 hours); and The Successful Lawyer (2 hours). Students with a GPA of 2.200 or below after their 1L fall semester shall take Advanced Legal Reasoning (no credit) in the spring, a course that is elective for all other first-year students.

## Upper-Level Curriculum: Traditional Program of Study

The upper-level curriculum reinforces skills learned in the first-year curriculum while permitting students to take courses in areas which interest them. Unless waived by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, as determined in his or her sole discretion, full-time students must take all required courses during the academic terms and in the sequence as set forth below in the course charts for the Full-Time Program. Students may opt to take elective courses at any time that they are offered to their cohort, as space allows. Failure to follow the specific curriculum could delay graduation.

## Part-Time Hybrid Program Scheduling and Curriculum

The schedule of courses in the Part-Time Hybrid program is designed similarly to that of the traditional program of education. Initial required course offerings build and strengthen students' skills in legal analysis, reasoning, research, problem solving, and oral communication. Upper-level courses further enhance those skills and allow students to take elective offerings of interest. Unless waived by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, as determined in his or her sole discretion, students in the Part-Time Hybrid program must take all required courses during the academic terms and in the sequence as set forth below in the course charts for the Part-Time Hybrid program.

# Upper-Level Writing Requirement for Full-time Program

The first writing experience consists of the successful completion of the following courses: Legal Communication I (LAW 1052), Legal Research I (LAW 1051), Legal Communication II (LAW 1054), and Legal Research II (LAW 1053). A student must satisfy the first writing experience before undertaking a second writing experience.

For the second and third writing experiences, students must complete two of the following three categories:

1. an academic legal writing seminar;
2. a practice-oriented legal writing seminar; or
3. Law Review.

Students complete the second and third writing experiences in the upper-level curriculum, and the requirements for each option are set forth below. A student may use the same option twice to satisfy the second and third writing experience (for example, a student may take two academic legal writing seminars or two practice-oriented legal writing seminars to meet both the second and third writing experiences).

In each upper-level writing course, a law librarian will be available to assist students with relevant legal research skills, including the development of a research plan, the completion of a preemption check, and the identification of relevant sources associated with the subject matter, if applicable.

The specific requirements for the upper-level options are as follows.

## 1. Academic Legal Writing Seminar

Academic legal writing seminars have course numbers from 4000-4499. For an academic legal writing seminar to satisfy one of the required writing experiences, the student must comply with the following requirements:

- The student must complete a writing project, as prescribed by the supervising faculty member, which may consist of one or more submissions of expository or argumentative legal writing totaling at least 5,000 words of substantive text, exclusive of footnotes, endnotes, headings, and the like;
- Before the final submission of the writing project, the student must submit an outline and a draft to be critiqued by the supervising faculty member; and
- The student must earn a grade of "B" or higher on the writing project (if the writing project consists of multiple submissions, the average grade must be a "B" or higher).

A student's successful completion of an Independent Study shall be considered the equivalent of the completion of an academic legal writing seminar. For an Independent Study to satisfy one of the required writing experiences, the student must comply with the same requirements as an academic legal writing seminar and must also comply with the Independent Study Guidelines promulgated by the Curriculum Committee.

## 2. Practice-Oriented Legal Writing Seminar

Practice-oriented legal writing seminars have course numbers from 4500-4999. For a practice-oriented legal writing seminar to satisfy one of the required writing experiences, the student must comply with the following requirements:

- The student must complete at least one writing project, as prescribed by the supervising faculty member, which must consist of one or more substantial, original submissions of practice-oriented legal writing, such as a trial or appellate brief, a contract, probate documents, legislation, or a judicial opinion;
- Before the final submission of the writing project, the student must submit a draft in addition to the final document to be critiqued by the supervising faculty member; and
- The student must earn a grade of "B" or higher on the writing project (if the writing project consists of multiple submissions, the average grade must be a "B" or higher).
- A practice-oriented writing experience must be of comparable rigor and require the same time and effort as a writing experience in an academic legal writing seminar.

### 3. Law Review

For participation on the Law Review to satisfy one of the required writing experiences, the student must complete two academic years, including summer terms, on the Law Review. In addition, the student must comply with the following requirements:

- After serving as a member of the Law Review for at least one semester, the student must produce a note consisting of either expository or argumentative writing that is least 5,000 words of text, exclusive of footnotes, endnotes, headings, and the like;
- An outline and draft must be submitted and critiqued by the Law Review Faculty Advisor, or another faculty member designated by the Advisor, prior to submission of the final paper;
- A minimum of three meetings shall be held between the student and the Law Review Faculty Advisor, or another faculty member designated by the Advisor, to allow the Advisor to provide detailed feedback to the students prior to the submission of the final paper;
- The note shall be published in a law review journal or other similar legal publication; or, if approval is granted by the Law Review Faculty Advisor, accepted for publication in a law review journal or other similar legal publication; or, if approval is granted by the Law Review Faculty Advisor, of publishable quality;
- The paper must be supervised by the LMU Law Review Faculty Advisor, who shall be a full-time faculty member;
- The student must earn a grade of "B" or higher on the note; and
- The note must be written independently and without collaboration with others.

## Experiential Learning Requirement

Each student must complete six credits of experiential learning electives. Courses qualifying for experiential learning credit shall be numbered at the 5000 level.

To qualify as a 5000-level experiential learning elective, a course must be primarily experiential in nature and must:

1. integrate doctrine, theory, skills, and legal ethics, and engage students in performance of one or more of the professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession. These may include professional skills such as interviewing, counseling, negotiation, fact development and analysis, trial practice, document drafting, conflict resolution, organization and management of legal work, collaboration, cultural competency, and self-evaluation;
2. develop the concepts underlying the professional skills being taught;
3. provide multiple opportunities for performance; and
4. provide opportunities for self-evaluation.

In addition, an experiential course must fall into one of the three categories described below: (1) a simulation course; (2) a law clinic; or (3) a field placement.

#### 1. Simulation Courses

Simulation courses shall carry course numbers between 5101-5099. A simulation course provides substantial experience not involving an actual client, that (1) is reasonably similar to the experience of a lawyer advising or representing a client or engaging in other lawyering tasks in a set of facts and circumstances devised or adopted by a faculty member, and (2) includes the following:

1. direct supervision of the student's performance by a faculty member;
2. no fewer than three (3) opportunities for performance, feedback, from a faculty member, and self-evaluation; and
3. a classroom instructional component.

#### 2. Clinical Courses

Clinical courses shall carry course numbers between 5100-5199. A clinical course provides substantial lawyering experience that (1) involves one or more actual clients and (2) includes the following:

1. advising or representing a client;
2. direct supervision of the student's performance by a faculty member;

3. no fewer than three (3) opportunities for performance, feedback, from a faculty member, and self-evaluation; and
4. a classroom instructional component.

### 3. Field Placement Courses

Field Placement courses shall carry course numbers between 5200-5299. Such courses must meet all of the requirements described in this handbook and the Externship Policies and Procedures Handbook.

## Full-Time Option: Entering Class of 2024 and After

### Degree Type

Doctor of Jurisprudence

The School of Law offers a traditional three-year, full-time J.D. option that averages 15 credit hours per semester.

### First Year

#### Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
LAW-1011	Civil Procedure I	3
LAW-1061	Criminal Law	3
LAW-1021	Contracts and Sales I	3
LAW-1041	Torts I	3
LAW-1052	Legal Communication I	2
LAW-1051	Legal Research I	1
LAW-1005	Legal Foundations	1
	Sub-Total Credits	16

\*[LAW-1005](#) May be waived under circumstances described in the course description.

#### Spring Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
LAW-1012	Civil Procedure II	3
LAW-1031	Property I	3
LAW-1042	Torts II	3
LAW-1054	Legal Communication II	3
LAW-1053	Legal Research II	1
LAW-1008	The Successful Lawyer	2
	Sub-Total Credits	15

\*[LAW-1002](#) (Advanced Legal Reasoning) Mandatory for students with a cumulative GPA of 2.200 or below and elective for all other students.

## Second & Third Years

### Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
LAW-2021	Bar Exam Skills I	3
LAW-2091	Contracts and Sales II	3
LAW-2045	Constitutional Law I	2
LAW-2031	Property II	3
LAW-2085	Evidence	4
LAW-2071	Domestic Relations	3
	Elective (11-12) hours	
	Sub-Total Credits	29-30

\*[LAW-2001](#) (Legal Practice Skills) Mandatory in the fall semester of the second year for students with a cumulative GPA below 2.200 after the spring semester of their first year. Also mandatory for any upper-level student on academic probation who has not yet taken the course. Elective for all other students. Students with a cumulative GPA between 2.000 and 2.199 may take a maximum of 12 hours if they are required to take Legal Practice Skills during the fall semester of their second year. Students with a cumulative GPA between 1.800 and 1.999 who are required to take Legal Practice Skills in the fall semester of their second year may take more than 12 hours only with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

\*\*[LAW-2002](#) (Solving Legal Problems) Mandatory for upper-level students on academic probation who have already taken or are not required to enroll in Legal Practice Skills.

\*Students who waive out of LAW-1005 will need one additional hour of elective credit.

### Spring Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
LAW-2022	Bar Exam Skills II	3
LAW-2199	Business Organizations	4
LAW-2046	Constitutional Law II	3
LAW-2195	Professional Responsibility	3
LAW-2196	Constitutional Criminal Procedure	3
	Electives (14-15 hours)	
	Sub-Total Credits	30-31
	Total Credits	90

## Part-Time/Hybrid Option

### Degree Type

Doctor of Jurisprudence

The school requires 90 credit hours of instruction for graduation. Under the hybrid option, 57 credit hours are completely online. Apart from a required orientation session, the other credit hours will be satisfied through attendance for on-campus instructions during, at most, two long weekend periods during the fall and spring semesters and one long weekend during the 1L summer session. Notably, after the first year, all summer semester classes are completely online as are all classes during the last year of study.

In view of the demands of work and other commitments, the online component of classes is conducted in an asynchronous manner. That means that students complete classes on their own schedules. Apart from meetings with instructors or other students that may be required, students work at times when they are able to do so. Attendance at pre-scheduled classes is not required.

First Year  
Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
LAW-1011	Civil Procedure I	3
LAW-1041	Torts I	3
LAW-1052	Legal Communication I	2
LAW-1051	Legal Research I	1
LAW-1005	Legal Foundations	1
	Sub-Total Credits	10

\*[LAW-1005](#) may be waived under circumstances described in the course description.

Spring Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
LAW-1012	Civil Procedure II	3
LAW-1042	Torts II	3
LAW-1031	Property I	3
	Sub-Total Credits	9

\*[LAW-1002](#) (Advanced Legal Reasoning) Mandatory for students with a cumulative GPA of 2.200 or below and elective for all other students.

Summer Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
LAW-1008	The Successful Lawyer	2
LAW-1053	Legal Research II	1
LAW-1054	Legal Communication II	3
	Sub-Total Credits	6

Second Year  
Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
LAW-1021	Contracts and Sales I	3
LAW-1061	Criminal Law	3
LAW-2031	Property II	3
	Sub-Total Credits	9

\*[LAW-2001](#) (Legal Practice Skills) Mandatory in the fall semester of the second year for students with a cumulative GPA below 2.200 after the spring semester of their first year. Also mandatory for any upper-level student on academic probation who has not yet taken the course. Elective for all other students.

\*\*[LAW-2002](#) (Solving Legal Problems) Mandatory for upper-level students on academic probation who are not required to enroll in Legal Practice Skills

\*Students who waive out of [LAW-1005](#) will need one additional hour of elective credit.

## Spring Semester

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
LAW-2091	Contracts and Sales II	3
LAW-2196	Constitutional Criminal Procedure	3
LAW-2071	Domestic Relations	3
	Sub-Total Credits	9

## Summer Semester

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	Electives (6 hours)	6
	Sub-Total Credits	6

## Third Year

### Fall Semester

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
LAW-2085	Evidence	4
LAW-2195	Professional Responsibility	3
LAW-2045	Constitutional Law I	2
	Sub-Total Credits	9

### Spring Semester

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
LAW-2199	Business Organizations	4
LAW-2046	Constitutional Law II	3
	Electives (2 hours)	2
	Sub-Total Credits	9

### Summer Semester

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	Electives (3 hours)	3
	Electives (3 hours)	3
	Sub-Total Credits	6

## Fourth Year

### Fall Semester

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
LAW-2021	Bar Exam Skills I	3
	Electives (3 hours)	3
	Electives (3 hours)	3
	Sub-Total Credits	9

### Spring Semester

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
LAW-2022	Bar Exam Skills II	3
	Electives (3 hours)	3
	Electives (2 hours)	2
	Sub-Total Credits	8

## Course Auditing

1. To audit a course, persons seeking to enroll must obtain written permission from the course instructor and from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, whose permission shall only be given provided that enrollment in the course does not adversely affect the quality of the course or the School of Law program. Requests to audit a course may be submitted only after the end of the official registration period (the last day for students to add a course or late register) when it may be determined whether space is still available in the class. This procedure applies to all academic terms. Auditing is not permitted in independent study courses, externships, or similar courses.
2. Auditors do not write papers, complete written assignments, take exams, or request review of written work, unless approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Furthermore, they do not participate in class discussions unless otherwise directed by the course instructor.
3. Auditors are required to register with the University Registrar for any course that they have been approved to audit. Auditors will appear on the instructor's class roll but may not request grades. No transcript of record will be issued and no grades will be accepted by the University Registrar.
4. No credit will be awarded for auditing a course.
5. Students registering to audit a course must pay the applicable fee, unless the fee is waived by the Dean.
6. Students that have been granted permission to audit a course must provide written permission to the University Registrar and pay the applicable fee prior to attendance in the course.
7. Students may not regularly attend any class that they are not registered for, either for credit or as an auditing student.

## Enrollment Status

### Good Standing and Academic Probation

1. A student is in good standing if he or she retains a cumulative GPA of 2.000 or better.
2. As used in this section, the term "Probationary Semester" is defined as the fall or spring semester following a student's placement on academic probation. A student successfully completes a Probationary Semester if the student's cumulative GPA upon completion of the Probationary Semester qualifies the student for good standing.
3. Students placed on academic probation may also be placed on financial aid probation as determined by the University's Office of Student Financial Services.
4. A student who has satisfied all other graduation requirements but has not retained a cumulative GPA of 2.000 shall not graduate. A student who has acquired ninety (90) credit hours or more but fails to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.000 shall be dismissed from the School of Law without a probationary semester.
5. Upon completion of the first semester of study, a student will be placed on academic probation if the student has attempted to earn at least fifteen (15) credits at the School of Law and has a cumulative GPA below 2.000 but not below a 1.667. Credits are deemed attempted for all courses in which a student is enrolled after the add/drop deadline. In addition, students who are placed on academic probation upon completion of the first semester of study are subject to the following standards:
  - a. A student whose Probationary Semester occurs during the second semester of study will successfully complete the Probationary Semester if the student's cumulative GPA upon completion of that semester qualifies the student for good standing.
  - b. A student whose Probationary Semester occurs during the second semester of study may be considered for a Second Probationary Semester if the student's cumulative GPA at the end of the Probationary Semester is at least .200 higher than the student's cumulative GPA at the beginning of the semester. A student may petition the Academic Standards Committee for continued enrollment by completing a Petition for Second Probationary Semester.
  - c. In the Petition, the student shall explain the reasons the student has been unable to obtain good academic standing, the measures taken by the student to improve his or her academic performance during the initial Probationary Semester, and the student's plan for achieving good standing if provided a Second Probationary Semester.

- d. Based upon the content of the Petition for Second Probationary Semester and the student's academic record, the Academic Standards Committee should approve the Petition if the student provides documentation of an extenuating circumstance affecting the student's academic performance, meets admissions standards as to character and fitness, and appears capable of satisfactorily completing the program of legal education and being admitted to the bar. The Academic Standards Committee, in coordination with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, may place conditions upon the student's continued enrollment. Upon approval by the Academic Standards Committee, the Dean may endorse the approval or may deny the student continued enrollment. Any decision of the Academic Standards Committee to deny a Petition for Second Probationary Semester is final.
  - e. Approval of a Petition for Second Probationary Semester does not guarantee that a student will be eligible for financial aid during the student's Second Probationary Semester or any future semester.
  - f. To successfully complete the Second Probationary Semester, the student's cumulative GPA upon completion of that semester must qualify the student for good standing. Grades in any elective courses shall be excluded from the calculation of the student's cumulative GPA for purposes of determining the successful completion of a Second Probationary Semester.
6. Upon completion of any semester other than the first semester of study, a student will be placed on academic probation if the student has attempted to earn at least fifteen (15) credits at the School of Law and has a cumulative GPA below 2.000 but not below a 1.800. A student whose Probationary Semester occurs at any time after the second semester of study will successfully complete the Probationary Semester only if the student's cumulative GPA upon completion of that semester qualifies the student for good standing.
  7. A student placed on academic probation at any time during his or her School of Law career must comply with the following obligations to be allowed to continue his or her legal education at the School of Law:
    - a. The student must meet with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Associate Dean for Student Learning or Director of Academic Success for counseling. The counseling session will focus on strategies for improving the student's academic performance, and the primary goal will be to develop an education plan designed to maximize the student's chance of avoiding academic dismissal. As part of the plan, the student may be required to complete specified assignments or tasks, such as reviewing rubrics and feedback on prior exams and assignments.
    - b. If required by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the student shall complete an Academic Success Probation Contract.
    - c. The student shall comply with all requirements of the Academic Success Probation Program, including meeting attendance requirements with respect to meetings with program personnel, completing any tasks assigned as part of the student's educational plan, and meeting all requirements in any academic success course the student must take because of their academic status.
    - d. A student who fails to meet any of the foregoing obligations may be dismissed from the School of Law at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

## Involuntary Academic Dismissal

1. Notwithstanding any other provision herein, a student shall be dismissed from the School of Law if the student has attempted at least fifteen (15) credits at the School of Law and fails to achieve a cumulative GPA of 1.667 or higher upon completion of the student's first semester of study or fails to achieve a cumulative GPA of 1.800 or higher upon completion of any subsequent fall or spring semester.
2. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 1.667 at any time shall be dismissed from the School of Law.
3. A student who is subject to involuntary academic dismissal under the preceding paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Section may not submit a request for readmission pursuant to Section XVI.C, *infra*, which allows students to keep all credits earned and resume enrollment on academic probation under certain circumstances. However, a student who is subject to involuntary academic dismissal under the preceding paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Section may seek to be admitted as a previously disqualified applicant pursuant to the Admissions Policies and Procedures Manual. Students admitted as previously disqualified applicants do not retain credits earned prior to their academic disqualification.
4. A student who fails to achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.000 upon completion of a Probationary Semester, or, if applicable, a Second Probationary Semester, shall be dismissed from the School of Law. A student who is subject to involuntary dismissal under this provision may request readmission pursuant to Section XVI.C, *infra*, except that readmission shall not be permitted for students who are dismissed upon completion of a Second Probationary Semester.
5. A student who successfully completes a probationary semester by regaining good standing and who subsequently has a cumulative GPA below 2.000 at the end of a fall or spring semester shall be dismissed from the School of Law.

6. Involuntary academic dismissal shall occur automatically, without a probationary period and with no opportunity to appeal the dismissal. A student who is involuntarily dismissed from the School of Law for academic reasons shall have his or her financial aid eligibility suspended.

## Requests for Readmission

1. A student who has a cumulative GPA of 1.800 or higher and has received notice that he or she is to be disqualified may petition the Academic Standards Committee for readmission and permission to continue his or her studies on academic probation. A student may not resume his or her course of study until one (1) calendar year has expired since the student's disqualification.
2. The petition must be submitted to the chair of the Academic Standards Committee by October 1 for a spring enrollment, March 1 for a summer enrollment and May 1 for a fall enrollment.
3. The petition must allege facts that meet each of the below-referenced standards for readmission. Any student who fails to comply with these requirements will be denied a hearing on the petition. Denial of a hearing under the subsection is not appealable.
4. A student may elect to stand on his or her petition alone. But, if the student requests a hearing in conformance with the requirements of this section, a hearing will be conducted by the committee within two (2) weeks of the submission of the Petition for Readmission.
5. The chair of the Academic Standards Committee will inform the student of the Committee's decision within two (2) calendar days after the Committee makes a determination.
6. As a condition of readmission, the committee may require, among other things, the student re-take certain School of Law classes or otherwise address deficiencies by doing additional reading, obtaining tutoring, and/or taking writing classes.
7. A student may be granted permission to continue his or her studies under this provision only one (1) time during his or her studies at the School of Law.
8. A student who is readmitted shall be readmitted on probation. As such, the student must comply with all requirements stated in the academic probation policy.
9. The Academic Standards Committee may grant a petition if the student establishes the following:
  - a. extraordinary circumstances contributed to his or her inability to meet the academic requirements of the School of Law;
  - b. the student's failure to meet the standards for continuing his or her studies does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete the program of study and, in fact, the student possesses that capacity; and
  - c. the circumstances resulting in the student's academic disqualification have been remedied or no longer exist.
10. Students that have been granted readmission to the School of Law, if seeking financial aid, must file an Appeal of the suspension of their eligibility to receive financial aid.
11. Upon a favorable readmission decision from the Academic Standards Committee, the Dean of the School of Law may endorse the readmission decision of the Academic Standards Committee or may deny the student readmission to the DSOL, based upon the factors enumerated above. Any decision of the Academic Standards Committee to deny a Petition for Readmission is final and shall not be reviewable by the Dean.
12. The School of Law maintains a separate process for considering the admission of an applicant who was previously disqualified academically to recommence his or her course of study at the School of Law without retaining any previously earned credits. Details are set forth in the Admissions Policies and Procedures Manual.

## Withdrawal from Courses

1. Financial Considerations for Withdrawal
  - a. Students are not permitted to withdraw from courses after the add/drop period without the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
  - b. Although students may discontinue attendance at the School of Law without approval, subject to the penalties set forth herein, the official date of the withdrawal is the date that the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs receives and approves the student's written request for a leave or withdrawal. Only by approval of the written request for withdrawal will a student be considered withdrawn from the Duncan School of Law. All materials assigned to the student by the Duncan School of Law must be returned before the withdrawal process will be deemed complete.

## 2. Tuition and Fees

If a student withdraws from the School of Law, the policy for refunds of Tuition and Fees will be based on the following schedule for all semesters:

- a. If the student withdraws during the first week of the first official day of class, 100% of applicable institutional dollars will be refunded. If the student withdraws during the second week, 75% will be refunded. If the student withdraws during the third week, 50% will be refunded. If the student withdraws during the fourth week, 25% will be refunded. Students who withdraw after four (4) weeks will not receive any refund.
- b. The LMU Student Accounts Office will determine all refund calculations for Institutional charges (i.e., Tuition and Fees) based upon the Official Withdrawal date submitted by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Any questions regarding tuition and fee refunds or charges incurred due to withdrawal should be addressed to the LMU Student Accounts office at (423) 869-6347.

## 3. Financial Aid

The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 regulate how colleges and universities handle Title IV funds when a recipient withdraws from school. This policy is separate from the University's refund of institutional charges. The return of Title IV funds, which is handled by the LMU Financial Aid office, includes all Stafford Loans and Graduate PLUS loans received during the current semester in attendance. The policy states that up through the 60% point in each semester a pro-rata schedule will be used to determine how much Title IV aid the student has earned. The percentage of time completed in the enrollment period is determined by dividing the number of days completed by the number of days in the enrollment period. If 60% of the semester has been completed, there is no return of Title IV funds. For example, if the student has attended 31% of the enrollment period, the student has earned 31% of his/her Title IV aid, and 69% of the aid must be returned to the federal government. After the 60% point in the semester, the student has earned 100% of the aid for which the student was eligible. Additional information on the return of Title IV funds may be obtained from the LMU Financial Aid Office.

## Leaves of Absence

1. A leave of absence may be granted by the Dean or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to any student who requests one and is in good standing as defined in in this handbook. Any leave of absence from the law school may have an impact on the student's financial aid or scholarship amount.
2. The Dean or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall inform the student of the date the leave of absence will expire. A leave of absence may be granted for up to one year.
3. A student who is on a leave of absence may reenroll as of right in any semester that begins prior to the expiration of the leave period. The right to reenroll is subject to the restrictions of the subpart titled "Refusal to Enroll by the School of Law."
4. Upon the expiration or nonrenewal of a student's leave of absence, he or she shall be voluntarily withdrawn from the law school. A student who is in good standing as defined in this handbook, does not enroll in any classes or withdraws from all classes at the law school, and does not seek or is not awarded a leave of absence is also considered voluntarily withdrawn.

## Reenrollment after Voluntary Withdrawal

1. A student who has voluntarily withdrawn from the law school, including one whose leave of absence has expired, may petition the Academic Standards Committee for reenrollment by completing the Petition for Reenrollment form.
2. In the Petition for Reenrollment, the student shall explain the reason for the voluntary withdrawal, the reason for seeking reenrollment, and his or her activities during the period of non-enrollment, including, but not limited to, any issues that might affect their character and fitness to practice law.
3. The student shall attach to the Petition for Reenrollment all relevant information pertaining to the period of non-enrollment at the law school, including, but not limited to, explanations of any character and fitness issues that have arisen and transcripts from any educational institutions the student has attended during the period of non-enrollment.
4. The Petition for Reenrollment must be submitted to the Chair of the Academic Standards Committee and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs by July 1 (for reenrollment in the fall semester) or November 1 (for reenrollment in the spring semester).
5. Based upon the content of the Petition for Reenrollment and the student's academic record, and in coordination with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the Academic Standards Committee should reenroll the student if he or she appears capable of satisfactorily completing the program of legal education and being admitted to the bar and meets

admissions standards as to character and fitness. The Academic Standards Committee, in coordination with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, may place conditions upon the student's reenrollment based upon its consideration of factors including, but not limited to, the student's academic record and the length of the period of non-enrollment.

6. Upon a favorable reenrollment decision from the Academic Standards Committee, the Dean may endorse the reenrollment decision or may deny the student reenrollment. Any decision of the Academic Standards Committee to deny a petition for reenrollment is final and shall not be reviewable by the Dean.

## Repeating Courses

1. Students receiving an "F," "W," "AW," or "WF" in a required course must retake the course.
2. Students may repeat any course from which he or she withdrew or was dropped, provided that the course is otherwise being offered and space is available.
3. All other requests to repeat a course must be submitted to the Academic Standards Committee. The Committee may grant such approval only upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances.
4. In the case of repetition of a course in which the student received an "F," both the original grade earned and the grade earned on repetition shall be reported on the transcript but only the grade earned on repetition shall be computed as part of the student's cumulative average.

## Refusal to Enroll by the School of Law

Nothing contained herein or provided elsewhere shall abrogate the School of Law's right to refuse to enroll a student or to discontinue enrollment of a student. A student may be denied continued enrollment at the School of Law, for reasons listed below, but not limited thereto:

- a. failure to pay their tuition or any fees associated therewith;
- b. failure to complete all documents necessary to enrollment or continued enrollment, as determined by the School of Law;
- c. failure to comply with the policies of this Handbook;
- d. disturbing the administration of education at the School of Law;
- e. exhibiting behavior that is threatening, harassing or offensive to other students, staff or faculty of the School of Law; or
- f. demonstrating traits that evince a deficiency in character or fitness to practice law.

## Waiver of Academic Rules

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Requests for waiver of any School of Law rule, regulation, or policy shall be submitted in writing to the Dean who shall forward requests to the faculty committee having jurisdiction over the matter. The Dean may also forward a recommendation to the faculty. If none of the standing faculty committees has jurisdiction over the issue(s) raised, then the Dean, in his or her discretion, may grant or deny the waiver. The person requesting the waiver will be notified of the decision in writing. Under no circumstances may the Dean grant a waiver to the maximum credit hour allotment.

## Code of Academic Integrity

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Consistent with its goal of training lawyers whose professional and personal conduct exemplifies high ethical standards and reflects well upon the Duncan School of Law (the "School of Law") and the legal profession, the faculty has adopted the following Code of Academic Integrity (the "Code"). This Code, revised in 2019, is the result of experience with a previous Code, faculty input, and a study of Codes used by other schools of law. The Code constitutes a delegation of authority from the President of Lincoln Memorial University (the "University") and the Dean of the School of Law to the Academic Integrity Committee (the "Committee"). As such, this Code is binding on all students, faculty, and staff of the School of Law.

Every law student is expected to read and observe the Code. Any proceedings brought pursuant to this Code shall be governed by the procedures set forth herein rather than the Disciplinary Procedures of the University. This Code governs academic-related misconduct. Any other instances of misconduct not specifically covered by this policy are to be addressed by the office of the Dean of Students. In case of uncertainty as to whether a charge of misconduct is academically related, falling under this Code of Academic Integrity, or non-academically related, falling under the jurisdiction of the Dean of Students, the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee shall make the determination.

## Article 1. Obligation of the Law Student

### 1.01

A law student or candidate seeking admission to the School of Law is obligated to assist in maintaining the integrity, competence, and purpose of the School of Law, and to conduct herself or himself in a manner consistent with the ethics of the legal profession, the academic community, and this Code.

## Article 2. Violations of the Obligation

### 2.01

Unless otherwise specified, violations shall consist of conduct that is performed intentionally, knowingly or recklessly. Knowledge that an act constitutes a violation of the Code, however, is not a necessary element of a violation. The use of technology to circumvent any rule is prohibited. The following academic-related misconduct on the part of a law student is a violation of his/her obligation under this Code and shall be a cause for disciplinary action against the law student. Pursuant to this Code, no student shall:

#### 2.01.1 General Misconduct

- a. Violate any academic rule, regulation, or policy of the School of Law duly promulgated by the Dean, an Associate Dean, an Assistant Dean, or faculty of the School of Law.
- b. Assist another student in violating the Code or attempting to enlist the assistance of any person with the purpose of violating the Code. For purposes of this rule, "assistance" shall include any action taken in preparation of a violation, any action in furtherance of a violation, or any action that furthers, enhances, protects, or secrets the violation after the fact.
- c. Fail to timely comply with a sanction imposed by the Committee pursuant to this Code, or fail to abide by the requirements necessary for the satisfactory and timely completion of any plea arrangement entered into between the student and the Committee, the Dean, or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs pursuant to this Code.
- d. A law student who knows that another law student has committed a violation of this Code that raises a substantial question as to that student's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a law student in other respects, shall inform the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee of the violation. Students are encouraged to consult the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee if they are unsure whether they are required to report another student's conduct.
- e. Refuse to participate in a preliminary investigation brought pursuant to Article 5 of the Code or testify at a hearing proceeding under Article 6 of the Code, as to the facts within the student's knowledge, unless the student himself/herself is the accused student.
- f. Act dishonestly in any academic pursuit.

#### 2.01.2 Specific Examples of Misconduct Involving Examinations

- a. Give or secure any information about an examination except as authorized by the course professor. For purposes of this Code, "examination" shall include a midterm and/or final examination and any in-class or out-of-class assignment, test and/or quiz, whether administered by written or electronic means.
- b. Copy the work of another student during any examination.

- c. Use, process, consult, or copy from books, outlines, papers, taped materials, notes or any other written or electronic materials during an examination except as expressly authorized by the course professor or an exam proctor. In the event that the student receives an accommodation pursuant to § XXVIII of this Student Handbook, only those materials expressly authorized by the ADA coordinator or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may be accessed during an examination.
- d. Continue writing an examination when, to the student's knowledge, the time allotted for writing the examination has elapsed.
- e. Leave the examination room before completing the examination without permission of the exam proctor, if an exam proctor has been assigned to the room. If a student is granted permission to leave the examination room during the course of the examination, the student shall not review any materials or discuss the exam or related matters with any person during his/her absence from the room.
- f. Talk or engage in any conduct that unreasonably distracts or disturbs other students during an examination. No student shall engage in oral, written, electronic, or other communication once an examination has begun. Students shall continue to refrain from any conversation while examinations are being submitted, either by hand or electronically, or while examinations are still in any student's possession.
- g. Remove any examination, or portion thereof, from the examination room without the express permission of the course professor or an exam proctor. No student shall transcribe, deliver, or receive notes taken while the examination is in the student's possession. No student shall discuss the nature or substance of an examination with another student whom he/she knows has not yet taken that examination.
- h. Take an examination for another student or permit another person to take an examination for him/her.
- i. Violate the security maintained for preparation or storage of any examination materials or other course materials.
- j. Attempt to enlist the assistance of any person with the purpose of violating any of the provisions of this Code.

### **2.01.3 Misconduct Involving Work Submitted to Satisfy a School of Law Course, Program or Other Requirement**

- a. Submit plagiarized work in any academic pursuit. Plagiarism consists of the appropriation of the literary composition(s) or other creative work(s) of another, or part(s) of passages thereof, or ideas of the same, with the intention of passing it off as the product of one's own mind. Plagiarism includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the misappropriation of: (a) language taken verbatim, or nearly verbatim, from other sources without crediting the author of the original work by use of appropriate forms of attribution; (b) the original ideas of another without appropriate attribution; or (c) the original pattern of ideas or organization of one or more original works over a substantial portion of the paper. This third category of plagiarism occurs when a student uses the work of others over a substantial portion of the paper, while paraphrasing the language of the original work, without indicating that the pattern of thought or structure of the paper comes from the original source.
- b. Submit the work of another person to satisfy a course, program, or other requirement of the School of Law, whether or not authorized to do so by the other person. This includes, but is not limited to, work completed by another law student, practicing attorney, law professor, or judicial body.
- c. Submit work to satisfy a course, program, or other requirement of the School of Law that the student has either: (a) previously submitted to satisfy a course, program, or other requirement of the School of Law or any other academic institution; or (b) completed in satisfaction of non-academic work requirements outside the School of Law, without the express, prior written consent of the professor to whom the student is currently submitting the work.
- d. Submit work produced in collaboration with another without the express, prior written consent of the professor. This includes collaboration with respect to the substantive content of work or writing style, grammar, citation form, or proofreading.

## **Article 3. Academic Integrity Committee**

### **3.01**

There shall be a committee known as the Academic Integrity Committee (the "Committee"), which shall be composed of no fewer than two students, three faculty members, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs as ex-officio, which ex-officio position shall be a non-voting position except in instances otherwise recognized in this Code.

### **3.02**

The Dean of the School of Law shall appoint faculty members to serve on the Committee for a term of one year. The Dean shall appoint a faculty member to serve as Chair of the Committee.

### **3.03**

The Student Bar Association Vice President, or his/her Designee, shall appoint two students from any class for a term of one year. To be eligible for appointment, a student must be in good academic standing and shall not previously have been determined to have violated of this Code. Student members appointed hereunder may be excluded or limited in their participation on the Committee upon determination by a simple majority of the voting faculty members of the Committee that extraordinary circumstances exist to warrant the same. Such exclusion or limitation shall be determined based upon the circumstances of each pending matter.

### **3.04**

In the event that any Committee member determines that he/she is temporarily unable to serve upon the Committee for good cause, including, but not limited to, unavailability, conflict of interest, or voluntary recusal, the Committee member shall promptly notify the Dean and Chair in writing. If the Chair determines that good cause exists, the Dean shall appoint an alternate committee member pursuant to Article 3.06.

### **3.05**

The accused student may petition the Committee for the involuntary recusal of any Committee member for good cause. Upon determination by a simple majority of the voting members of the Committee that good cause for recusal of that Committee member exists, the Dean shall appoint an alternate committee member pursuant to Article 3.06.

### **3.06**

In the event an alternate is required for a faculty member on the Committee or for the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, the Dean shall appoint another faculty member to temporarily fill that position.

## **Article 4. Initiation of Disciplinary Proceedings**

### **4.01**

Any person may file a written complaint against any student at the School of Law for conduct prohibited by the Code. The charges shall only be filed with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or with the Chair. If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Chair has personally witnessed the conduct in question, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Chair may personally file the written charge with the other. In the event the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Chair have both witnessed the same alleged violation of the Code, the complaint shall be made directly to the Dean, who shall then proceed as outlined herein.

### **4.02**

A complaint shall consist of a formal, signed, written statement identifying: (a) the name of the accused student; (b) the nature of the violation, including the specific sections of the Code that allegedly have been violated; (c) specific facts supporting the allegation, including, but not limited to, (i) the date(s) of the alleged violation, (ii) the circumstances under which the violation is suspected to have occurred, and (iii) the names of any witnesses with knowledge of the alleged event(s); and (d) copies of documents supporting every allegation, attached as exhibits to the complaint. If the complaint is filed by the Dean, an Associate or Assistant Dean, a faculty member, or a staff member, the complainant may recommend a sanction to be imposed on the accused student. If the complaint is filed by a student or other person, the complainant may include a statement describing the impact that the alleged violation has had on the complainant. The Committee may, but is not required to, consider any sanction recommendation or impact statement in determining the appropriate course of action to be taken against the accused student. By signing the complaint, the complainant swears that the facts contained therein are true and accurate to the best of his/her belief.

#### **4.03**

All investigations and disciplinary proceedings conducted pursuant to the provisions of this Code shall be conducted as confidentially as possible, except as otherwise specified in this Code. If reasonably practicable, the identity of the person filing the written charge shall be kept confidential from the accused student, until such time as the accused student formally denies the charges, requests, and is granted a date for a hearing. Upon the setting of the formal hearing, the accused shall be permitted to access all information obtained in the preliminary investigation of the Subcommittee pursuant to Section 6.05 below.

#### **4.04**

Within seven (7) business days of the filing of the complaint, the Chair shall review the complaint to determine whether the conduct alleged therein (i) is academically-related such that it falls under the jurisdiction of the Academic Integrity Committee and (2) assuming the events as reported occurred, constitutes a violation of the law student's obligation as set forth in Article 2 of the Code.

#### **4.05**

If the Chair determines that the conduct described in the complaint does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Academic Integrity Committee, the chair shall refer the complaint to the Dean of Students.

#### **4.06**

If the Chair determines that the conduct described in the complaint does fall under the jurisdiction of the Academic Integrity Committee but does not constitute a violation of the Code, the Chair shall dismiss the complaint. The Committee shall not be used to resolve purely personal conflicts between students, or perceived conflicts between faculty, administration and students. The Chair shall make a written record of his/her administrative dismissal of a complaint. Any complaint that is administratively dismissed by the Chair shall not be placed in the accused student's file at the School of Law, nor shall the Chair notify the accused student of such complaint. A complaint that is administratively dismissed by the Chair shall be considered a nullity, as if having never been filed.

#### **4.07**

If the Chair determines that the conduct described in the complaint falls under the jurisdiction of the Academic Integrity Committee and alleges a viable cause of action against the accused student pursuant to Article 2 of the Code, the Chair shall notify the other members of the Committee that he/she will convene the Committee to address the allegations in the complaint. Such notice to the Committee shall be made by e-mail or any other means deemed reasonably secure by the Chair and shall be accompanied by a copy of the written complaint, including any exhibits. All information sent by the Chair to the Committee for its review shall be deemed strictly confidential. The Chair shall deliver a copy of the written complaint, including any exhibits, to the Dean and to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, if they do not already possess a copy of the complaint, as soon as practicable after making the decision to convene the committee. If the Dean, after receiving notice that a written complaint has been filed against a student, determines that extraordinary circumstances exist, the Dean, or his/her authorized agent, may suspend the accused student pending consideration of the case. Such extraordinary circumstances may include, but not be limited to, situations where the continued presence of the accused student would constitute a physical danger to the University or School of Law community or would create a disruption in the educational process of the University or the School of Law. Nothing in this paragraph prevents the Dean or appropriate University officials from suspending an accused student through the exercise of their inherent authority. The Dean may, at his/her discretion, suspend or restrict the accused student's access to: (a) University or School of Law facilities; (b) University or School of Law resources, including, but not limited to, any computers, web sites, library resources, printers, research web portals, Pathway, Web Advisor, or Panopto; (c) University or School of Law functions, including off-campus functions sponsored by the University or the School of Law; or (d) any other facility, resource, or function that the Dean may deem necessary and appropriate under the circumstances.

#### **4.08**

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, or his/her authorized agent, shall, within seven (7) business days after notification of the Chair to convene the Committee, notify the accused student by means set out in Article 10 herein that: (a) a written complaint has been received; (b) the Chair has determined that the conduct described in the complaint alleges a viable cause of action against the accused student pursuant to Article 2 of the Code; (c) the Committee is being convened to investigate the complaint made against the accused student; and (d) a copy of the written complaint has been forwarded to the Dean of the School of Law. Such notice shall be accompanied by: (a) a copy of the written complaint, including any exhibits; (b) a copy of this Code; and (c) notice that the accused student may obtain counsel to represent him/her in this matter, pursuant to the caveats set out in Article 6.12 below. If the accused student wishes to respond to the complaint, then he/she shall respond in writing to the Chair within seven (7) business days after notification of the complaint was provided by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

#### **4.09**

The withdrawal of an accused student from the School of Law subsequent to the date that notification to the student is provided by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall not terminate the jurisdiction of the Committee to conduct any further disciplinary proceedings specified in this Code.

#### **4.10**

Within seven (7) business days after receiving the accused student's response, or, in the event the student files no response, within seven (7) business days from the date the response was due, the Chair shall set a time and date for convening the Committee unless an extension of time for setting the date to convene the Committee is required by the Chair due to difficulty in regard to travel, holiday or other circumstance.

#### **4.11**

In the event that the accused student fails to timely respond to the complaint, all allegations therein shall be deemed admitted. Although the accused student or his/her representative will have the right to appear at any full hearing later convened by the Chair pursuant to Article 6 of this Code, neither the student nor his/her representative will be permitted to present evidence denying the factual allegations of the complaint. In the event that the accused student or his/her representative neither timely responds to the complaint nor appears at any Article 6 hearing, the Committee shall thereupon proceed to enter its judgment of the accused student and assess punishment, if appropriate, as if the accused student were present.

#### **4.12**

In the event that the accused student informs the Chair in writing that he/she wishes to admit the allegations set forth in the complaint and waive any further proceedings under the Code, the Chair may, after consultation with the accused student and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, convene the Committee for the purpose of accepting the accused student's admission and determining appropriate discipline pursuant to Article 7 of this Code.

#### **4.13**

When the Committee is convened in the event that the student has not admitted the allegations at issue, its members shall elect a subcommittee consisting of one faculty member and one student member to conduct a preliminary investigation of the complaint (the "Subcommittee"). The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall not serve as a member of the Subcommittee.

#### **4.14**

When the Committee is convened, its members shall, by a simple majority of the voting members, choose a Secretary, who shall be responsible for: (a) making and keeping records of every meeting of the Committee; (b) recording the attendance of each Committee member; and (c) tracking the complaint until its final disposition. Upon the final disposition of the complaint, all records kept by the Secretary shall be delivered to the Chair, who shall be charged with maintaining and protecting the records and delivering them to the faculty member who is appointed Chair in the subsequent academic year.

# Article 5. Preliminary Investigation and Resolution

## 5.01

The Subcommittee shall conduct an investigation in which the Subcommittee shall interview the accused student, the complainant, and any other witnesses who may possess information pertinent to the allegations set forth in the complaint. The Subcommittee shall further examine any exhibits to the complaint and any other pertinent materials provided by the various parties and witnesses. Members of the Subcommittee shall be allowed to make personal observations to the Committee as to the veracity of the various witnesses interviewed and evidence reviewed during the course of their investigation.

## 5.02

Prior to any interview with the Subcommittee or any other representative of the School of Law charged with investigative responsibilities under this Code, the accused student shall be advised that: (a) the student may remain silent, (b) the student may terminate the interview at any time; (c) the student may postpone the interview until he/she has had a reasonable time to consult counsel, and (d) anything the student says in the interview may be used as evidence against him/her.

## 5.03

If, during the course of the investigation, the Subcommittee discovers evidence of additional or related violations of this Code other than those contained in the original complaint, the Subcommittee shall investigate such violations and determine whether additional allegations should be levied against the accused student. The Subcommittee shall also agree on the recommended disposition of these new allegations. If, during the course of its investigation, the Subcommittee determines that there is credible evidence that a student or students other than the accused student have violated this code, such evidence shall form the basis of a separate complaint. To the extent the Subcommittee should find additional bases of violations of the Code during its preliminary investigation, the Subcommittee shall notify the Committee when it makes its recommendation to the full committee.

## 5.04

In the event that both members of the Subcommittee agree on the recommended disposition of the case, *i.e.*, whether to recommend to the Committee a full hearing pursuant to Article 6 of this Code, a plea agreement pursuant to Article 9, a dismissal, or some other disposition, the recommendation shall be made to the full Committee. If the Subcommittee cannot reach unanimity, the recommendation to the full Committee shall be made by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (or his/her replacement in the event of a recusal) upon a summary presentation of the evidence gathered by the Subcommittee. In the event the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is called upon to make this recommendation, that shall not, without more, constitute a basis for his/her recusal during any other portion of the proceedings pursuant to this Code. In either event, no appeal shall lie from the Subcommittee's recommendation to the Committee.

## 5.05

The recommendation to the Committee pursuant to Section 5.04 above should be made within four weeks of the meeting of the Committee at which the Subcommittee is appointed, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter. The recommendation of the Subcommittee shall be made available only to the members of the Committee, until or unless such time as a full hearing is scheduled pursuant to Article 6 of this Code.

## 5.06

The Committee possesses the sole discretion to accept or reject the recommendation made pursuant to Section 5.04. Acceptance or rejection of the Subcommittee recommendation shall be determined by a simple majority of the voting members of the Committee excluding members of the investigatory Subcommittee. In the event of a tie among voting members, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (or his/her replacement in the event of a recusal) shall vote to break the tie.

## 5.07

In the event that the Committee does not vote to accept the recommendation made pursuant to Section 5.04, the matter will proceed to a full hearing, and the student should be so notified.

#### **5.08**

In the event that the Committee votes to accept the recommendation made pursuant to Section 5.04, the following procedures should be followed:

- a. If the recommendation is that a full hearing be conducted, procedures for conducting a full hearing shall be followed, and the student should be so notified.
- b. If the recommendation is that the matter be dismissed, then the case will be closed and appropriate notation of dismissal placed in the student's file with notification to the student.
- c. If the recommendation is anything other than a full hearing or dismissal, the student will be contacted regarding consent to a plea agreement designed to institute the recommended action. In the event that the student consents to the plea agreement, the recommended action will be taken. If the student does not agree to the plea agreement, then the matter shall proceed to a full hearing and the student should be so notified.

## **Article 6. Full Hearing**

#### **6.01**

In the event that a full hearing is to be commenced, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs will appoint a Hearing Panel consisting of himself or herself and three faculty members who were not members of the Academic Integrity Committee addressing the charge. The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs will also appoint a member of the Hearing Panel to act as recording secretary for the Panel.

#### **6.02**

The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs is an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the Hearing Panel and shall serve as the Chair of the Panel. In the event that the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is unavailable, has a conflict of interest, or has been recused voluntarily or involuntarily, the Dean shall appoint an additional faculty member who was not a member of the Academic Integrity Committee addressing the charge to serve on the Panel and shall choose a Panel Chair and recording secretary from among Panel members.

#### **6.03**

The Panel Chair shall appoint a "Prosecutor" to present witnesses and evidence against the accused student at the hearing. The Prosecutor may be a full-time or adjunct professor of law, an attorney outside of the School of Law, or any other person whom the Panel Chair deems suitable after consultation with the Dean.

#### **6.04**

The full hearing shall be set within four weeks of the decision to proceed to a full hearing, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter. Circumstances resulting in a possible delay include, but not limited to, the unavailability of witnesses, the unavailability of committee members, or the scheduling of examinations or other events at the School of Law.

#### **6.05**

The Panel Chair shall promptly notify the accused student of the hearing date by the method set out in Article 10 of this Code. Requests by the student or the student's counsel for a continuance of a scheduled hearing shall be heard by the Panel Chair and granted only in extraordinary circumstances. In the event that a full hearing is scheduled, the accused student shall have access to the evidence gathered in the Subcommittee's investigation. There shall be no other prehearing discovery.

#### **6.06**

At any time before the hearing is held, the Hearing Panel may meet to consider any preliminary matters as they arise, including, but not limited to, the accused student's request to sever parties or to have discrete violations heard separately. Such determinations shall remain within the sole discretion of the Hearing Panel.

#### **6.07**

The Hearing Panel may propose and enter into a plea agreement pursuant to Article 9 of the Code with the accused student at any time prior to the conclusion of the hearing and the issuance of the decision of the Hearing Panel.

#### **6.08**

The hearing shall be confidential and closed to all but those directly involved in the proceeding, unless the student, by written request delivered to the Panel Chair not later than seven (7) working days before the hearing, requests that the hearing be public. The decision of whether to open the hearing to the public rests in the sole discretion of the Panel. Opening the hearing to the public will result only upon a majority vote of Panel members. Nothing within this provision shall prevent the Dean from attending the hearing.

#### **6.09**

All members of the Hearing Panel must be present at the hearing. The Panel Chair shall state at the commencement thereof: (a) the scope of the hearing, the allegations in the complaint, the identity of the accuser, and the jurisdiction of the Panel; (b) the procedure to be followed in the hearing; (c) the possible penalties to be imposed should violation(s) of the Code be proven; and (d) the rights of the accused student following the hearing.

#### **6.10**

The accused student has the right not to testify at the hearing. No inferences shall be drawn from the exercise of this right.

#### **6.11**

The hearing shall be conducted in such a manner as to do substantial justice and shall not be unduly restricted by the rules of procedure or evidence; therefore, neither the Federal nor the Tennessee Rules of Evidence shall apply.

#### **6.12**

The accused student shall be presumed innocent. The accused student has the right, and shall be provided any and all reasonable opportunity, to present witnesses and submit evidence at the hearing, including documentary materials of any kind.

#### **6.13**

The accused student may be represented by a person of his/her choice. It is the sole responsibility of the student to obtain representation. This Code in no manner creates a responsibility on the part of the Hearing Panel, the Dean, or the School of Law to provide appointed representation for the accused student or to provide compensation to the accused student's representative.

#### **6.14**

Upon the written petition of the Prosecutor, the accused student or the accused student's counsel, or by his/her own authority as Panel Chair, the Panel Chair may issue a written request to students, faculty members, staff members or employees of the School of Law to appear as witnesses at the hearing and/or to produce physical or documentary evidence in their possession. The Panel Chair shall sign the written request and deliver it to the prospective witness or source of physical or documentary evidence, or his/her department head, at least three days before the hearing, or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter. The Panel Chair may refuse to issue a written request if he/she determines that the evidence sought is irrelevant, confidential, overly burdensome, or privileged under the rules or regulations of the University or the School of Law. The Chair may amend, modify, or rescind a written request, if, after the request is issued, he/she determines that the evidence sought is irrelevant, confidential, overly burdensome, or privileged under the rules or regulations of the

University or the School of Law. Upon receipt of a written request, the student, faculty member, staff member or employee of the School of Law shall appear as a witness at the hearing and/or produce the physical or documentary evidence requested. The only exception shall be in the case of extraordinary circumstances to be determined in the sole discretion of the Panel Chair.

#### **6.15**

The hearing shall be recorded by stenographic, mechanical, electronic, or sound photographic means. After the Hearing Panel has rendered a decision in a case, its opinion and all other records and documents pertaining to the proceeding shall be delivered to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for safekeeping for a period not less than five years, after which time said opinion, records and documents may be destroyed.

#### **6.16**

At the close of questioning and upon consideration of all of the evidence presented, the Hearing Panel, in private deliberations, shall decide whether the accused student has committed a violation.

#### **6.17**

A determination by the Hearing Panel that the accused student violated the Code requires a simple majority of the voting members of the Hearing Panel to determine, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the accused student committed acts that violated the Code. For purposes of any vote pursuant to this rule, each member of the Hearing Panel, regardless of rank, shall have one vote.

#### **6.18**

In the event that the hearing results in a dismissal of all charges, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall ascertain that the complaint and any other references to the proceedings are promptly shown as dismissed in the student's file.

#### **6.19**

In the event that the hearing results in a determination that a violation occurred, by a simple majority of the members, the Hearing Panel shall determine the appropriate disciplinary sanctions pursuant to Article 7 of the Code herein.

#### **6.20**

A brief written opinion stating the Hearing Panel's findings of fact and the basis for its judgment shall be prepared by the Secretary.

#### **6.21**

The Hearing Panel Chair shall notify the accused student of the Hearing Panel's determination as soon as practicable by the method set out in Article 10 of the Code. If the Committee determined that the accused student violated the Code, such notification shall advise the student of his/her right to appeal pursuant to Article 8 of this Code.

#### **6.22**

The Chair shall transmit information regarding the final disposition of the hearing, including any pertinent evidence presented therein, to the Dean of the School of Law.

#### **6.23**

The Hearing Panel may adopt any further rules or make any further regulations necessary for a fair and impartial hearing that are not inconsistent with Article 6 of this Code.

## Article 7. Sanctions

### 7.01

Misconduct constituting a violation of this Code may result in the imposition of any one or a combination of the following sanctions for any period of time deemed appropriate:

1. Written reprimand;
2. Probation, meaning the suspension of any sentence subject to future non-violation of this Code;
3. Suspension from the School of Law;
4. Expulsion from the School of Law;
5. Granting the student an "F" or other appropriate grade in the course or on a particular assignment in the course in question;
6. Revocation of a former student's diploma, if the violation of the Code occurred while the student was matriculating at the School of Law; or
7. Any further sanction authorized by the Dean of the School of Law.

### 7.02

All sanctions shall bear reasonable relationship to the severity of the misconduct, except that an offending student's record of prior misconduct, including warnings and written reprimands not of record, or the absence thereof, may be taken into account.

### 7.03

All disciplinary actions shall be executed by the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and, shall be recorded on the student's official record.

### 7.04

For resolution of matters by plea agreement or pursuant to a hearing, unless specifically stated by the terms of the plea agreement or by the Hearing Panel as part of sentencing, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall mandate all time frames within which the student shall comply with all sanctions. In the event a student fails to properly comply with any requirements imposed, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall notify the Chair of the Hearing Panel for cases resulting in the convocation of a Hearing Panel and the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee in all other cases.

### 7.05

For charges resulting in the convocation of a Hearing Panel, the Hearing Panel shall maintain jurisdiction over the matter until such time as any imposed sanctions, either through a plea agreement with the Hearing Panel or through the imposition of sanctions following a hearing, are fully completed. Furthermore, the right, ability, and jurisdiction of the Hearing Panel to impose further sanctions for the failure of the student to fully comply with sanctions imposed shall be preserved until all of the sanctions imposed are completed. If the Chair of the Hearing Panel has reason to believe that the failure of the student to comply with previously imposed sanctions or provisions of a plea agreement is an intentional and willful disregard of the authority of the Hearing Panel, the Chair shall immediately convene the Hearing Panel to discuss further action. In the absence of an extraordinary circumstance justifying non-compliance, any plea agreement or previously imposed sanction may be deemed withdrawn and void. Further, upon a vote of a simple majority of the voting members of the Hearing Panel, if not tried, the matter may proceed to full hearing on the original allegation. If the matter involved a sanction imposed pursuant to a hearing, the Hearing Panel may conduct a limited hearing for the purpose of imposing additional sanctions. The Hearing Panel shall have the full range of sanctions available to it under Article 7.01 at this non-compliance hearing, including, but not limited to, expulsion from the School of Law. The determination of the Hearing Panel with regard to willful non-compliance with a signed plea agreement or previously assessed sanctions following a hearing shall not be appealable.

### 7.06

For charges resulting in a plea agreement prior to the convocation of a Hearing Panel, the Academic Integrity Committee shall maintain jurisdiction over the matter until such time as any imposed sanctions are fully completed. If the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee has reason to believe that the failure of the student to comply with provisions of a plea agreement is an intentional and willful disregard of the authority of the Committee, the Chair shall immediately convene the Committee to discuss further action. In the absence of an extraordinary circumstance justifying non-compliance, any plea agreement or lesser sanction shall be deemed withdrawn and void, and, upon a vote of a simple majority of the voting members of the Academic Integrity Committee, the matter may proceed to full hearing on the original allegations. The determination of the Academic Integrity Committee to proceed to a full hearing shall not be appealable.

## Article 8. Appeal

### 8.01

A student whom the Hearing Panel has determined to have violated the Code shall have the right to appeal to the Dean the adverse ruling by the Hearing Panel. Such appeal must be made within fourteen (14) calendar days of date that notice and service of the Committee's judgment was provided to the student as set forth in Article 10 of the Code.

### 8.02

If the student desires additional time to prepare an appeal, he/she must make a written request to the Dean within the same 14-day period. The Dean may, within his/her sole discretion, grant such additional time for appeal.

### 8.03

With respect to the finding(s) and sanction(s) determined by the Hearing Panel, the Dean may alter any portion of the Hearing Panel's findings or sanctions should the Dean determine that any determination made or sanction imposed by the Hearing Panel was not supported by substantial evidence.

### 8.04

An accused student who enters into a voluntary plea agreement with the Hearing Panel or the Academic Integrity Committee is not entitled to appeal the entry of the plea agreement or any of the conditions set forth therein.

## Article 9. Plea Agreements

### 9.01

Through exercising sole discretion by majority vote, the Hearing Panel, after referral of a complaint for a hearing, or the Academic Integrity Committee, prior to the referral of a complaint for a hearing, may offer an accused student the opportunity to enter into a plea agreement resolving the matter. In the process of negotiation, the student may propose an alternative plea agreement.

### 9.02

As a condition of any plea agreement, the accused student must unequivocally admit to and accept responsibility for the misconduct as stated within the plea agreement and must consent to the sanction imposed.

### 9.03

The plea agreement must expressly warn the accused student that he/she may seek legal counsel prior to executing the agreement. Nothing within this provision, however, should be construed to indicate that the School of Law or any of its agents or employees is responsible for securing, providing, or recommending specific legal counsel.

### 9.04

The plea agreement shall expressly warn the accused student that execution of the agreement will constitute a waiver of the right to appeal any error in the disciplinary proceedings, whether known or unknown at the time of execution and regardless of the alleged error's severity or type.

#### **9.05**

The plea agreement shall be written and signed by the accused student and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

#### **9.06**

In the event the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is unavailable to sign the plea agreement, the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee shall sign the plea agreement.

## Article 10. Notice and Service

### **10.01**

Any duly promulgated rule, regulation or order of the School of Law posted on Canvas shall serve as constructive notice to the student body within 48 hours of its posting. Further, any e-mail sent to a student at the e-mail address assigned to them by the School of Law shall be deemed delivered pursuant to the notice requirements of this Code on the day following the sending of the e-mail in question.

### **10.02**

All time periods in this Code commence to run exclusive of the day of service, notice, or judgment. Further, all deadlines will end at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the day due, regardless of weekend or weekday.

## Article 11. Reserved Powers

### **11.01**

Nothing in this Code shall be construed to limit the authority of a faculty member or a School of Law organization to deal with misconduct arising in the faculty member's class or organization. Such action shall not be the basis for a plea of double jeopardy by the student involved.

### **11.02**

The Dean and faculty of the School of Law reserve the right to modify, alter, amend, extend or restate any section of this Code at any time. Any student who, within the sole discretion of the Dean, poses an imminent risk of serious harm to the School of Law community, may be suspended immediately and shall be accorded due process, otherwise consistent with this Code, at a later date.

### **11.03**

No section of this Code, determination of the Committee, or plea agreement entered into by any student under this Code, shall be construed as limiting or controlling the discretion of the Dean of the School of Law to exercise his or her discretion regarding whether or not to endorse any student as possessing the necessary character and fitness for the practice of law.

## Student Code of Conduct

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Consistent with its goal of training lawyers whose professional and personal conduct exemplifies high ethical standards and reflects well upon the Duncan School of Law (the "School of Law") and the legal profession, the faculty has adopted the

following Code of Student Conduct (the "SCC"). This SCC, developed in 2020, is the result of experience with a previous Code, faculty input, and a study of student conduct codes used by other schools of law. The SCC constitutes a delegation of authority from the President of Lincoln Memorial University (the "University") and the Dean of the School of Law to the Student Conduct Committee (the "SC Committee"). As such, this SCC is binding on all students, faculty, and staff of the School of Law. Every law student is expected to read and observe the SCC. Any proceedings brought pursuant to this SCC shall be governed by the procedures set forth herein rather than the Disciplinary Procedures of the University.

## Article 1. Obligation of the Law School

### 1.01

A law student or candidate seeking admission to the School of Law is obligated to assist in maintaining the integrity, competence, and purpose of the School of Law, and to conduct herself or himself in a manner consistent with the ethics of the legal profession, the academic community, and this SCC.

## Article 2. Violations of the Obligation

### 2.01

Unless otherwise specified, violations shall consist of conduct that is performed intentionally, knowingly or recklessly. Knowledge that an act constitutes a violation of the SCC, however, is not a necessary element of a violation. The following misconduct on the part of a law student is a violation of his/her obligation under this SCC and shall be a cause for disciplinary action against the law student. Pursuant to this SCC, no student shall:

#### 2.01.1 General Misconduct

- a. Violate any rule, regulation, or policy of the School of Law duly promulgated by the Dean, an Associate Dean, an Assistant Dean, or faculty of the School of Law.
- b. Violate any duly promulgated rule, regulation, or policy of the University.
- c. Disrupt the activities or functions of the School of Law or University, or any class, library, academic, or co-curricular activity.
- d. Steal the property of another with or without intent or by fraud. Such property includes, but is not limited to, briefs, books, notes, tapes, hard drives, data, software, memory devices, phones, passwords, log-in information, or outlines belonging to a faculty member or student.
- e. Threaten, assault, harass, or misrepresent facts about any student, faculty, staff member or employee of the University or the School of Law with the intention of inflicting harm on that person.
- f. Any complaints involving sexual harassment should be brought pursuant to the University Sexual Harassment policy and Title IX policy. Harassment or discrimination against members of our law school community or the general community outside of this school, based on a person's race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, military service, sexual orientation, or political affiliation is unacceptable, and is actionable under the SCC and the University Sexual Harassment and Title IX policies.
- g. Destroy, deface, erase, alter, hide, limit access to, possess, access, enter or use, without authority, the property of Lincoln Memorial University or the property of others located on campus or related to a School of Law or University activity.

- h. Violate Lincoln Memorial University's anti-discrimination policy. Harassment or discrimination against members of our law school community or the general community outside of this school, based on a person's race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, military service, sexual orientation, or political affiliation is unacceptable.
- i. Conduct oneself in an unprofessional manner during any event sanctioned, held, conducted, or permitted by the University or the School of Law.
- j. Assist another student in violating the SCC or attempting to enlist the assistance of any person with the purpose of violating the SCC. For purposes of this rule, "assistance" shall include any action taken in preparation of a violation, any action in furtherance of a violation, or any action that furthers, enhances, protects, or secrets the violation after the fact.
- k. Fail to timely comply with a sanction imposed by the SC Committee pursuant to this SCC, or fail to abide by the requirements necessary for the satisfactory and timely completion of any plea arrangement entered between the student and the SC Committee, the Dean, or the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Career Services pursuant to this SCC.
- l. Fail to report conduct, including one's own conduct, prohibited by the SCC. All such reports shall be made to the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services or the Chair of the SC Committee promptly upon witnessing or obtaining knowledge of conduct that violates the SCC.
- m. Impugn or malign the honesty or integrity of any student, faculty member, staff member, or employee of the University or the School of Law to any person orally or in any written or electronic medium. Reports of such activity should be made to the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services or the Chair of the SC Committee, who shall review the allegations and determine whether a formal written complaint should be filed pursuant to Article 4 of the SCC.
- n. Fail to notify the School of Law of the student's own citation, arrest or indictment for any charge or allegation, a finding of contempt against the student by a court or other judicial body, or any other order or judgment by a court or other judicial body that places restrictions on the student's freedom of movement, including, but not limited to, an injunction, restraining order, or protective order entered against the student. Such notification shall be made to the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services or the Chair of the SC Committee within one week of the citation, arrest, indictment, or court order.
- o. Commit a criminal, quasi-criminal, unethical, immoral, or fraudulent act that reflects adversely on the student's honesty, trustworthiness, or moral and ethical fitness to be a lawyer or a law student, engage in conduct that adversely reflects on that student's fitness to study or practice law, including but not limited to violations of federal or state criminal law, or the commission of quasi-criminal, unethical, immoral or fraudulent acts which reflect on the student's honesty, trustworthiness, or moral and ethical fitness to be a lawyer or law student, which, if done by a lawyer, would violate the state codes of professional responsibility. These acts shall be considered a violation of this code regardless of whether such conduct is actually prosecuted in the courts. p. Refuse to participate in a preliminary investigation brought pursuant to Article 5 of the SCC or testify at a hearing proceeding under Article 6 of the SCC, as to the facts within the student's knowledge, unless the student himself/herself is the accused student.
- p. Refuse to participate in a preliminary investigation brought pursuant to Article 5 of the SCC or testify at a hearing proceeding under Article 6 of the SCC, as to the facts within the student's knowledge, unless the student himself/herself is the accused student.
- q. Fail to disclose to the Assistant Dean for Student Services and Career Services any character and fitness issue including any charge, arrest, or conviction that arises after they have submitted an admissions application to the School of Law, or the failure to amend, after matriculation and through the course of law study, any changes in their character and fitness or factual irregularities or discrepancies in the student's admissions application, to the School of Law Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services. Disclosure must be made immediately.

- r. Post any picture, video or audio recording intended for internal use of any faculty member or student at the school of law online on any website, including any social media website, without that person's express permission. This is to include any video capture, class, lecture, Panopto recording, continuing legal education seminar, private picture or recording from on campus events or classes of any kind.
- s. Violate Lincoln Memorial University's weapons free campus policy and alcohol, tobacco and substance policy as set out in the LMU Student Handbook.
- t. Act dishonestly in any academic pursuit

**2.01.2 Specific Examples of Misconduct – This SCC contemplates non-academic conduct only, this list is illustrative, not definite**

- a. Misconduct of a non-academic nature either on campus or off that is illegal or could impugn the character of the School of Law, its students or faculty, staff or administration (whether the police are notified or file a report is irrelevant to the violation of this SCC).
- b. Failure to report known misconduct of a non-academic nature either on campus or off that raises a substantial question as to that student's character, honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a law student in other respects. Students are encouraged to consult the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services if they are unsure whether they are required to report another student's conduct.
- c. Actions or behavior that results in an arrest, citation, or police or other security being present.
- d. DUI, DWI, Public Intoxication.
- e. Incidents involving alleged Assault, Battery, Domestic Violence, Terroristic Threat, Stalking, Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress.

## Article 3. Student Conduct Committee

### 3.01

There shall be a committee known as the Student Conduct Committee (the "SC Committee"), which shall be composed of no fewer than four student members, one faculty member, and the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services as ex-officio, which ex-officio position shall be a non-voting position; this means that while the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services may be present in all deliberations as a member of the SC Committee and may voice his/her opinions or concerns regarding any complaint before the SC Committee, he/she shall not vote on any proceeding under this SCC, unless expressly called to do so by this SCC.

### 3.02

The SC Committee shall consist of four students from the general student body, appointed by the duly elected Student Bar Association Executive Committee, which members of the SC Committee shall serve for a term of one year. To be eligible for appointment to the SC Committee, a student must be in good academic standing and shall remain in good academic standing and shall not previously have been determined to have violated this SCC or the Code of Academic Integrity. The Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall appoint one faculty member to serve as chair of the SC Committee for a one-year term.

### 3.03

In the event that any SC Committee member determines that he/she is temporarily unable to serve upon the SC Committee for good cause, including, but not limited to, unavailability or conflict of interest, or reasonable voluntary recusal the SC Committee member shall promptly notify the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services and Chair in writing. If the Chair determines that good cause exists, the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall appoint an alternate SC Committee member pursuant to Article 3.05, 3.06, or 3.07.

### 3.04

The accused student may petition the SC Committee for the involuntary recusal of any SC Committee member for good cause. Upon determination by a simple majority of the voting members of the SC Committee that good cause for recusal of that SC Committee member exists, the Dean shall appoint an alternate SC Committee member pursuant to Article 3.05, 3.06, or 3.07.

### **3.05**

In the event an alternate is required for the faculty member on the SC Committee, the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall appoint another faculty member to temporarily fill that position.

### **3.06**

In the event an alternate is required for a student position on the SC Committee, the SBA President shall serve as the alternate. If the SBA President is unable to serve as the alternate, the SBA Vice President shall serve as an alternate. If both the SBA President and SBA Vice President are unable to serve, the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall appoint another SBA member to temporarily fill that position.

### **3.07**

If an alternate is required for the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services, the Dean shall appoint an alternate. Unless specifically authorized by the Dean, however, the Dean's replacement for the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services will not perform the duties provided for in Article(s) 5.03, 6.07, 8.05 and/or 10.06, and such duties will still be carried out by the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services.

## **Article 4. Initiation of Disciplinary Proceedings**

### **4.01**

Any person may file a written complaint against any student at the School of Law for conduct prohibited by the SCC. The charges shall only be filed with the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services. In the event the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services and the Chair have both witnessed the alleged violation of the SCC, the complaint shall be made directly to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs who shall then proceed as outlined herein.

### **4.02**

A complaint shall consist of a formal, signed, written statement identifying: (a) the name of the accused student; (b) the nature of the violation, including the specific sections of the SCC that allegedly have been violated; (c) specific facts supporting the allegation, including, but not limited to, (i) the date(s) of the alleged violation, (ii) the circumstances under which the violation is suspected to have occurred, and (iii) the names of any witnesses with knowledge of the alleged event(s); and (d) copies of documents supporting every allegation, attached as exhibits to the complaint. If the complaint is filed by the Dean, an Associate or Assistant Dean, a faculty member, or a staff member, the complainant may recommend a sanction to be imposed on the accused student. If the complaint is filed by a student or other person, the complainant may include a statement describing the impact that the alleged violation has had on the complainant. The SC Committee may, but is not required to, consider any sanction recommendation or impact statement in determining the appropriate course of action to be taken against the accused student. By signing the complaint, the complainant swears that the facts contained therein are true and accurate to the best of his/her belief. All complaints shall first be reviewed by the Faculty Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee. If the Faculty Chair determines the complaint implicates a violation of the Academic Integrity Code, the complaint will be removed from the SC Committee and will proceed under the provisions of the Academic Integrity Code.

#### **4.02.1**

All investigations and disciplinary proceedings conducted pursuant to the provisions of this SCC shall be conducted as confidentially as possible, except otherwise specified in § 6.06, 7.05 and 7.06. If reasonably practicable, the identity of the person filing the written charge shall be kept confidential from the accused student, until such time as the accused student

formally denies the charges, requests and is granted a date for a hearing. Upon the setting of the formal hearing, the accused shall be permitted to access all information obtained in the preliminary investigation of the Subcommittee pursuant to § 6.13 herein below.

#### **4.03**

Within seven (7) business days of the filing of the complaint, the Academic Integrity Committee Chair shall review the complaint to determine whether the conduct alleged therein constitutes a violation of the law student's obligation as set forth in the Code of Academic Integrity. If the Academic Integrity Chair determines that the complaint violated the Article of the Code of Academic Integrity, the provisions of the Academic Integrity Committee Code will govern the disposition of the complaint. If the Academic Integrity Committee Chair determines the complaint does not violate the Article of the Code of Academic Integrity, then the provisions of this SCC govern.

#### **4.04**

If the SC Committee Chair determines that the conduct described in the complaint does not constitute a violation of the SCC, the Chair shall dismiss the complaint. The SC Committee shall not be used to resolve purely personal conflicts between students, or perceived conflicts between faculty, administration and students. The Chair shall make a written record of his/her administrative dismissal of a complaint. Any complaint that is administratively dismissed by the Chair shall not be placed in the accused student's file at the School of Law, nor shall the Chair be required to notify the accused student of such complaint. If the Chair chooses to notify a student of a complaint against him/her that has been administratively dismissed, the student shall not be required to disclose such complaint on any future disclosure requests. A complaint that is administratively dismissed by the Chair shall be considered a nullity, as if having never been filed.

#### **4.05**

If the Chair determines that the conduct described in the complaint alleges a viable cause of action against the accused student pursuant to Article 2 of the SCC, the Chair shall notify the other members of the SC Committee that he/she will convene the SC Committee to address the allegations in the complaint. Such notice to the SC Committee shall be made by e-mail or any other means deemed reasonably secure by the Chair and shall be accompanied by a copy of the written complaint, including any exhibits. All information sent by the Chair to the SC Committee for its review shall be deemed strictly confidential. The Chair shall deliver a copy of the written complaint, including any exhibits, to the Dean, if they do not already possess a copy of the complaint, as soon as practicable after making the decision to convene the SC Committee.

#### **4.06**

If the Dean, after receiving notice that a written complaint has been filed against a student, determines that extraordinary circumstances exist, the Dean, or his/her authorized agent, may suspend the accused student pending consideration of the case. Such extraordinary circumstances may include, but not be limited to, situations where the continued presence of the accused student would constitute a physical danger to the University or School of Law community or would create a disruption in the educational process of the University or the School of Law. Nothing in this paragraph prevents the Dean or appropriate University officials from suspending an accused student through the exercise of their inherent authority. The Dean may, at his discretion, suspend or restrict the accused student's access to: (a) University or School of Law facilities; (b) University or School of Law resources, including, but not limited to, any computers, web sites, library resources, printers, research web portals, Pathway, Canvas, Web Advisor, or Panopto; (c) University or School of Law functions, including off-campus functions sponsored by the University or the School of Law; or (d) any other facility, resource, or function that the Dean may deem necessary and appropriate under the circumstances.

#### **4.07**

The Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services, or his/her authorized agent, shall, within five (5) business days of the decision by the Chair to convene the SC Committee, notify the accused student by means set out in Article 11 herein, that: (a) a written complaint has been received; (b) the Chair has determined that the conduct described in the complaint alleges a viable cause of action against the accused student pursuant to Article 2 of the SCC; (c) the SC Committee is being convened to investigate of the complaint made against the accused student; and (d) a copy of the written complaint has been forwarded to the Dean of the School of Law. Such notice shall be accompanied by: (a) a copy of the written complaint,

including any exhibits; (b) a copy of this SCC; and (c) notice that the accused student may obtain counsel to represent him/her in this matter, pursuant to the caveats set out in Article 6.12 below. If the accused student wishes to respond to the complaint, then he/she shall respond in writing to the Chair within five (5) business days after he/she received the complaint.

#### **4.08**

The withdrawal of an accused student from the School of Law subsequent to the date that the complaint is delivered to the student by the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall not terminate the jurisdiction of the SC Committee to conduct any further disciplinary proceedings specified in this SCC.

#### **4.09**

Within five (5) business days after receiving the accused student's response, or, in the event the student files no response, within five (5) business days from the date the response was due, the Chair shall set a time and date for convening the SC Committee, unless an extension is required by the Chair due to his/her inability to gather the members of the SC Committee due to travel, holiday or other unavoidable circumstance.

#### **4.10**

In the event that the accused student fails to timely respond to the complaint, all allegations therein shall be deemed admitted. Although the accused student or his/her representative will have the right to appear at full hearing later convened by the Chair pursuant to Article 6 of this SCC, they will not be permitted to present evidence denying the factual allegations of the complaint. If the event that the accused student or his/her representative neither timely responds to the complete nor appears at the Article 6 hearing, the SC Committee shall thereupon proceed to enter its judgment of the accused student and assess punishment, if appropriate, as if the accused student were present.

#### **4.11**

In the event that the accused student informs the Chair in writing that he/she wishes to admit the allegations set forth in the complaint and waive any further proceedings under the SCC, the Chair may, after consultation with the accused student and the Associate Dean for Student and Career Services, convene the SC Committee at a time earlier than that specified Article 4.09 of this SCC for the purpose of accepting the accused student's admission and determining appropriate discipline pursuant to Article 8 of this SCC.

#### **4.12**

When the SC Committee is convened, its members shall elect a subcommittee consisting of one faculty member and one student member to conduct a preliminary investigation of the complaint (the "Subcommittee"). The Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall not serve as a member of the Subcommittee.

#### **4.13**

When the SC Committee is convened, its members shall, by a simple majority of the voting members, choose a Secretary, who shall be responsible for: (a) making and keeping records of every meeting of the SC Committee; (b) recording the attendance of each SC Committee member; and (c) tracking the complaint until its final disposition. Upon the final disposition of the complaint, all records kept by the Secretary shall be delivered to the Chair, who shall be charged with maintaining and protecting the records and delivering them to the faculty member who is appointed Chair in the subsequent academic year.

## **Article 5. Preliminary Investigation and Resolution**

### **5.01**

The Subcommittee shall conduct an investigation in which the Subcommittee shall interview the accused student, the complainant, and any other witnesses who may possess information pertinent to the allegations set forth in the complaint.

The Subcommittee shall further examine any exhibits to the complaint and any other pertinent materials provided by the various parties and witnesses. Members of the Subcommittee shall be allowed to make personal observations to the Committee as to the veracity of the various witnesses interviewed and evidence reviewed during the course of their investigation.

#### **5.02**

Prior to any interview with the Subcommittee or any other representative of the School of Law charged with investigative responsibilities under this Code, the accused student shall be advised that: (a) the student may remain silent, (b) the student may terminate the interview at any time; (c) the student may postpone the interview until he/she has had a reasonable time to consult counsel, and (d) anything the student says in the interview may be used as evidence against him/her.

#### **5.03**

If, during the course of the investigation, the Subcommittee discovers evidence of additional or related violations of this Code other than those contained in the original complaint, the Subcommittee shall investigate such violations and determine whether additional allegations should be levied against the accused student. The Subcommittee shall also agree on the recommended disposition of these new allegations. If, during the course of its investigation, the Subcommittee determines that there is credible evidence that a student or students other than the accused student have violated this code, such evidence shall form the basis of a separate complaint. To the extent the Subcommittee should find additional bases of violations of the Code during its preliminary investigation, the Subcommittee shall notify the Committee when it makes its recommendation to the full committee.

#### **5.04**

In the event that both members of the Subcommittee agree on the recommended disposition of the case, *i.e.*, whether to recommend to the Committee a full hearing pursuant to Article 6 of this Code, a plea agreement pursuant to Article 9, a dismissal, or some other disposition, the recommendation shall be made to the full Committee. If the Subcommittee cannot reach unanimity, the recommendation to the full Committee shall be made by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (or his/her replacement in the event of a recusal) upon a summary presentation of the evidence gathered by the Subcommittee. In the event the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is called upon to make this recommendation, that shall not, without more, constitute a basis for his/her recusal during any other portion of the proceedings pursuant to this Code. In either event, no appeal shall lie from the Subcommittee's recommendation to the Committee.

#### **5.05**

The recommendation to the Committee pursuant to Section 5.04 above should be made within four weeks of the meeting of the Committee at which the Subcommittee is appointed, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter. The recommendation of the Subcommittee shall be made available only to the members of the Committee, until or unless such time as a full hearing is scheduled pursuant to Article 6 of this Code.

#### **5.06**

The Committee possesses the sole discretion to accept or reject the recommendation made pursuant to Section 5.04. Acceptance or rejection of the Subcommittee recommendation shall be determined by a simple majority of the voting members of the Committee excluding members of the investigatory Subcommittee. In the event of a tie among voting members, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (or his/her replacement in the event of a recusal) shall vote to break the tie.

#### **5.07**

In the event that the Committee does not vote to accept the recommendation made pursuant to Section 5.04, the matter will proceed to a full hearing, and the student should be so notified.

#### **5.08**

In the event that the Committee votes to accept the recommendation made pursuant to Section 5.04, the following procedures should be followed:

- a. If the recommendation is that a full hearing be conducted, procedures for conducting a full hearing shall be followed, and the student should be so notified.
- b. If the recommendation is that the matter be dismissed, then the case will be closed and appropriate notation of dismissal placed in the student's file with notification to the student.
- c. If the recommendation is anything other than a full hearing or dismissal, the student will be contacted regarding consent to a plea agreement designed to institute the recommended action. In the event that the student consents to the plea agreement, the recommended action will be taken. If the student does not agree to the plea agreement, then the matter shall proceed to a full hearing and the student should be so notified.

## Article 6. Full Hearing

### 6.01

The SC Committee possesses the sole discretion to accept or reject the recommendation of the Subcommittee, including the recommendation by the Subcommittee to table further disciplinary action pursuant to Article 5.03 above, which acceptance or rejection of the Subcommittee recommendation shall be determined by a simple majority of the voting members of the SC Committee. Unless extraordinary circumstances exist or unless the accused student enters into a plea agreement pursuant to Article 10 of this SCC, however, the SC Committee should accept the Subcommittee's recommendation. In the event the SC Committee determines to accept the recommendation of the Subcommittee to table further adjudication of an alleged academic violation to a future date, or in the event the Subcommittee was unable to agree upon a recommendation and the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services was called upon to make a recommendation pursuant to Article 5.03 above and recommended that the SC Committee table further adjudication of an alleged academic violation to a future date, the SC Committee must obtain the written acquiescence of the accused student in order to formally table the further adjudication of an alleged academic violation to a future date.

### 6.02

In the event that the SC Committee decides to proceed to a full hearing, it shall set a date for the hearing that falls within two weeks of the determination to proceed, or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter if extenuating circumstances are present. The SC Committee may decide to set the date of the hearing later in extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances shall include, but not be limited to, the unavailability of witnesses, the unavailability of SC Committee members, or the scheduling of examinations or other events at the School of Law.

### 6.03

The Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall promptly notify the accused student of the hearing date by the method set out in Article 11 of this SCC. Requests for a continuance of a scheduled hearing shall be heard by the SC Committee and granted only in extraordinary circumstances.

### 6.04

The Hearing Panel shall consist of the members of the SC Committee who did not sit on the Subcommittee during the preliminary investigation, the committee faculty member, and the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services acting as judicial officer. If a full hearing is scheduled, the accused student shall have access to the evidence gathered in the Subcommittee's investigation. There shall be no other prehearing discovery.

### 6.05

At any time after the determination to proceed to a full hearing but before the hearing is held, the Hearing Panel may meet to consider any preliminary matters as they arise, including, but not limited to, the accused student's request to sever parties or to have discrete violations heard separately. Such determinations shall remain within the sole discretion of the Hearing

Panel. Furthermore, the Hearing Panel may propose and enter into a plea agreement pursuant to Article 10 of the SCC with the accused student at any time after the Subcommittee finishes its preliminary investigation and makes its recommendation to the SC Committee.

#### **6.06**

The hearing shall be confidential and closed to all but those directly involved in the proceeding, unless the student, by written request delivered to the Chair not later than 24 hours before the hearing, requests that the hearing be public. Nothing within this provision shall prevent the Dean from attending the hearing. All statements, records, images, questions, verbal or visual, which are adduced into evidence in this matter are to be held strictly confidential by the accused student, the members of the committee, all witnesses and persons involved in the matter whoever they may be, and such evidence may not be reported upon, transcribed, posted or otherwise commented upon outside of the hearing, except as expressly authorized by the party quoted or as otherwise authorized in this SCC.

#### **6.07**

All members of the SC Committee must be present at the hearing. The Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall preside as the Chief SC Committee Member at the hearing and shall state at the commencement thereof: (a) the scope of the hearing, the allegations in the complaint, the identity of the accuser, and the jurisdiction of the SC Committee; (b) the procedure to be followed in the hearing; (c) the possible penalties to be imposed should violation(s) of the SCC be proven; and (d) the rights of the accused student following the hearing. If the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services is unavailable, has a conflict of interest, or has been recused voluntarily or involuntarily pursuant to Article 3.03 or 3.04, the Chair shall sit as the Chief SC Committee Member during the hearing. If neither the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services nor the Chair is available, the Dean shall appoint the Chief SC Committee Member from among the remaining SC Committee members who comprise the Hearing Panel.

#### **6.08**

The Chair may appoint a "Prosecutor" to present witnesses and evidence against the accused student at the hearing. The Prosecutor may be a full-time or adjunct professor of law, an attorney outside of the School of Law, or any other person whom the Chair deems suitable, after consultation with the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services, the SC Committee, or both. The Chair may also forego the appointment of a Prosecutor, in which case one member of the SC Committee shall have the right to call and examine witnesses, present evidence, and cross-examine witnesses presented by the accused student, including the student himself/herself if he/she testifies.

#### **6.09**

The accused student has the right not to testify at the hearing. No inferences shall be drawn from the exercise of this right.

#### **6.10**

The hearing shall be conducted in such a manner as to do substantial justice and shall not be unduly restricted by the rules of procedure or evidence; therefore, neither the Federal nor Tennessee Rules of Evidence shall apply.

#### **6.11**

The accused student shall be presumed innocent. The accused student has the right, and shall be provided any and all reasonable opportunity, to present witnesses and submit evidence at the hearing, including documentary materials of any kind.

#### **6.12**

The accused student may be represented by a person of his/her choice. It is the sole responsibility of the student to obtain representation. This SCC in no manner creates a responsibility of the SC Committee, the Dean, or the School of Law to provide appointed representation for the accused student or to provide compensation to the accused student's representative.

### **6.13**

Once a final hearing has been set, and upon the written petition of the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services, the Prosecutor, or the accused student, or by his/her own authority as Chair, the Chair shall issue a written request to students, faculty members, staff members or employees of the School of Law to appear as witnesses at the hearing and/or produce physical or documentary evidence in their possession that was identified during the Subcommittee's investigation, including but not limited to, the identity of any person who filed the report of violation against the accused student and any statement by that reporter. The Chair shall sign the written request and deliver it to the prospective witness or source of physical or documentary evidence, or his/her department head, at least three days before the hearing, or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter. The Chair may refuse to issue a written request if he/she determines the evidence sought is confidential and/or privileged under the rules or regulations of the University or the School of Law. The Chair may amend, modify, or rescind the request, if, after the request is issued, he/she determines that the evidence sought confidential and/or privileged under the rules or regulations of the University or the School of Law. Upon receipt of a written request, the student, faculty member, staff member or employee of the School of Law shall appear as a witness at the hearing and/or produce the physical or documentary evidence requested unless extraordinary circumstances prevent it.

### **6.14**

The hearing shall be recorded by stenographic, mechanical, electronic, or sound photographic means. After the SC Committee has rendered a decision in a case, its opinion and all other records and documents pertaining to the proceeding shall be delivered to the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services for safekeeping for a period not less than five years, after which time said opinion, records and documents from the proceedings may be destroyed.

### **6.15**

In the event that the hearing results in a dismissal of all charges, the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall ascertain that the complaint and any other references to the proceedings are promptly deleted from the accused student's file at the School of Law.

### **6.16**

In the event that the hearing results in a determination that a violation occurred, the Hearing Panel shall determine the appropriate disciplinary sanctions pursuant to Article 8 of the SCC herein. The student may present evidence in mitigation, including, but not limited to:

1. Admission prior to allegation reported. It may be a mitigating factor when a student voluntarily admits misconduct before learning that someone has reported the matter or is about to report the matter. A student who has the integrity to come forth with a good-faith admission has reaffirmed a personal commitment to honor. Any student interested in making such an admission should contact the Associate Dean for Student Services.
2. Other admissions. An admission made after an allegation has been reported may have some mitigating value; however, a post-report admission is not as strong a mitigating factor as a pre-report admission.
3. Cooperation. The Associate Dean for Student Services may consider how cooperative, or uncooperative, the student was during the process, for meetings, provided requested information, and dealt honestly and civilly with others involved with the process.
4. Intent. Conduct falls on an intent continuum that ranges from malicious, willful, intentional, reckless, and grossly negligent conduct on the more serious end, to merely negligent, careless, and unintentional conduct on the less serious end.
5. Degree of harm or seriousness of offense. The degree of harm to others and the seriousness of the conduct are relevant factors in determining sanctions.
6. Prior violations.

### **6.17**

A brief written opinion stating the Hearing Panel's findings of fact and the basis for its judgment shall be prepared by the Secretary.

## **6.18**

The SC Committee may adopt any further rules or make any further regulations necessary for a fair and impartial hearing that are not inconsistent with Article 6 of this SCC.

# **Article 7. Committee Determination**

## **7.01**

At the close of questioning and upon consideration of all the evidence presented, the Hearing Panel shall decide whether the accused student has committed a violation in private deliberations. Deliberations may be suspended and reconvened as many times as necessary by the Hearing Panel, but a determination must be submitted not later than two weeks after the hearing of the matter.

## **7.02**

A determination by the Hearing Panel that the accused student violated the SCC requires a simple majority of the voting members of the Hearing Panel to determine, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the accused student committed acts that violated the SCC. For purposes of any vote pursuant to this rule, each member of the Hearing Panel, regardless of rank, shall have one vote.

## **7.03**

If the Hearing Panel determines that the accused student violated the SCC, it shall determine the appropriate sanction by a simple majority of the voting members of the SC Committee. The Hearing Panel's vote on the determination of the violation and sanctions shall become the determination of the SC Committee.

## **7.04**

The Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall notify the accused student of the SC Committee's determination at its earliest possible convenience. If the SC Committee determined that the accused student violated the SCC, such notification shall advise the student of his/her right to appeal pursuant to Article 9 of this SCC.

## **7.05**

The identity of the accused student shall remain confidential, and no information describing or characterizing the accused student shall be disseminated by members of the SC Committee. Notwithstanding the above provisions, the Chair shall transmit information regarding the final disposition of the hearing, including any pertinent evidence presented therein, to the Dean of the School of Law and the University Registrar. Before transmitting information to any person or organization requesting information about the academic standing of a student who was determined to have violated the SCC, the Registrar shall seek the written consent of the student, made either directly to the Registrar or to the requesting person or organization. If the student who was determined to have violated the SCC refuses to consent to the Registrar's request or fails to provide consent within one week of the request, the Registrar shall not transmit academic information of any kind to the person or organization requesting such information. Instead, the Registrar shall send a letter to the person or organization requesting the information stating that the student did not consent to the release of his or her academic information.

## **7.06**

Upon completion of the full hearing, or the entry of the accused student into a plea agreement, the Office of the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall post on the administrative bulletin board, blackboard or both, a brief statement describing: (a) the violations of the SCC alleged in the complaint; (b) whether the accused student was found innocent, admitted the violations, or was found to have committed the violations alleged in the complaint; and (c) the sanctions

imposed by the SC Committee, if any. The name of the accused student shall be omitted from the public statement unless the student exercises his/her option to have the hearing made public pursuant to Article 6.06 of this SCC. If the accused student has requested a public hearing, his/ her name will be included in the public statement.

## Article 8. Sanctions

### 8.01

Misconduct constituting a violation of this SCC may result in the imposition of any one or a combination of the following sanctions for any period the SC Committee deems appropriate:

1. Unwritten warning by the Dean or Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services;
2. Written reprimand not of record;
3. Written reprimand of record;
4. Public discussion, which requires the student to engage in public discussion of his/her act in the best interest of educating and deterring other students. This sanction shall not be imposed in the absence of the written consent of the student and may be imposed as an alternative to other sanctions;
5. Probation, meaning the suspension of any sentence subject to future non-violation of this SCC;
6. Suspension from the School of Law;
7. Withdrawal of the University or School of Law privilege relating to the misconduct, including, but not limited to, termination of membership in a student organization;
8. A monetary assessment in the form of restitution for any damages to property;
9. Expulsion from the School of Law;
10. Revocation of a former student's diploma; if the violation of the SCC occurred while the student was matriculating at the School of Law; or
11. Any further sanction authorized by the Dean of the School of Law.

### 8.02

All sanctions shall bear reasonable relationship to the severity of the misconduct, except that an offending student's record of prior misconduct, including warnings and written reprimands not of record, or the absence thereof, may be considered.

### 8.03

All disciplinary actions shall be executed by the Office of the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services, and, except for those described in Articles 8.01(1) and 8.01(2), shall be recorded on the student's official record.

### 8.04

The SC Committee shall maintain jurisdiction over the matter until such time as the imposed sanctions are fully completed. Furthermore, the right, ability, and jurisdiction of the SC Committee to impose further sanctions for the failure of the student to fully comply with the sanctions shall be preserved until all the sanctions imposed are completed.

### 8.05

Unless specifically stated by the SC Committee as part of sentencing, the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall mandate all time frames within which the student shall comply with all sanctions levied by the SC Committee. In the event a student fails to comply with any requirements of a plea agreement entered with the SC Committee, or with a sanction levied after a full hearing, the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall notify the current Chair. After conferral with the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services, the Chair may extend the time within which the student must comply with the sanctions or provisions of the plea agreement.

### 8.06

If the Chair has reason to believe that the failure of the student to comply with previously imposed sanctions or provisions of a plea agreement is an intentional and willful disregard of the authority of the SC Committee and a violation of 2.01 of this SCC, the Chair shall immediately convene the SC Committee to discuss further action. In the absence of an extraordinary circumstance justifying non-compliance, any plea agreement or lesser sanction shall be deemed withdrawn and void, and, upon a vote of a simple majority of the voting members of the SC Committee, the matter may proceed to full hearing on the original allegation, if not tried, or to a limited hearing only on the failure of the student to comply with the sanctions of the SC Committee after preliminary investigation, hearing, and determination. The SC Committee after preliminary investigation, hearing, and determination. The SC Committee shall have the full range of sanctions available to it under Article 8.01 at this non-compliance hearing, including, but not limited to, expulsion from the School of Law. The determination of the SC Committee regarding willful non-compliance with a signed plea agreement or previously assessed sanctions for violation of the SCC shall not be appealable pursuant to Article 9 of the SCC.

## Article 9. Appeal

### 9.01

A student whom the SC Committee has determined to have violated the SCC shall have the right to appeal the adverse ruling by the SC Committee. Such appeal shall lie in the sole discretion of the Dean and must be made within fourteen (14) calendar days of date that notice and service of the SC Committee's judgment was provided to the student as set forth in Article 11 of the SCC.

### 9.02

If the student desires additional time to prepare an appeal, he/she must make a written request to the Dean within the same 14-day period. The Dean may, within his/her sole discretion, grant such additional time for appeal.

### 9.03

With respect to the finding(s) and sanction(s) determined by the SC Committee, the Dean will uphold the sanctions imposed by the SC committee unless there is substantial evidence to alter the findings of fact and conclusions of the SC Committee.

### 9.04

An accused student who enters into a voluntary plea agreement with the SC Committee is not entitled to appeal the entry of the plea agreement or any of the conditions set forth therein.

## Article 10. Plea Agreements

### 10.01

At any point following the preliminary investigation and the recommendation of the Subcommittee, the Hearing Panel shall be empowered to enter into a plea agreement with the accused student on behalf of the SC Committee.

### 10.02

As a condition of any plea agreement, the accused student must unequivocally admit and accept responsibility for the misconduct as stated within the plea agreement and consent to the sanction imposed by the SC Committee.

### 10.03

Before entering into a plea agreement, the Hearing Panel, by a simple majority of the voting members, must determine that: (a) sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that the accused student committed misconduct constituting a violation of the SCC; (b) that the sanction imposed by the plea agreement is appropriate; and (c) that the plea agreement is acceptable.

**10.04**

The plea agreement must expressly warn the accused student that he/she may seek legal counsel prior to executing the agreement, subject to the caveats set forth in Article 6.12 of this SCC. Nothing within this provision, however, should be construed to indicate that the School of Law or any of its agents or employees either is responsible for securing, providing, or recommending specific legal counsel or is encouraged to do so.

**10.05**

The plea agreement shall expressly warn the accused student that execution of the agreement will constitute a waiver of the right to appeal any alleged procedural error in the disciplinary proceedings, whether known or unknown at the time of execution, pursuant to Article 9 of the SCC.

**10.06**

The plea agreement shall be written and signed by the accused student and the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services. The Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services shall not sign the agreement without the approval of a simple majority of the voting members of the Hearing Panel.

**10.07**

The Hearing Panel, in its sole discretion, may reduce, alter, and/or amend the allegations of misconduct against the accused student within the plea agreement, so long as said amendments do not increase the level of accused sanction to which the student has agreed without notice to the accused student and an opportunity for the accused student to withdraw acquiescence to the agreement. Furthermore, the Hearing Panel, in its sole discretion, may consider the plea as a mitigating factor for purposes of imposing its sanctions within the plea agreement. However, nothing within this section shall be construed to provide the accused student with a right to an exercise of such discretion.

**10.08**

Once a plea agreement is properly executed in compliance with this rule, the matter shall be terminated, and notwithstanding any errors that may have occurred during the preliminary investigation or any other portion of the disciplinary proceedings, whether known or unknown at the time of execution, no right to appeal shall be preserved regardless of the alleged error's severity, type, potential for repetition, or import.

**10.09**

Notwithstanding the termination of a matter pursuant to Article 10.08, the SC Committee shall maintain jurisdiction over the matter until such time as the imposed sanctions are fully completed. Furthermore, the right, ability, and jurisdiction of the SC Committee to impose further sanctions for the student's failure to fully comply with the sanctions shall be preserved until all of the sanctions imposed within the plea agreement are completed, as more specifically stated in Articles 8.05 and 8.06 of this SCC.

**10.10**

For purposes of any vote pursuant to this rule, each member of the Hearing Panel, regardless of rank, shall have one vote.

**10.11**

In the event the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services is unavailable to sign the plea agreement, the Chair shall sign the plea agreement. In the event neither the Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services nor the Chair is available to sign the plea agreement, the Dean shall appoint an acting Chair to sign the plea agreement from among the remaining SC Committee members who comprise the Hearing Panel.

## Article 11. Notice and Service

### 11.01

Any duly promulgated rule, regulation or order of the School of Law posted on Canvas shall serve as constructive notice to the student body within 48 hours of its posting. Further, any email sent to a student at the e-mail address assigned to them by the School of Law shall be deemed delivered pursuant to the notice requirements of this SCC on the day following the sending of the e-mail in question.

### 11.02

In all cases where the SCC charges a person with the responsibility for the delivery of complaints, notices, statements, judgments, or any other documents whatsoever, the person making delivery thereof shall first make a reasonable attempt to serve the document in question personally and by email upon the person entitled to receive it. If such personal or e-mail service cannot be accomplished, a certified letter, and regular U.S. Mail letter, duly posted to the most recent address of the person as listed in School of Law files, shall conclusively be presumed to provide notice and service required by the SCC. Service will be considered complete one day after the posting of the certified letter.

### 11.03

All time periods in this SCC commence to run exclusive of the day of service, notice, or judgment. Further, all deadlines will end at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the day due, regardless of weekend or weekday.

## Article 12. Reserved Powers

### 12.01

Nothing in this SCC shall be construed to limit the authority of a faculty member or a School of Law organization to deal with misconduct arising in the faculty member's class or organization. Such action shall not be the basis for a plea of double jeopardy by the student involved.

### 12.02

The Dean and faculty of the School of Law reserve the right to modify, alter, amend, extend or restate any section of this SCC at any time.

### 12.03

Any student who, within the sole discretion of the Dean, poses an imminent risk of serious harm to the School of Law community, may be suspended immediately and shall be accorded due process, otherwise consistent with this SCC, at a later date.

### 12.04

No section of this SCC, determination of the SC Committee, or plea agreement entered into by any student under this SCC, shall be construed as limiting or controlling the discretion of the Dean of the School of Law to exercise his or her discretion regarding whether or not to endorse any student.

## Accreditation

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### Institutional Accreditation

Lincoln Memorial University is accredited by the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges \(SACSCOC\)](#) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, educational specialist, and doctorate degrees. Lincoln Memorial

University also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Lincoln Memorial University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).

## Duncan School of Law Accreditation

Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law is approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60654, 312-988-6738.

# Grading Policies

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## Mandatory Grade Distribution

### 1. 1000-Level Course Grades

For Law 1011 (Civil Procedure I), 1021 (Contracts I), 1052 (Legal Communication I), 1051 (Legal Research I), 1041 (Torts I), and 1061 (Criminal Law) (i.e., courses ordinarily required for 1Ls in the first semester of the full-time J.D. program), the cumulative average grade shall fall between 2.600 and 2.800 (mean curve). Grades of A and A- shall be awarded to no more than 20% of the class, and the total grades of A, A-, B+, B, and B- shall be awarded to no more than 55% of the class (distribution curve).

For Law 1012 (Civil Procedure II), 1054 (Legal Communication II), 1053 (Legal Research II), 1031 (Property I), and 1042 (Torts II) (i.e., courses ordinarily required for 1Ls in the second semester of the full-time J.D. program), the cumulative average grade shall fall between 2.700 and 2.900 (mean curve). Grades of A and A- shall be awarded to no more than 20% of the class, and the total grades of A, A-, B+, and B shall be awarded to no more than 55% of the class (distribution curve).

The mandatory distribution curve shall not apply to any 1000-level course with fewer than twenty (20) students enrolled. The applicable mean curve will apply.

2. 2000-Level Course Grades: For each class, the cumulative average grade shall fall between 2.800 and 3.000 (mean curve). A mandatory distribution curve shall not apply.
3. Mid-term examination and final examination grades for 1000-level shall comply with the distribution and mean curves listed in paragraph 1 above. Mid-term examination and final examination grades for 2000-level courses shall comply with the mean curve listed in paragraph 2 above.
4. A faculty member shall submit final course grades to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs within the time designated by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. If the grades do not comply with the curve, they shall be returned to the faculty member for adjustment in conformity with the curve and resubmission to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The Registrar shall not process any grades for a course until all grades for the course conform to the grading curves, unless a waiver has been obtained from the Dean or Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
5. In extraordinary circumstances, the Dean or Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant a waiver for a faculty member not conforming to the grading curves for a particular course for a particular semester. It is not considered "extraordinary circumstances" that a faculty member simply considers the curve too strict or too generous, in whole or in part, or the class too strong or too weak for the curve to be applicable. Any such waiver shall be reported to the Academic Standards Committee in writing, together with the reasons for the waiver.

## Grading System

1. LMU Law uses the traditional 4.0 grading system

<b>A</b>	4.000	<b>C</b>	2.000
<b>A-</b>	3.667	<b>C-</b>	1.667
<b>B+</b>	3.333	<b>D+</b>	1.333
<b>B</b>	3.000	<b>D</b>	1.000
<b>B-</b>	2.667	<b>D-</b>	0.667
<b>C+</b>	2.333	<b>F</b>	0.000

## 2. Explanation of Grades

A	A grade of A is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that is uniformly outstanding for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
A-	A grade of A- is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that is often outstanding but lacks the consistency associated with uniformly outstanding work for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
B+	A grade of B+ is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that is very good but lacks the consistency associated with outstanding work for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
B	A grade of B is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that is uniformly good work for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
B-	A grade of B- is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that is often good work, but lacks the consistency associated with uniformly good work for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
C+	A grade of C+ is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that is above the level of competent but not rising to the level of good work for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
C	A grade of C is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that is competent for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
C-	A grade of C- is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that is below the level of competent, lacking the consistency necessary for competent work for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education. A student who maintains a C- average is not eligible to graduate and, if that average persists, is not eligible to continue his or her studies at the School of Law.
D+	A grade of D+ is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that reflects some skill but is solidly below the level of competent for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
D	A grade of D is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that reflects some skill but is substantially below competent for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
D-	A grade of D- is given to any student who completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that generally reflects some minimal skill that is marginally above a failing grade for a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education.
F	A grade of F is given to any student who either (a) completes the requirements for a course and does so in a fashion that is not acceptable at all and demonstrates none of the skill or talent generally found in a law student and future lawyer at this stage of his or her education or (b) does not complete the requirements for the course in a timely fashion. This grade confers no credit for the course.

## 3. Other possible transcript notations and explanations

### **I** = Incomplete

A grade of I is given to a student who has not completed the requirements for a course in a timely fashion but has arranged with the instructor to do so within a designated time period. Ordinarily, a grade of Incomplete shall only be given in extraordinary circumstances and after six months, an unresolved I becomes an F (0.000). A course description or syllabus, with approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, may set specific rules or timelines that define how and when an Incomplete is available. At no time does an I confer credit for a course.

### **P** = Passing

Eligible courses will be graded on a pass/fail basis. A grade of P is given to any student who passes a pass/fail course. This grade confers credit but is not calculated in the grade average.

### **W** = Withdrawal

A grade of W is posted on the transcript whenever a student withdraws from a course prior to the deadline to drop a course. The W grade confers no credit and is not calculated in the grade average.

### **AW** = Absence Withdrawal

A grade of AW is posted on the transcript whenever a student is withdrawn from a course for excessive absences. The AW grade confers no credit but is calculated into the grade average in the same way as an F (0.000).

### **WD** = Withdrawal from University

A notation of WD denotes an administrative withdrawal from the University (from all courses), instigated by the

University, prior to the conference of a grade in any course. The WD grade confers no credit and is not calculated in the grade average.

**X** = A notation of X is posted on the transcript if the student, through no fault of his or her own, has not yet received a grade for a course. This notation covers unforeseeable circumstances unrelated to the student. The X notation does not confer credit for the course and is not calculated in the grade point average.

**AU** = Audit

A notation of AU denotes an official audit of the course. No credit is awarded nor is a grade assigned.

#### 4. Pass/Fail Grading

Any course in which letter grades are not expected to be given will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Students who pass the course receive a P for the course. Students who fail the course receive an F (0.000). A failing grade will be calculated as part of a student's grade point average.

- a. For all coursework taken on a pass/fail basis, whether at, or outside, the School of Law, a student must perform at no less than a C level to earn a P grade. Students who perform below a C level will receive an F.
- b. Credit Hour Limitation. Not including any 1000- or 2000- level courses or transfer credits, and absent approval in writing from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, no student may count more than twelve credit hours earned in courses graded on a pass/fail basis toward the total number of hours required for graduation.

#### 5. Calculation of Grade Point Averages

After all grades have been recorded for students each semester, the Registrar will calculate and report to each student his or her individual grade point average. This information will be made available to all students through WebAdvisor.

## Academic Grievance Procedures

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### Procedure for a Non-Grade Related Academic Grievance

1. Grievances concerning any academic issues should first be taken to the instructor of the class, if a classroom situation is in dispute.
2. If a student feels he/she needs to take the matter further, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs should be consulted, no later than two weeks following the first day of classes for the next semester (including summer terms), with such grievance being made in writing.
3. If a student is dissatisfied with the decision or remedial action taken by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the student may appeal such decision to the Dean. An appeal under this subsection must be made within five (5) calendar days of the decision or remedial action that is the basis for the appeal and must provide, in writing, a copy of the grievance and a statement setting forth the appellant's basis for dissatisfaction. The Dean's decision shall be final and non-appealable.
4. Grievances concerning sexual harassment by a faculty member are not governed by this section.

### Academic Grievances Seeking Grade Changes

1. Grievances seeking a grade change should first be taken to the instructor of the class. If a student feels he or she needs to take the matter further, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs should be consulted.
2. After a professor has submitted grades to the Registrar's office, the grades are final and may not be changed except with permission from the Academic Standards Committee, or, for changes arising from a mathematical, administrative or clerical error, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. All decisions of the Academic Standards Committee with respect to requests for grade changes shall be final.
3. Requests for changes to grades must be made no later than:
  - a. forty-five (45) days after the date set by the official Academic Calendar for the end of that semester's final exams; or
  - b. three (3) weeks after the contested grades are posted, whichever is later.
4. To qualify, a requested grade change must allege facts indicating a basis for the change that falls within one of three categories set forth below and in accordance with the policies detailed below:
  - a. Mathematical, Administrative, or Clerical Error

- i. Upon a showing that a grade was recorded in error due to a mathematical error, administrative error, or clerical error, a grade change will be presented to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
  - ii. A mathematical error is an error based upon an incorrect calculation of a student's score on an exam or in a class, such as an error in addition, subtraction, or other formulaic error.
  - iii. An administrative error is a non-mathematical error made by a faculty member in reading a student's exam, such as unintentionally overlooking a portion of a student's exam answer.
  - iv. A clerical error is an error, other than those addressed above, such as a transcription error. Clerical errors are not limited to errors made by faculty and include errors made by a staff member after a faculty member has turned in his or her grades.
  - v. Challenges to grades based on any of the above grounds first shall be addressed directly with the faculty member responsible for the grade. If the faculty member agrees that a mathematical error, administrative error, or clerical error has been made, the faculty member shall submit the request for a grade change to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
  - vi. If the faculty member does not agree that a mathematical error, administrative error, or clerical error has been made, the student may submit a written request for the change to the Academic Standards Committee. The committee shall allow the faculty member to provide a written response and shall conduct any investigation it deems necessary. If the faculty member involved is a member of the Committee, the faculty member shall be recused from participating in the deliberations.
- b. Bias
- i. A grade challenge made on the basis of bias would include an allegation by a student that his or her grade was unfairly awarded based upon a particular faculty member's bias with regard to (and presumably against) that student.
  - ii. To allege bias, a student must allege specific facts indicating professorial prejudice (either against a group of students or against the student making the allegation). To qualify for consideration, the challenge must allege that the prejudice stems from a source other than the student's performance in class discussions, on the course's webpage, on assignments, or on papers, quizzes, and examinations. Allegations of bias must be made under oath.
  - iii. Challenges based on bias shall be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs who shall forward the challenge directly to the Academic Standards Committee. The Committee shall allow the faculty member involved to provide a written response and shall conduct any investigation it deems necessary. If the faculty member involved is a member of the Committee, the faculty member shall be recused from participating in the deliberations.
- c. Arbitrary and Capricious Grading
- i. A grade challenge made on the basis of an allegation of arbitrary and capricious grading must be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs who shall forward the challenge directly to the Academic Standards Committee.
  - ii. The Committee shall allow the faculty member involved to provide a written response and shall conduct any investigation it deems necessary. If the faculty member involved is a member of the Committee, the faculty member shall be recused from participating in the deliberations.

## American Bar Association Student Complaint Policy

### 1. Formal Complaints Implicating American Bar Association Standards for Approval of Law Schools

As an institution with accreditation by the American Bar Association ("ABA"), the Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law seeks to comply with the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools ("the Standards"). The Standards may be found at [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/standards/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/standards/)

#### ***Procedures and Requirements for Filing a Complaint***

Any student at the Law School who wishes to file a formal complaint ("Complaint") to the Administration of a significant problem that directly implicates the program of legal education and its compliance with the Standards should take the following steps:

- a. Submit the Complaint, in writing, on the form contained in Appendix herein, to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Associate Dean and Director of the Law Library;

- b. Describe, in detail, the behavior, program, or process complained of and demonstrate how it implicates the Law School's program of legal education and the compliance with an identified Standard;
- c. Provide any evidence upon which the allegation(s) are based as the Complaint must include relevant supporting documentation;
- d. Detail any specific incident or incidents which allegedly impact the DSOL's program of legal education and the Law School's compliance with an identified Standard including:
  - i. The date and time of the incident(s);
  - ii. The number and name of the standard implicated;
  - iii. The substance of the incident; and
  - iv. The name(s) of the parties involved.
- e. Provide the time frame in which the lack of compliance is alleged to have occurred if it does not relate to a specific incident detailed in I.A.4. above;
- f. The Complaint must provide the name of the student(s) submitting the Complaint, the student's official school email address, a phone number, and a mailing address for further communication about the Complaint; and
- g. The Complaint must be signed by the student(s) making the allegations and submitting the Complaint

### ***Time Limitations***

The Complaint must be filed within sixty (60) days of the alleged events giving rise to the Complaint. Pursuit of other remedies does not toll this sixty (60) day limit.

### ***Procedures for Addressing a Complaint***

The following procedures shall, absent extraordinary circumstances, be followed when a Complaint is properly filed in accordance with the procedures set forth above. Failure to follow any part of the above procedures shall render the Complaint void and shall not require a response or any other action by the Law School.

The dean to whom the Complaint is submitted ("Associate Dean") should acknowledge the Complaint within five (5) business days of its receipt. Acknowledgment may be made by e-mail, U.S. mail, or by personal delivery of a written statement evincing receipt of the Complaint.

Within fourteen (14) calendar days of acknowledgment of the Complaint, the Associate Dean or the Associate Dean's designee shall either:

- i. Meet with the complaining student;
- ii. Respond to the substance of the Complaint in writing; or
- iii. Request additional information relating to the Complaint.

Subject to the provision below, the Associate Dean shall respond to the Complaint either by providing a substantive response to the Complaint or by providing the student information about what steps are being taken by the DSOL to address or further investigate the Complaint.

### ***No Issue Found***

In the event that the Associate Dean determines that the Complaint does not raise issues relating to the Law School's compliance with the Standards, the matter will be closed.

### ***Appeals***

Appeals from the decision must be taken to the Dean within five (5) business days.

Any student filing an appeal should take the following steps:

- i. The appeal should be submitted, in writing, to the Dean;
- ii. The appeal should state what portion or portions of the decision the student is appealing and the reason for the appeal;
- iii. The appeal must provide the name of the student filing the appeal, the student's official school email address, a phone number, and a mailing address for further communication about the appeal.

Any decision made on appeal by the Dean of the Law School is final.

**Document Retention**

A copy of the Complaint and a summary of the process and resolution of the Complaint shall be kept in the office of the Dean for a period of no less than eight (8) years. A digital copy of the information shall be considered in compliance with this retention policy.

**Frivolous Complaints**

A student who files a Complaint that is determined to be frivolous shall be considered in violation of the Code of Academic Integrity and shall be referred to the Academic Integrity Committee (“AIC”) for review and disposition. A frivolous claim is one which is determined by the Associate Dean or the Dean not to have a good faith substantive basis or merit including one brought for an unreasonable purpose such as harassment or personal bias.

In determining whether a Complaint is frivolous, the following may be taken into account:

- i. the number of times the same Complainant has filed the same or similar complaint;
- ii. the inability of the Complainant to substantiate his or her allegations;
- iii. evidence that the Complaint has been filed for the purpose of harassment or personal bias; and
- iv. other factors as determined by the Associate Dean or the Dean.

The Associate Dean making the determination of the result of the Complaint shall also determine the frivolousness of the Complaint. If the ruling on the merits of the Complaint is accompanied by a finding that the Complaint was frivolous and after the expiration of five (5) business days, a frivolous Complaint remains unappealed, then the Complainant shall be turned over to the AIC for a determination on the appropriate sanction, if any. The decision of the Associate Dean or, in the case of an appeal, the Dean, shall be binding on the AIC. The AIC shall follow all customary procedures set forth in the Student Handbook only insofar as it facilitates the determination of an appropriate sanction, protecting the rights of the Complainant to a hearing on that limited determination.

If a timely appeal is filed, then the Associate Dean shall await the findings of the appellate process before taking any action with the AIC. If the decision of the Associate Dean is upheld on appeal, then the finding of frivolousness will stand, and the Complainant shall be turned over to the AIC. If the decision of the Associate Dean is reversed on appeal and the Complaint is found to have merit or is found not to be frivolous, then the finding of frivolousness will be withdrawn and the matter shall not be turned over to the AIC.

**Notification**

This policy shall be published in each edition of the Duncan School of Law Student Handbook and in other locations sufficient to provide notice to students of its existence.

2. Formal Complaints Regarding Safety; Faculty, Staff or Student Misconduct; Discrimination; and Handbook/Policy Violations

**Procedures and Requirements for Filing a Complaint**

Any student who wishes to bring a formal complaint to the Law School Administration of a significant problem with safety; faculty, staff, or student misconduct; discrimination; and/or Handbook/policy violations should take the following steps:

- a. The Complaint should be submitted in writing to the Dean, (“appropriate dean”) as delineated below, on the form contained in Appendix herein. The appropriate dean shall be determined by the nature of the Complaint. The type of Complaint and the appropriate dean designated to address such Complaints are as follows:

Type of Complaint	Dean Designated to Address Complaint
Americans With Disabilities Act (“ADA”)	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Career Services	Asst. Dean for Student and Career Services
Code of Academic Integrity	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Faculty Misconduct (Non-academic)	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs( <i>If the Complaint is against the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, then the Dean. If the Complaint is against the Dean then the Provost</i> )

Type of Complaint	Dean Designated to Address Complaint
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA")	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Financial Aid	Asst. Dean for Student and Career Services
Grievances Against Faculty Regarding Grading or Grade Appeals	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs <i>(If the Complaint is against the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, then the Dean. If the Complaint is against the Dean then the Provost)</i>
Nondiscrimination Policy by a Faculty Member	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Nondiscrimination Policy by a Student	Asst. Dean for Student and Career Services
Safety	Asst. Dean for Student and Career Services
Staff Misconduct	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Student Handbook Violations (Not otherwise addressed in this chart)	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Student Misconduct (Academic)	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Student Misconduct (Non-academic)	Asst. Dean for Student and Career Services
Student Organizations	Asst. Dean for Student and Career Services

- b. Describe in detail the facts upon which the Complaint is based and, if applicable, the specific policy or provision of the Handbook which are alleged to have been violated;
- c. Provide any evidence upon which the allegation(s) are based as the Complaint must include relevant supporting documentation;
- d. Detail any specific incident or incidents which allegedly violated a policy or provision of the Handbook and include:
  - i. The date and time of the incident(s);
  - ii. The policy or Handbook provision implicated;
  - iii. The substance of the incident; and
  - iv. The name(s) of the parties involved.
- e. Provide the time frame in which the allegations are to have occurred if it does not relate to a specific incident detailed in I.A.4 above;
- f. The Complaint must provide the name of the student(s) submitting the Complaint, the student's official DSOL email address, a phone number, and a mailing address for further communication about the Complaint.
- g. The Complaint must provide the name of the student(s) submitting the Complaint, the student's official DSOL email address, a phone number, and a mailing address for further communication about the Complaint; and
- h. The Complaint must be signed by the student(s) making the allegations and submitting the Complaint.

### **Time Limitations**

All Complaints must be received by the appropriate dean (or individual) designated above within twenty-one (21) days of the alleged action referred to in the Complaint. However, if lack of actual knowledge by the complainant exists, this limitation may be tolled, at the discretion of the appropriate dean.

### **Procedures for Addressing a Complaint**

The following procedures shall, absent extraordinary circumstances, be followed when a Complaint is properly filed in accordance with the procedures set forth above. Failure to follow any part or parts of the above procedures shall render the Complaint void and shall not require a response or any other action by the Law School.

The appropriate dean to whom the Complaint is submitted should acknowledge the Complaint within five (5) business days of its receipt. Acknowledgment may be made orally, by e-mail, U.S. mail, or by personal delivery of a written statement evincing receipt of the Complaint.

If appropriate, based on the nature of the Complaint, within fourteen (14) calendar days of acknowledgment of the Complaint, the appropriate dean or his or her designee shall either:

- a. Meet with the complaining student;
- b. Respond to the substance of the Complaint in writing;
- c. Request additional information relating to the Complaint; or

- d. In the event that the appropriate dean concludes that the Complaint does not raise issues which violate any policy or provision of the Handbook, the matter will be closed

### ***Privacy Concerns***

It is important to note that due to circumstances involving privacy of students, faculty and/or staff, an individual making a Complaint may not necessarily be made aware of the outcome of an investigation (if any) or actions taken based on a Complaint.

### ***No Issue Found***

In the event that the appropriate dean (as designated above) concludes that the Complaint does not raise issues which violate any policy or provision of the Handbook, the matter will be closed. The closing of an issue may, or may not, depending on the nature of the Complaint, be reported to the complainant(s).

### ***Document Retention***

A copy of the Complaint and a summary of the process and resolution of the Complaint shall be kept in the office of the Dean for a period of no less than eight (8) years. A digital copy of the information shall be considered in compliance with this retention policy.

### ***Frivolous Complaints***

A student who files a Complaint that is determined to be frivolous shall be considered in violation of the Code of Academic Integrity and shall be referred to the Academic Integrity Committee ("AIC") for review and disposition. A frivolous claim is one which is determined not to have a good faith substantive basis or merit including one brought for an unreasonable purpose such as harassment or personal bias.

In determining whether a Complaint is frivolous, the following may be taken into account:

- a. the number of times the same Complainant has filed the same or similar complaint;
- b. the inability of the Complainant to substantiate his/her allegations;
- c. evidence that the Complaint has been filed for the purpose of harassment or personal bias; and
- d. other factors as determined by the reviewer.

The appropriate dean making the determination of the result of the Complaint shall also determine the frivolousness of the Complaint. If the ruling on the merits of the Complaint is accompanied by a finding that the Complaint was frivolous and after the expiration of five (5) business days, a frivolous Complaint remains unappealed, then the Complainant shall be turned over to the AIC for a determination on the appropriate sanction, if any. The decision of the appropriate dean or, in the case of an appeal, the Dean, shall be binding on the AIC. The AIC shall follow all customary procedures set forth in the Student Handbook only insofar as it facilitates the determination of an appropriate sanction, protecting the rights of the Complainant to a hearing on that limited determination.

If a timely appeal is filed, then the appropriate dean shall await the findings of the appellate process before taking any action with the AIC. If the decision of the appropriate dean is upheld on appeal, then the finding of frivolousness will stand, and the Complainant shall be turned over to the AIC. If the decision of the appropriate dean is reversed on appeal and the Complaint is found to have merit or is found not to be frivolous, then the finding of frivolousness will be withdrawn and the matter shall not be turned over to the AIC.

### ***Notification***

This policy shall be published in each edition of the Duncan School of Law Student Handbook and in other locations sufficient to provide notice to students of its existence.

## **FERPA**

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The University complies with the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The full FERPA policy and forms are located on the University website under Academics < Registrar < FERPA (<https://www.lmunet.edu/registrar/ferpa/index.php>).

# Class Rank Policy

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1. To be ranked, a student must have:
  - a. completed thirty (30) credit hours at the Duncan School of Law;
  - b. successfully completed all first-year required courses; and
  - c. been enrolled in at least one course in the ranking semester.
2. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, or a designee, shall calculate Interim Class Ranks twice per calendar year—after all student grades for the fall semester have been entered and after all student grades for spring semester have been entered. Interim Class Ranks will not be reflected on a student's official transcript.
3. For purposes of Interim Class Ranking, student ranking groups will be established based upon credit hours successfully completed. At the end of the fall and spring semesters, students shall be ranked within the following groups:
  - i. Group I: 30-44 completed credit hours
  - ii. Group II: 45-66 completed credit hours
  - iii. Group III: 67-90+ completed credit hours
4. A student's Graduation Class Rank, based upon the student's official final cumulative grade point average, will be the only rank that appears on a student's official transcript. The Graduation Class Rank will rank all students that have graduated since the Graduation Class Rank was last calculated. The Graduation Class Rank will be calculated on June 15 of each year and will reflect on each graduating student's official transcript within a reasonable time thereafter.

## Academic Honors

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### Dean's List

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have a 3.400 or greater grade point average, in any spring or fall semester in which the student has successfully completed a minimum of 9 credit hours. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, or a designee, shall promulgate the Dean's List, for the Dean's review and approval, after all student grades for each spring and fall semester have been entered.

### Graduation Honors

Graduation honors are as follows:

- Cum Laude 3.250 – 3.499
- Magna Cum Laude 3.500 – 3.749
- Summa Cum Laude 3.750 – 4.000

Graduation honors, which appear on the student's official transcript, are based upon the student's final cumulative grade point average. Unofficial honors that the student receives at the graduation ceremony will be calculated based upon each student's cumulative grade point average at the end of the academic term preceding the academic term in which a student graduates.

## School of Law Exams

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1. All School of Law exams shall be scheduled by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or his or her designee.
2. A student may obtain a rescheduling of an examination only upon the prior, written, discretionary approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or his/her designee.
3. Rescheduling an examination is an extraordinary event, and students should expect such requests to be denied in the absence of exceptional circumstances. The date for the taking of any rescheduled examination shall be set by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or his/her designee.

4. In considering requests for the rescheduling of an examination in the absence of course exam conflicts, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may require such documentation and impose such conditions as he or she deems proper. No individual faculty member at the School of Law may grant a rescheduling.
5. Students may leave the exam room after the completion of their exam but may not exit the exam room during the last fifteen (15) minutes of the exam administration.
6. This list of exam policies is not exhaustive. Additional policies and guidelines may apply, and students are expected to adhere to all policies and regulations as outlined in the student handbook and communicated by faculty and administration.

## Transfer Students

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For information regarding Credits Earned Prior to Matriculating at the School of Law, please refer to the Admissions Policies and Procedures Manual.

### Credit Earned at Another Law School after Enrollment at the School of Law

The School of Law will accept up to twelve (12) credit hours from visits by students enrolled at the School of Law to other law schools that are approved by the American Bar Association, including summer study and study abroad programs sponsored by ABA-approved law schools. Students who have received credit at the School of Law earned prior to matriculation, as set forth in the Admissions Policies and Procedures Manual, shall not be eligible to receive credit pursuant to this policy, unless their total transferred pre-matriculation credits do not exceed twelve (12) hours and then, only up to a total of twelve (12) pre-and post-matriculation transfer credits. All visits to other law schools must be approved in advance by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

1. A request to visit another law school must include the law school's name and contact information and the proposed course of study. A student is not eligible to submit a request to visit another law school unless the student is in good academic standing and has completed at least thirty (30) credit hours (generally known as the first-year curriculum).
2. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether to grant a student request. Credits earned during the visit shall not be used to fulfill any required courses. Students may take elective courses that may partially fulfill the elective hours necessary to satisfy the ninety (90) credit hours required to graduate from the School of Law.
3. Within three (3) months of completing an approved program at another law school, the student must submit an official transcript from the other law school's registrar to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
4. No more than twelve (12) hours of credit from another law school or a combination of schools, will be awarded. The student must earn a "C" or better any course taken at another law school to obtain credit at the School of Law.
5. Grades of "C" or above will be recorded as a "P" on the student's law school transcript. The grades earned from courses taken at other law schools will not count towards the student's cumulative GPA at the School of Law.
6. The provisions described in this subpart apply only to students already enrolled at the School of Law who are seeking to visit other schools. They do not affect the transfer policies set forth below.
7. Students should be aware that a leave of absence from the School of Law, even while accruing elective hours pursuant to this section, could result in a delay in your anticipated graduation date as required course offerings are rarely offered more frequently than once per academic year.

#### Credits Earned as Part of a Course Sharing Agreement Entered into by the School of Law

1. The Curriculum Committee, upon review of the course syllabus, may determine that a course being offered through a course sharing agreement qualifies for Upper-Level Writing or Experiential Learning transfer credit. Before awarding Upper-Level Writing credit for work performed in a course offered through a course sharing agreement, The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall confirm that the student's writing project(s) were graded at a level of B or higher.

2. Courses taken as part of a distance education course sharing agreement with other ABA-approved law schools will be transferred for a letter grade, which will count toward the student's cumulative GPA at the School of Law, but only if the student receives a final grade of C or higher. The School of Law shall not accept transfer credits for any course for which a student earned a grade below C.

## Transferring Grades

Accepted transfer credits, earned prior to or after matriculation at the School of Law, shall appear on a student's transcript as a "P," indicating the student earned pass/fail credit. Unless a waiver has been obtained from the Dean, a student may not transfer more than forty-five (45) credit hours. A student who has transferred from another law school must satisfy all other degree requirements at the School of Law, with a cumulative grade point average of 2.000 or better.

## Distinction from Pass/Fail Credit

While grades transferred from a foreign institution appear as pass/fail credit on a student's transcript at the School of Law, credit transferred from a foreign institution shall not be considered when calculating a student's maximum pass/fail credit.

# Student Organizations, Resources, and Policies

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## Student Organizations

In addition to receiving a rigorous and stimulating classroom experience, Duncan School of Law students have the opportunity to enhance their educational experience by participating in organizations. Student organization members share unique talents, interests, skills, and goals that enrich the lives of each other, the community and the School of Law.

In addition to membership in the Student Bar Association (SBA), students may join any of the other organizations listed below or may seek approval for the creation of additional organizations. All student organizations must be approved by the Assistant Dean for Student and Career Services who may be reached at (865) 545-5335, Room 243.

The following is a list of student organizations which have been approved as of the publication of this Student Handbook.

### Alternative Dispute Resolution

ADR club works hand in hand with Professor Russell on mediation and client counseling competitions. This club provides an excellent opportunity for those interested in learning the skills necessary to become a Rule 31 Certified mediator.

### American Constitution Society

Through our public programs (over 1,400 debates, conferences, and press briefings across America each year), publications, and active online presence, ACS generates intellectual capital for ready use by progressive allies and shapes debates on key legal and public policy issues including access to courts, voting, equality, immigration, workers' rights, and many others.

ACS nurtures the next generation of progressive lawyers, judges, policy experts, legislators, and academics by providing opportunities for networking, mentoring, and organizing around matters of both local and national significance.

### Amicus

Amicus' primary purpose is to visit local Knoxville Middle and High Schools to teach school-aged students how to make good-sound decisions, to become responsible, law-abiding citizens, help to prevent juvenile delinquency by teaching kids about the law and how it applies to them. It is a primary objective of Street Law to encourage students to continue their education past the high school level. It is also an objective of Street Law to be committed to advocate and to show school-

aged students that it is possible for all students to obtain a college education and beyond to that of a Masters, Ph.D., M.D, J.D., and other graduate and post-graduate degrees. Thus, Amicus is committed to planting of seeds for continued higher education in the hopes that the children will pursue a law degree and also give back to their community.

## Anti-Trafficking Advocacy Club

The mission of the Anti-Trafficking Advocacy Club (ATAC) at Lincoln Memorial Duncan School of Law is three-fold:

1. To educate the Law School and the greater student body about human trafficking, including its manifestations, prevalence, and consequences;
2. To participate in the fight against human trafficking; and
3. To serve as a resource to students interested in fighting human trafficking.

To fulfill this mission, ATAC works to host various outreach and educational events throughout the year and partners with local and national organizations to help with research, advocacy projects, and services to victims, among other things.

By training the next generation of anti-trafficking advocates to serve victims and educate the community, Lincoln Memorial Duncan School of Law's Anti-Trafficking Advocacy Club seeks to contribute to the elimination of domestic and international human trafficking.

## Black Law Students Association

The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is an organization formed to articulate and promote the needs and goals of African-American law students and effectuate change in the legal community. BLSA is dedicated to empowering African-American students to succeed in law school and to facilitate interaction between all students to draw from the advantages that true diversity brings to the educational experience. The goal of the BLSA is to set an example of service and humanitarian effort to its local community.

## Christian Legal Society

The Christian Legal Society, Student Chapter at Lincoln Memorial University's Duncan School of Law, is an organization devoted to developing and maintaining a vibrant presence on campus, enabling its members, individually and as a group, to love the Lord with their whole beings—hearts, souls, and minds—and to love their neighbors as themselves (Matthew 22:37-40).

## Criminal Law Society

The Criminal Law Society (CLS) provides the students of the Duncan School of Law with an enhanced knowledge of the American criminal justice system utilizing an apolitical approach. CLS seeks to stimulate awareness of complex legal and social issues facing the criminal legal system today with an emphasis on gaining a better understanding of how fairness and justice can best be attained in America's hallmark adversarial system.

## DSOL Hybrid Student Association

The Hybrid Student Association is a student-led, not-for-profit organization that focuses on supporting any student struggling or facing obstacles with online and/or distance learning. The HSA aims to be a social support for all enrolled and participating students as well as assist with identifying and providing opportunities for furthering professionalism and pro bono hours.

## Environmental Law Society

The Environmental Law Society is dedicated to protecting the magnificent places, natural resources, and wildlife of the earth, as well as defending the right of all people to a healthy environment. This organization is dedicated to the goals of educating the law school and surrounding community about environmental injustice, disasters, and victories. The Environmental Law Society is equally dedicated to protecting the environment throughout the legal system.

## Faculty-Selected Peer Leader Program

The Peer Leader Program is designed to have ten 2L and ten 3L students become peer leaders and serve as a bridge between faculty and students and assist incoming 1Ls adjust to LMU law school life, studies, and culture. In that vein, peer leaders meet once a month with the Deans of Admissions, Faculty, and Students to discuss any improvements that might be made to the law school experience both in and out of the classroom and assist with Bridge Week and other law school activities by mentoring and assisting the incoming first year students. Additionally, peer leaders assist the Dean of Students at particular events and the Office of Admissions with tours of the law school should prospective students want to speak with a student rather than a member of the administration or staff. The peer leaders also host a scholarship/3L celebration dinner in April.

## Family Law Society

The Family Law Society is a not-for-profit organization of students dedicated to providing education and enrichment regarding the practice of family law in the United States of America and more specifically in the State of Tennessee.

## Federalist Society

The purpose of the Federalist Society is to foster critical thought and debate about the application of conservative and libertarian principles to the law. This organization embraces the principle that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to the integrity of the constitution of the United States of America, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be.

## Hispanic Law Student Association

The Hispanic Law Student Association (HLSA) at Duncan School of Law provides professional, educational, and social support to member students while simultaneously fostering an appreciation for and awareness of Hispanic culture. HLSA is dedicated to advocating for the needs of its members within the law school, with the legal community, as well as promoting diversity within the legal profession.

## Immigration Law Society

The Immigration Law Society ("ILS") offers and establishes a recourse and outlet for those students interested in immigration law and policy at Duncan School of Law. The ILS participates independently and/or in cooperation with other student groups, non-profit organizations, attorneys, law firms, companies, academic institutions, and professional associations, in assisting local migrant communities through active involvement with attorney-supervised outreach, volunteer opportunities, or fund-raising activities. In addition, the ILS establishes and administers educational programs centered on immigration policy and law, including human rights, family unity, domestic violence, and the consequences of criminal activities on immigrants.

## Law Review

Law Review is an entirely student-run organization. The staff of the Law Review edits and publishes articles written by scholars, practitioners and students. Law Review participation is highly respected by members of the legal community because of the unique educational experience it provides. Service on Law Review enhances analytical, organizational, and research acumen and signifies a level of expertise in these areas that is widely recognized in the legal community.

## LMU Law Chess Association

LMU Law Chess Association is an organization focused on the love of all things chess. No prior experience necessary to join the club.

## LMU Law Mentors

The program is a student-based model, so I match an incoming first year student with an upperclassman that shares similar interests. I try my best to match people based on their personal interests, life experiences, and any other factors you wish I consider for your matching process. Mentors will be a short text away to help you throughout your first year of school. While

our mentor program is entirely optional, your mentor can offer helpful advice that is specific to our school, classes, and the Knoxville area. If you would be interested in signing up for a mentor or have any questions about our program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Mock Trial Board

The Mock Trial Board at DSOL is comprised of students at all levels of training, with first year students being limited to acting as witnesses in the actual competitions. The Mock Trial Board selection is based upon an initial competition, wherein the skills of each student are assessed based on their ability to zealously advocate their position, appropriately make and handle objections, project professionalism and confidence, and convince a trier of fact of the efficacy of their client's case. The Mock Trial Board members will undertake additional instruction in the art of trial advocacy, and will compete in preparatory internal competitions, regional and national competitions pitting our Mock Trial team's skills against other Mock Trial teams from law schools throughout the country.

## Moot Court Board

The Moot Court Board at DSOL is comprised of second through fourth year students who have demonstrated excellence in trial and appellate advocacy. The Board is expected to travel and participate in a national Moot Court competition where the participants will draft appellate documents and conduct oral arguments.

## National Lawyers Guild

Established in 1937, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) is the nation's oldest and largest progressive bar association and was the first one in the US to be racially integrated. Its mission is to use law for the people, uniting lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers to function as an effective force in the service of the people by valuing human rights and the rights of ecosystems over property interests. The NLG student chapter at LMU Law works with the NLG to foster and promote its mission.

## OUTLaw

OUTlaw is a not-for-profit organization which seeks to generate discussion pertaining to legal issues affecting the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community, promote diversity among the law school student body, and provide a safe atmosphere for LGBT students and their allies. OUTlaw also agrees to assist the administration of the Duncan School of Law in the recruitment of LGBT students.

## Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity

Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International is a professional law fraternity advancing integrity, compassion and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession and the community. Phi Alpha Delta was established upon the dissolution of Lambda Epsilon law fraternity on November 7, 1902. The day after, Phi Alpha Delta was formed and later merged with the women's legal fraternity Phi Delta Delta in 1972.

Phi Alpha Delta has members who are university students, law school students, lawyers, judges, senators, Congress representatives, Supreme Court Justices, and former U.S. Presidents. Over 300,000 members have been initiated since its establishment in 1902 into 340 pre-law chapters, 207 law chapters and 100 alumni chapters. The Watson, Jr. Chapter was established at the Law School in 2014.

The purpose of this Fraternity shall be to form a strong bond uniting students and teachers of the law with members of the Bench and Bar in a fraternal fellowship designed to advance the ideals of liberty and equal justice under law; to stimulate excellence in scholarship; to inspire the virtues of compassion and courage; to foster integrity and professional competence; to promote the welfare of its members; and to encourage their moral, intellectual, and cultural advancement; so that each member may enjoy a lifetime of honorable professional and public service. Visit [www.PAD.org](http://www.PAD.org) to learn more about our members, history, and the benefits of joining!

## Pioneer Law Student Association

The Pioneer Law Student Association (PLSA) is an organization for students who identify as the first in their family to attend college. PLSA seeks to create a professional and social support network to help first generation students succeed in law school. PLSA's mission is to foster a welcoming, inclusive community which addresses the many challenges that first generation professionals confront, both in law school and during their careers. To forward their mission of promoting advocacy, community, professionalism, and empowerment, PLSA will sponsor lunch talks with professors and legal professionals, as well as a variety of social events.

## Real Estate Law Society

The purpose of the Real Estate Law Society is to introduce students to the multifaceted field of Property law. Members will have access to multiple professionalism events each year and will be a part of one of the largest student organizations at LMU. Active REELS members will have the opportunity to interact and engage with Property professionals in Knoxville and the surrounding areas of the state. REELS is a great way to get involved with the school and the community. We expect our organization to expand, giving students an excellent opportunity to make meaningful connections with others interest in Property law. We would love for you to join us!

## Random Acts of Community Kindness

RACK is a club that is dedicated to promoting and facilitating good deeds throughout the Knoxville community. Whether it is something big, like a clothing drive, or something small like bringing coffee to our first responders, we will organize and participate in that goodwill. R.A.C.K. is continuously working to help students foster relationships both in school and in the Knoxville community. Join the club, lend a hand, and voice ways that we can help. All are welcome!

## Sports & Entertainment Law Society

Our mission is to promote interest and understanding in the area of sports and entertainment law, to create opportunities for students to become involved, and to aid and facilitate networking with professionals in the industry.

## Student Bar Association

The Student Bar Association ("SBA") is the student government of the School of Law and shall consist of three branches—the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.

The Executive Branch shall have at least four Constitutional Officers who shall be elected by the entire student body—the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Executive Branch shall be responsible for enforcing actions by the Legislative and Judicial Branches and for other duties in accordance with the SBA Constitution. Officers for the Executive Branch shall be elected annually to a one-year term.

The Legislative Branch shall consist of a Senate, which shall be comprised of not less than eight senators. Each class matriculating at the School of Law must be equally represented in the Senate irrespective of the size of the class. The Senate shall be responsible for the creation of bylaws, approving the budget, and other duties in accordance with the SBA Constitution. Officers for the Legislative Branch shall be elected annually to a one-year term.

The Judicial Branch shall have three Constitutional officers who shall be appointed by majority vote of the Senate to a one-year term. The Judicial Branch shall be responsible for interpreting the SBA Constitution and the Bylaws.

## Veterans Advocacy Society (VAS)

Veterans Advocacy Society is an organization that provides out-reach opportunities through education and pro bono work experiences that benefit veterans in our region.

## Women of Law Society

The Women of Law Society strives to be a source of support, information, and networking opportunities for current female law students. They hope to increase the community's awareness of legal, political, and social issues, emphasizing women's perspectives. They will conduct service activities promoting issues that are important to women's rights, health, etc.

## Law Library

The Mission of the Law Library is to support the School of Law's mission and curriculum. The Law Library will provide access to legal information to support the teaching, research, and scholarly activities conducted by faculty and students and develop legal research aids and programs that allow faculty and students to fully use and understand the use of legal research tools, including the development of the most effective legal research techniques. The Law Library will also be open to the legal community of the Knoxville area.

Regular, holiday, inter-term, and examination hours are frequently posted on the digital screen in the lobby. Hours may change during examination periods, holidays, and inter-term sessions. Announcements concerning Library hours are shared with the School of Law community via Canvas and the digital announcements screen located in the lobby.

## Students with Disabilities

The Office of Accessible Education Services provides support to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to University programs and activities. The office works to implement reasonable accommodations, which are modifications or adjustments to courses, programs, or environments that provide students with disabilities an equal opportunity to enjoy the same privileges, opportunities, and experiences available to all students.

Students seeking accommodations must submit a request for each semester in which an accommodation is needed. Accommodations are processed by the Office of Accessible Education Services and implemented by the Duncan School of Law.

Any issues related to accommodations or accessibility, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 503") should be directed to:

Jason Davis, Director of Accessible Education Services  
Lincoln Memorial University, 6965 Cumberland Gap Parkway, Harrogate, TN 37752  
Phone: (423) 869-6587  
Email: [jason.davis@lmunet.edu](mailto:jason.davis@lmunet.edu)

The full policy regarding accommodations and forms are located on the University website under Student Life < Accessible Education Services <https://www.lmunet.edu/student-life/accessible-education-services/>

## Firearms and Weapons

LMU is committed to providing a safe, healthy learning and working environment, and to making adequate provisions for the safety and health of its students, staff, faculty and the public, and will not permit its students or employees, as well as visitors, to act in ways that may endanger themselves or others.

All visitors, students and employees (LMU or DSOL security personnel may be permitted to carry a weapon if authorized by the President of the University) are prohibited from possessing, carrying, trading or showing weapons of any kind, including firearms, fireworks, guns, explosives, bows and arrows, knives, etc. while on LMU premises, while on duty, while operating LMU vehicles or equipment, or while operating personal vehicles for LMU purposes. Visitors, students, and employees are also prohibited from keeping weapons in their personal vehicles parked on LMU's premises. LMU premises include any property owned, operated, controlled, or managed by it. Individuals are permitted to carry mace, pepper spray, and pocketknives with blades less than four (4) inches if they are stored in a pocket, purse, briefcase, or other personal belongings. Also permitted are paintball weapons to be used for organized recreational purposes on LMU premises.

This policy does not apply to those who are expressly authorized by LMU to use explosives and other authorized tools that could be viewed as weapons in the performance of their jobs.

LMU reserves the right, based upon reasonable suspicion of a violation of this policy, to search an office desk, and other property under the control of the visitor, student or employee, as well as the packages, purses, lunch boxes, briefcases, and students' or employees' vehicles parked on its premises. Individuals may also be required to remove a jacket or sweater and to turn out their pockets. Reasonable suspicion sufficient to justify a search may be based on a clear and reasonable belief, through observation or information provided by a reliable and credible source, that an employee is in violation of this policy. Searches of LMU property under the control of the visitor, student or employee are subject to being conducted without notice, once the reasonable suspicion standard has been met.

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination.

## Drugs on Campus

1. Students may not, at any time while on any property owned, leased, or controlled by the Duncan School of Law, possess or use illicit substances as defined by either the United States Code or the Tennessee Code without a prescription from their doctor.
2. Students may not, at any time while on any property owned, leased, or controlled by the Duncan School of Law, possess or consume alcoholic beverages unless approved, in advance, by the Dean.
3. Students may not, at any time while on any property owned, leased, or controlled by the Duncan School of Law, carry, traffic, distribute, or manufacture illicit substances as defined by either the United States Code or the Tennessee Code.
4. For purposes of this rule, the term "controlled" includes but is not limited to any property where the Duncan School of Law is holding or conducting a School event, whether on or off campus, regardless of who owns the property.
5. For purposes of this rule, "property" shall include but is not limited to the interior of a student's car when the student's car is located in or on an area owned, leased, or regulated by the Duncan School of Law.
6. Students violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion.

## Class Capture & Podcasting

The School of Law uses Panopto to record lecturers as a supplemental study aid. All classes are recorded. Students can then access these recordings for the duration of the current semester.

Students can access Panopto while on campus or remotely. For the best experience when viewing recordings off campus, a high-speed internet connection (such as cable or fiber) is recommended. Cellular data connections or mobile hotspots may not provide reliable playback. In addition, network firewalls at a workplace or residence may restrict access to streaming video.

If using the Panopto app, you can also allow downloading lecture recordings for offline viewing. Videos can be downloaded using the download option or the vertical ellipsis menu (three dots) associated with each recording. This system is designed to support student learning by providing flexible access to course lectures, allowing students to review material at their convenience, regardless of a network connection.

## Computer Usage

In support of its mission of teaching, scholarship, and service, the School of Law provides computer access for students. The computing resources of the School of Law, including computers, facilities, hardware, software, networks, and computer accounts, are the property of the School of Law. The use of these resources is a privilege granted by the School of Law to authorized users only. The School of Law requires all persons authorized to use its computing resources to do so responsibly and in compliance with all state and federal laws, all contractual and license agreements, and all policies of the University and the School of Law. Authorized users of the School of Law's computing resources must act responsibly to maintain the integrity and security of these resources. Each user of the School of Law's computing resources is ultimately responsible for the use of that computing resource and for the use of his or her computer account. Persons misusing the School of Law's computing resources in violation of federal and state laws or policies promulgated by the University or the School of Law are subject to disciplinary actions by the School of Law and/or forfeiture of their computer privileges. In the event such misuse

of computer resources threatens to compromise the integrity or jeopardize the security of university computer resources or harm authorized users of those resources, the University's Chief Information Officer, the Dean, or any of their designees is authorized to take any and all necessary actions, including the immediate confiscation and/or disabling of a university computer resource or the temporary or permanent termination of a computer account, to protect, investigate, and ensure the security and proper use of computer resources.

1. Use of any School of Law computing resource is restricted to those having proper authorization to use that particular resource. It is a violation of the law and School of Law policy to assist in, encourage, or conceal from authorities any unauthorized use, or attempt an unauthorized use, of any of the School of Law's computers or network facilities.
2. No one shall knowingly endanger the security of any School of Law computing resource nor willfully interfere with authorized computer usage by circumventing or attempting to circumvent normal resource limits, logon procedures, or security regulations.
3. No technologies shall be connected to the School of Law's computing resources that interfere with authorized usage of those resources. The School of Law reserves the right to restrict the use of any technologies that may endanger the security and/or integrity of its computing resources.
4. The School of Law's computing resources shall not be used to attempt unauthorized use, or to interfere with another person's legitimate use, of any computer or network facility anywhere. Encroaching on, or disrupting another person's use of, the School of Law's computers is prohibited. Examples of such acts include but are not limited to: sending excessive messages either locally or off campus [including but not limited to electronic chain letters]; initiating denial of service attacks; printing excessive copies of documents, files, data, or programs; modifying system facilities, operating systems, or disk partitions; attempting to crash or tie up a university computer; damaging or vandalizing university computing facilities, equipment, software, or computer files; causing an inordinately large number of requests for files; spamming; sniffing; running scans; reconfiguring; or using an inordinately high percentage of bandwidth.
5. University computing resources and network facilities shall not be used for commercial purposes without specific authorization from the Dean or his or her duly authorized designee.
6. Passwords to any computing resource shall only be issued to authorized users. Password recipients are responsible for the integrity of their password and shall not distribute it to unauthorized users.
7. Misrepresenting a person's identity or relationship to the School of Law when obtaining or using School of Law computer or network privileges is prohibited.
8. Accessing, reading, altering, or deleting any other person's computer files or electronic mail without specific authorization is prohibited.
9. Copying, installing, distributing, infringing, or otherwise using any software, data files, images, text, or other materials in violation of copyrights, trademarks, service marks, patents, other intellectual property rights, contracts, or license agreements is prohibited. All usage of computing resources shall be in compliance with federal and state copyright laws.
10. Creating, installing, or knowingly distributing a computer virus, "Trojan horse," or other surreptitiously destructive program on any School of Law computer or network facility, regardless of whether any demonstrable harm results, is prohibited.
11. Only those persons with proper authorization shall modify or reconfigure any School of Law computing resource or network facility.
12. Users of the School of Law computing resources shall have no expectation of privacy for materials downloaded, used, viewed, or stored on those resources. The School of Law reserves the right to access any of its computer resources AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON OR FOR NO REASON, WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE. Furthermore, the School of Law makes no representation or guarantee that information transmitted on its network will not or cannot be accessed by third parties. By using the School of Law's computer resources, students release and hold the University and the School of Law harmless for any unauthorized access to information transmitted.
13. Authorized computer users shall take full responsibility for messages that they transmit through the School of Law's computing resources. The School of Law's computing resources shall not be used to transmit any communications prohibited by law, including but not limited to fraudulent, harassing, obscene, or threatening messages.
14. Students are prohibited from downloading any software programs on law-school issued computers without express, written permission from the associate dean for academic affairs.
15. The University's training option for all Microsoft Office products (and many more software products), and Linked in Learning is available to students, faculty, and staff.

Violation of any rule contained within this section shall constitute a sufficient basis for disciplinary action(s) by the university and/or the school of law. Additionally, violations of any rule contained within this section shall constitute a violation of the code of academic integrity.

# Course Descriptions

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## Law

### **LAW-1002 : Advanced Legal Reasoning**

This course is designed to enhance the skills that are necessary to succeed in law school, with increased emphasis on the ability to apply the law and other authority through essay exam writing. The course provides further strategies to improve study techniques. Course instruction includes both small-group and one-on-one meetings. This noncredit course is graded on a scale of A, B, C, D and F and is not subject to the Mandatory Grade Distribution set forth in the Student Handbook. This course is required for first-year students who have a cumulative GPA of 2.200 or below or who received a course grade of "D" or below in Legal Foundations, and is elective for all other first-year students.

**Credits 0**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### **LAW-1005 : Legal Foundations**

This course is designed to enhance skills that are necessary to succeed in law school. The course focuses on the ability to analyze and synthesize cases and rules of law; create schema to organize and understand information in law school classes; and apply the law through essay exam writing. The course also provides strategies for taking multiple-choice questions, improving study techniques, and managing stress and time. Conditional grades in this course are subject to the Mandatory Grade Distribution set forth in the Student Handbook. In assigning final course grades, the instructor has discretion to allow students to raise their conditional grade by up to one full letter grade by completing additional assignments. Students receiving a final letter grade of "D" or below are required to take Advanced Legal Reasoning.

LMU Law may choose to make a law school preparation program available to incoming students in the summer before they matriculate. Students who complete 100% of that program and earn a satisfactory score on both the multiple-choice and essay portions of the final exam are not required to take the Legal Foundations course. The satisfactory exam scores and any pertinent deadlines shall be set forth in the syllabus or schedule for the program and shall be made available to students at the start of the program. A student who is not required to take the Legal Foundations course may still elect to take the course. Students who elect not to take the Legal Foundations course should plan to instead take an additional elective credit when they are upper-level students in order to complete the 90 credits of coursework required for graduation.

**Credits 1**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1008 : The Successful Lawyer

This course is about the legal profession, the foundational skills and values of the profession, and how students can find their places within the profession. It is designed to ensure that students begin thinking about the type of careers they would like to pursue and to equip students with tools needed to seek out such careers. Students will be introduced to the essential competencies needed for the successful practice of law, including a closer examination of the soft skills and emotional intelligence that the profession requires. The course includes reflection on the special obligations that lawyers have to their clients and society, including the necessity of being aware of systemic and implicit bias and the importance of cross-cultural competency. The course is intended to give law students the foundation for a successful, fulfilling, and impactful professional career. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis.

**Credits** 2

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1011 : Civil Procedure I

This course provides a study of the constitutional and statutory underpinnings of the process by which courts resolve civil disputes. Specifically, the course focuses on the issues of personal jurisdiction, federal subject matter jurisdiction, venue, and choice of law in federal courts with diversity jurisdiction (the Erie doctrine). Assessment of these doctrines will require students to exercise relevant foundational skills and associated lawyering tasks.

**Credits** 3

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1012 : Civil Procedure II

This course focuses heavily on the “nuts and bolts” of litigation, tracking the chronology of the civil lawsuit. The fundamental principles covered include pleading, joinder of claims and parties, discovery, disposition without trial, the Seventh Amendment right to jury trial, securing and enforcing judgments, and the preclusion doctrines. Students will learn to identify and understand the key differences between federal and Tennessee civil rules, standards, and practices.

**Credits** 3

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1011: Civil Procedure I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1021 : Contracts and Sales I

This course provides a study of the basic principles of both the common law of contracts and sales of goods under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code. It focuses on the requirements for formation of a contract, including offer and acceptance at common law; consideration; promissory estoppel; defenses used by parties to avoid liability on their agreements; and remedies at common law for nonperformance or threatened nonperformance, including money damages, restitution, and equitable remedies. Foundational skills taught in the course will include identifying and addressing potential legal issues that arise both in contract drafting and subsequently in contract disputes between the parties.

**Credits** 3

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1031 : Property I

This course provides a study of the fundamental concepts applicable to real property such as acquisition of property rights, adverse possession, present estates and future interests, co-tenancy, real estate contracts, marketable title, equitable conversion, merger, transfer by deed, transfer on death deeds and transfer by will, and recording acts. Assessment of these doctrines will require students to exercise relevant foundational skills and associated lawyering tasks.

**Credits** 3

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1041 : Torts I

This course provides a study of intentional torts against persons and property and the privileges thereto. It further focuses on the basic principles of negligence and other standards of care and damages in tort actions. This course will provide students with instruction in skills such as spotting issues, legal analysis, and evaluation of tort claims.

**Credits** 3

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1042 : Torts II

This course focuses on the remaining issues in negligence, including particular duties of landowners, damages, joint and several liability, limitations on liability and special rules of liability and defenses. Additionally, the class will survey the following areas: strict liability, products liability, wrongful death, vicarious liability, misrepresentation, and nuisance. This course will provide students with instruction in skills such as spotting issues, legal analysis, and evaluation of tort claims.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1041: Torts I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1051 : Legal Research I

Legal research is an essential part of practicing law. This course provides an overview of the process of legal research, familiarizing students with authoritative sources of law produced by the three branches of government: executive, judicial, and legislative. Special emphasis is placed on researching cases and statutes, and how to effectively update both.

**Credits 1**

#### **Corequisite Courses**

LAW-1052: Legal Communication I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1052 : Legal Communication I

This course provides the foundation upon which you will develop the legal communication skills essential to the practice of law. The course introduces you to the legal system and objective legal analysis. In particular, the course examines the relationship between legal analysis and lawyering skills such as legal research, legal writing, and legal citation, primarily through the genre of the interoffice memorandum. You will also learn how to advise clients through legal correspondence.

**Credits 2**

#### **Corequisite Courses**

LAW-1051: Legal Research I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1053 : Legal Research II

This course builds on the research skills developed in Legal Research I, further engaging students in the process used to determine what the law is to support a legal conclusion. This course emphasizes developing cost-effective legal research strategies, administrative law, and local law.

**Credits 1**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1051: Legal Research I

LAW-1052: Legal Communication I

#### **Corequisite Courses**

LAW-1054: Legal Communication II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1054 : Legal Communication II

This course builds on the legal analysis, research, and writing skills you developed in the first semester to transition from objective to persuasive legal writing. This course focuses on persuasive legal advocacy for a client at the trial and appellate court levels. The course will mainly focus on familiarizing you with drafting litigation documents and briefs. You will also learn how to communicate with opposing counsel through legal correspondence. Additionally, the course will familiarize you with the skill of oral advocacy.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1052: Legal Communication I

LAW-1051: Legal Research I

#### **Corequisite Courses**

LAW-1053: Legal Research II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-1061 : Criminal Law

This course provides a study of the general principles, sources and purpose of criminal law, including the act requirement, the mens rea requirement, defenses, liability for attempted crimes, conspiracy crimes, accomplice liability, and criminal code interpretation of various statutory crimes. Assessment of these doctrines will require students to exercise relevant foundational skills and associated lawyering tasks.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2001 : Legal Practice Skills

The primary goal of this course is to strengthen students' legal problem-solving abilities. This course is required for upper-level students with a cumulative GPA that places them at high risk of attrition and failing the bar exam on the first attempt. Students who have a cumulative GPA below 2.200 after Spring of their 1L year are required to complete this course in the Fall of their 2L year. During any semester when this course is offered, any upper-level student who would otherwise be required to take Solving Legal Problems, and who has not satisfactorily completed Legal Practice Skills, must complete this course instead of Solving Legal Problems.

Students with cumulative GPAs of 2.200 and above may voluntarily request enrollment in this course and may be enrolled until all available seats are filled. In this course, students will focus on improving how they learn and apply the law so they can draw on their understanding when analyzing the wide variety of legal problems that they are likely to encounter in law school exams, the bar exam, and in legal practice. Students will also further develop lawyering skills that reflect real-world practice and will work on activities that newly licensed lawyers are likely to encounter. Throughout the course, students will be provided with multiple opportunities for hands-on performance to directly and indirectly sharpen the expression of these skills. For example, students may have the opportunity to engage in focused skills exercises, group exercises, and writing activities. This course relies heavily on closed-universe exercises, like the Multistate Performance Test, which are an essential part of the Uniform Bar Examination and of most other state bar examinations. This noncredit course is graded on a scale of A, B, C, D and F and is not subject to the Mandatory Grade Distribution listed in § XXI.A of the Student Handbook. Students receiving a course grade of "D" or below are required to successfully complete Solving Legal Problems. Students enrolled in this course in the Fall of their 2L year must enroll in no more than 12 credit hours during that semester. A student on probation may request an exemption from this requirement and be allowed to take up to 15 credit hours, at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

**Credits 0**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2002 : Solving Legal Problems

This directed study is required for upper-level students with a cumulative GPA that places them at high risk of attrition and failing the bar exam on the first attempt. Any upper-level student on academic probation who is not otherwise required to enroll in Legal Practice Skills is required to complete this course during their probationary semester. All other students may voluntarily request enrollment in this course and, at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, may be enrolled until all available seats are filled. The course is taught on an individual basis, and may also include participation in a small group setting and in-class meetings. The student's assigned Academic Success faculty member, or his or her designee, after consultation with the student, will set forth the objectives, requirements, and guidelines for successful completion of the course. The purpose of the course is to provide the student with individualized academic support tailored to each student's strengths and weaknesses. The directed study will typically require enrolled students to meet with their assigned Academic Success faculty member, or his or her designee, at least four times per semester, typically on a bi-weekly basis to ensure individual meetings occur before and after midterm exams. The student shall work with their assigned Academic Success faculty member, or his or her designee, to identify the student's strengths and weaknesses in the study of the law. The student's assigned Academic Success faculty member, or his or her designee, may assign the student to attend academic success workshops geared towards the student's particular needs; complete practice exams or other relevant exercises; meet with a teaching assistant, upper-level student tutor, or member of the faculty to review their work; and develop a study plan to guide them through their studies during the semester.

**Credits 0**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2004 : Multistate Bar Exam Skills

This course is designed to improve legal analysis and study skills in preparation for taking the bar examination. It will assist with developing and practicing test-taking strategies and skills. It will also provide a familiarity with the methodology of the exam. Multiple-choice strategies and practice exams will be covered. The focus of the course is on subjects covered on the multiple-choice Multistate Bar Examination. Students also will have the opportunity to draft and receive feedback on essay answers pertaining to these subjects. This course is skills-based, not substance-based, so it is not intended to replace substantive course study review and/or commercial bar examination preparation courses. Only students on track to take the next February or July administration of the bar exam are eligible to enroll.

This course is graded on a pass/fail basis. To successfully complete this course, a student must earn both a passing course grade based on all course assessments and must earn a satisfactory composite score on the midterm and final exams. The satisfactory composite score shall be based on both the midterm and final exams. In addition, the satisfactory composite score shall be set forth in the course syllabus and shall be the same for all sections of the course offered in the same semester. If a student does not earn a passing course grade, then the student must retake the course in a future semester. If a student earns a passing course grade but fails to earn the satisfactory composite score, then the student presumptively fails the course. The student must then retake the course in a future semester. In the alternative, a student in this situation has up to two additional options:

1. The student may successfully complete Advanced Multistate Bar Exam Skills in lieu of repeating this course.
2. A student may request a grade of "incomplete." The option of an "incomplete" shall be available to any student who does not achieve the satisfactory composite score needed to pass the course but earns a composite score that exceeds a minimum threshold set forth in the syllabus. A student may also be granted an "incomplete" if the student's composite score on the midterm and final exams fails to exceed the minimum threshold, but the student earns a sufficient score on an assessment consisting of writing tasks comparable to those on the bar exam. A student receiving a grade of "incomplete" is required to fulfill all requirements of an individualized success plan, as approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or his or her designee. If a student does not fulfill all requirements of the individualized success plan by a date set by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the student's course grade will be converted to an "F."

**Credits 4**

### Course Frequency

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2005 : Multistate Essay Exam Skills I

This is a skills-development course that provides students with an intensive substantive review of selected legal material routinely tested on the Multistate Examination Essay portion of the Uniform Bar Examination. Essay subjects reviewed include Conflict of Laws and Agency and Partnership. Through the use of questions and exercises in a bar exam format, students will become familiar with techniques for analyzing, organizing, and responding to essay questions on the bar exam. The course further provides students with a review of the Multistate Performance Test, which is designed to test an examinee's ability to perform fundamental lawyering skills. Suggestions are made in regard to approaching and successfully completing skills-based assignments found on Multistate Performance Tests. This course is not intended to replace any commercial bar examination preparation course. Only students on track to take the next February or July administration of the bar exam are eligible to enroll.

**Credits 3**

### Course Frequency

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2006 : Advanced Multistate Bar Exam Skills

This course is designed to build on Multistate Bar Exam Skills to improve legal analysis in preparation for taking the bar examination and practicing law. It will further assist with developing and practicing test-taking strategies and skills, in addition to further developing analytical skills crucial to the practice of law. In addition, before beginning this course, a student is required to fulfill all requirements of an individualized success plan, as approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or his or her designee. This plan must be designed to develop essential skills to position the student for success in this course. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis and is available only to students who did not pass Multistate Bar Exam Skills in a prior semester. Successful completion of this course satisfies the Multistate Bar Exam Skills course curriculum requirement.

**Credits** 4

-6

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-2004: Multistate Bar Exam Skills

#### **Required Prerequisites**

This course is designed to build on Multistate Bar Exam Skills, to improve legal analysis in preparation for taking the bar examination and practicing law. It will further assist with developing and practicing test-taking strategies and skills, in addition to further developing analytical skills crucial to the practice of law. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis and is available only to students who did not pass Multistate Bar Exam Skills in a prior semester or who are otherwise deemed at risk for not passing the Multistate Bar Exam and are invited by their Multistate Bar Exam Skills professor to take the course. Successful completion of this course satisfies the Multistate Bar Exam Skills course curriculum requirement.

The course may be taken for 4 or 6 credit hours, depending on the needs of the students registering and the sole discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered as needed.

### LAW-2021 : Bar Exam Skills I

This skills course is designed to enhance students' foundational competencies in preparation for the multiple-choice and counseling-type integrated question set components of the bar examination. Students will develop and practice issue spotting and analysis skills in the context of those question types. Students will also learn test-taking strategies to accurately select and competently compose exam responses that demonstrate skill in client counseling and advising, case investigation and evaluation, and other foundational skills tested on the bar exam.

This course is not intended to replace any commercial bar examination preparation course. Only students on track to take the next February or July administration of the bar exam are eligible to enroll. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis and the requirements to pass the course shall be listed in the course syllabus and shall be the same for all sections of the course offered in the same semester. If a student does not meet the stated requirements, then the student presumptively fails the course and must then retake the course in a future semester. In the alternative, some students may be eligible to request a grade of "incomplete" in the course. Assignment of a grade of "incomplete" is contingent on the approval of the professor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who shall set standards for a student to be eligible for an incomplete. A student receiving a grade of "incomplete" is required to fulfill all requirements of a remediation plan, which shall address the student's skills deficits and shall be approved by the professor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or his or her designee. If a student does not fulfill all requirements of the remediation plan by a date set by the professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the student's course grade will be converted to an "F."

**Credits** 3

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2022 : Bar Exam Skills II

This skills course is designed to enhance students' foundational competencies in preparation for the performance task and drafting-type integrated question set components of the bar examination. Students will develop and practice issue spotting and analysis skills in the context of those question types. When given a collection of legal sources, students will practice synthesizing legal authorities, using test-taking and writing strategies, and applying legal research principles to formulate an original legal analysis. Further, students will learn to compose exam responses that demonstrate competence in drafting and editing legal documents.

This course is not intended to replace any commercial bar examination preparation course. Only students on track to take the next February or July administration of the bar exam are eligible to enroll. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis and the requirements to pass the course shall be listed in the course syllabus and shall be the same for all sections of the course offered in the same semester. If a student does not meet the stated requirements, then the student presumptively fails the course and must then retake the course in a future semester. In the alternative, some students may be eligible to request a grade of "incomplete" in the course. Assignment of a grade of "incomplete" is contingent on the approval of the professor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who shall set standards for a student to be eligible for an incomplete. A student receiving a grade of "incomplete" is required to fulfill all requirements of a remediation plan, which shall address the student's skills deficits and shall be approved by the professor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or his or her designee. If a student does not fulfill all requirements of the remediation plan by a date set by the professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the student's course grade will be converted to an "F."

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2031 : Property II

This course continues the study of fundamental property concepts and covers topics such as eminent domain, landlord-tenant law; private controls of land use (including easements, licenses, real covenants, and equitable servitudes); nuisance; zoning; and regulatory takings.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1031: Property I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2045 : Constitutional Law I

This course familiarizes students with the basic principles of U.S. Constitutional Law, including the text of the U.S. Constitution, the American system of federalism, the federal courts and their authority for judicial review, limits on the federal judicial power, federal legislative power, and federal executive power. Assessment of these doctrines will require students to exercise relevant foundational skills and associated lawyering tasks.

**Credits 2**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2046 : Constitutional Law II

This course familiarizes students with the Constitution's protection of individual liberties, including the Fourteenth Amendment's Privileges or Immunities Clause, the Due Process Clause, the Equal Protection Clause, and the First Amendment's protections for freedom of speech and religion. Assessment of these doctrines will require students to exercise relevant foundational skills and associated lawyering tasks.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-2045: Constitutional Law I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2071 : Domestic Relations

This course provides a general study of the laws which affect formal and informal relationships, premarital contracts and disputes, requirements of formal marriage, legal effects of marriage, support obligations within the family, legal separation, annulment, grounds for divorce, property settlements, alternative dispute resolution methods available in family law litigation, child custody, child support, abortion, effects of illegitimacy, and surrogacy agreements. The course will survey the general common law and federal law developments effecting family law including uniform interstate support and custody acts, and privacy and same sex marriage decisions.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered each fall semester.

#### **LAW-2085 : Evidence**

This course provides a study of the policies and rules regulating the admission and exclusion of oral, written, and demonstrative evidence at trials and other proceedings, including relevance, character evidence, competence, impeachment, hearsay, expert testimony, authentication, privileges, and judicial notice. Assessment of these doctrines will require students to exercise relevant foundational skills and associated lawyering tasks.

**Credits 4**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

#### **LAW-2091 : Contracts and Sales II**

This course continues the study of the basic principles of both the common law of contracts and sales of goods under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code. It focuses on offer and acceptance under Article 2; warranties under Article 2; remedies under Article 2 for nonperformance or threatened nonperformance; the Statute of Frauds; the parol evidence rule and interpretation of the contract; promises and conditions; anticipatory repudiation; third-party beneficiaries; and assignment of rights and delegation of duties. Particular attention is given to those areas where there is divergence between the common law rules and the provisions of Article 2. Foundational skills taught in the course will include identifying and addressing potential legal issues that arise both in contract drafting and subsequently in contract disputes between the parties.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1021: Contracts and Sales I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

#### **LAW-2121 : Secured Transactions**

This course provides a study of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code and discusses securing debt through the collateralization of personal property. The course will discuss the creation and enforcement of security interests in personal property as well as methods of determining priority between multiple secured debts on the same personal property.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1021: Contracts and Sales I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

#### **LAW-2131 : Wills, Trusts & Estates**

This course introduces students to the law governing the intergenerational transfer of wealth. Using case law, the Uniform Probate and Uniform Trust Codes as models, the course introduces students to the legal aspects of probate and non-probate transfers of wealth, including the law of intestacy, wills, will substitutes and trusts, including the duties and powers of trustees in trust administration. It will further develop student understanding of future interests and the Rule Against Perpetuities and, at every point, the course will emphasize the ethical challenges inherent in the practice of estate law.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1031: Property I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered each fall semester.

#### **LAW-2195 : Professional Responsibility**

Students are provided an overview of the law and ethics of lawyering, consistent with the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and Model Code of Judicial Conduct. The course emphasizes the importance of respect for diversity, cross-cultural competency, and the rule of law as well as the development of values and attitudes that are congruent with the code of ethics governing the legal profession.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

#### **LAW-2196 : Constitutional Criminal Procedure**

This course considers the principal issues of criminal investigation arising under the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments. The course will explore specific police investigative methods, what constitutes a "search," arrests, stop and frisk, seizures, police interrogation, and identification procedures. Assessment of these doctrines will require students to exercise relevant foundational skills and associated lawyering tasks.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-2199 : Business Organizations

This course begins with an overview of the law of agency as a foundational principle on which all legal entities rely. It also examines the different forms of legal entities commonly created to carry on for-profit business activities, with a focus on partnerships, limited liability companies (LLCs), and corporations. Students will learn the different rules for formation and operation, management and control, limited liability status, and fiduciary duties that are associated with each business entity. Students should expect to build foundational skills such as reviewing and drafting organizational formation documents; considering potential strategies for litigation involving the various entities, including both direct and derivative litigation; and understanding the differences between advising the organizational client and counseling managers of the organization.

**Credits 4**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1021: Contracts and Sales I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered at least once per academic year.

### LAW-3002 : Multistate Essay Exam Skills II

This is a skills-development course that provides students with an intensive substantive review of selected legal material routinely tested on the Multistate Examination Essay portion of the Uniform Bar Examination. Essay subjects reviewed include Corporations and LLCs, Family Law, Secured Transactions, and Trusts and Estates. Through the use of questions and exercises in a bar exam format, students will become familiar with techniques for analyzing, organizing, and responding to essay questions on the bar exam. This course, which is not intended to replace any commercial bar examination preparation course, is strongly recommended. Only students on track to take the next February or July administration of the bar exam are eligible to enroll.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3011 : Administrative Law

This course provides a study of the processes by which policies of administrative agencies are translated into law and applied by the responsible administrative agencies. Topics include: analysis of informal and formal procedures, separation of powers, delegation, statutory construction, rule making, and adjudication.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3012 : Nonprofit Organization

This course introduces concepts of how nonprofit organization and tax-exempt organizations are defined in context of the law. Students will understand how to create and organize a nonprofit/tax exempt organization, how to maintain proper standing, and how to dissolve a nonprofit organization. The course provides an overview of the rules, regulations, and limitations imposed on nonprofit organizations by the courts, the IRS, and/or other governing bodies. Students will understand the crucial importance of governance and ethics in the operation of the organization. The duties and responsibilities of nonprofit directors as well as potential for liability issues relating to service on nonprofit boards will also be examined. Students will be exposed to the role attorneys play in the nonprofit sector. The course exposes students to the interplay between different types of organizations and their role(s) in the community.

**Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-2199: Business Organizations

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3031 : Conflict of Laws

This course provides a study of the legal policies, rules of law, and constitutional requirements for resolving disputes that have connections with more than one state, a state and a foreign country, or both state and federal interests. It explores the principles that courts use in selecting the proper law to apply in such cases under the American system of divided sovereignty—divided both between states and between state and federal governments.

**Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1011: Civil Procedure I

LAW-1012: Civil Procedure II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-3048 : National Security: Counterterrorism**

This course will take an in-depth look at counterterrorism in China, Colombia, India, Israel, Russia, Spain, and the United States. The course will examine competing conceptions and definitions of terrorism at the national and international level and the institutions and processes relevant to operational counterterrorism.

This course will include the study of the balance between national security interests and civil liberties found in the following topical areas: relevant Supreme Court decisions in the surveyed nations, legislative provisions in response to acts of terrorism, operational counter-terrorism considerations (including targeted killing), intelligence gathering (including interrogations), policy recommendations, the use of military tribunals or civil courts in trying suspected terrorists, the emerging law regarding enemy combatants and their detention, and the arguable need for new self-defense doctrines at the global level.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-3051 : Alternative Dispute Resolution**

This course provides a study of the law and methods involved in settling disputes outside of the courtroom, including arbitration, mediation, collaborative law, mini-trials, early neutral evaluation, and conciliation.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-3061 : Bankruptcy**

This course provides a study of the rights and remedies of debtors and creditors under the Federal Bankruptcy Code. In addition, the interplay of the Bankruptcy Code and the provisions of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code and other provisions of state law are examined

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-3081 : Directed Study**

This course is available in a limited number of subject areas. A directed study is a regular School of Law course offering taught to a student on an individual faculty/student basis which must be approved by the faculty member and either the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Dean. In a directed study, the directing faculty member sets forth the objectives, requirements, and guidelines for earning credit in a course. A directed study syllabus for each course stating established meeting times with a faculty member, examination, readings, and a general outline of what is to be learned is provided. A directed study course will be denied if the course is available that same semester.

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-3092 : Municipal Government Law**

Local governments enjoy substantial law-making and regulatory authority, bearing significant responsibility for the financing and provision of most domestic public goods and services. This course will consider the source, scope and limits of local government power. It will address the allocation of these powers and the legal rules that provide the foundation and corresponding obligations associated with their use. Some specific topics will include public administration, public financing, liability and risk management, zoning and annexation, public utilities, eminent domain and condemnation, inducements to business and industry, public law enforcement, municipal courts, and education.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-3101 : Labor & Employment Law**

This course provides a study of the statutes, regulations, and cases dealing with a number of legal rights and concerns of employees and employers, including labor relations between private employers and employees acting in a collective capacity. Areas covered may include: (a) historical background and economic considerations of labor and employment laws; (b) at-will employment and wrongful discharge; (c) organization and representation of employees; (d) union collective action and collective bargaining; (e) worker's compensation law and practice; (f) labor standards legislation, such as wage-and-hour laws (e.g., Fair Labor Standards Act-FLSA, public contract "prevailing wage" requirements); (g) health-and-safety laws (e.g., Occupational Safety and Health Act-OSHA); and (h) an introduction to pension-protection laws (e.g., Employee Retirement Income Security Act-ERISA).

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3145 : Decedent's Estates

This course introduces students to the law governing the intergenerational transfer of wealth. Applying case law, the Uniform Probate Code ("UPC"), the Uniform Trust Code ("UTC"), and Tennessee law, the course covers the probate process and surveys the law of intestacy, wills, will substitutes, trusts, and the duties and powers of trustees in trust administration. This course will also build upon the knowledge students received in Property I, including the law of future interests and the Rule Against Perpetuities. At every point, the course will emphasize the ethical challenges inherent in the practice of this body of law.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1031: Property I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3161 : First Amendment

This course provides a legal analysis and study of the text, history, theory and jurisprudence related to the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, including an analysis of its five freedoms: speech, press, assembly, petitioning, and religion. Specific topics will include free speech methodology; unprotected and less protected speech; tort law as it relates to freedom of speech; conduct that communicates, including the financing of election campaigns and campaign finance restrictions; the public financing of elections and the places available for speech; freedom of association; freedom of the press; interpreting freedom of religion; the Free Exercise Clause; and the Establishment Clause.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3171 : International Law

This is a general survey course of international law. The course aims to provide the history, foundation, and growth of public international law through custom, treaties, the work of international organizations, and the decisions of international tribunals. The course will examine a broad array of legal issues, including the formation of customary international law, the establishment and recognition of states, diplomatic relations, the law of treaties, international organizations, nationality, the nature and scope of sovereignty and jurisdiction of states, sovereign immunity, state responsibility, human rights, protection of the environment, the law of the sea, the use of force, and international dispute resolution.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3181 : Federal Courts

This course provides a study of the constitutional and practical doctrines that define the judicial power of the United States, with particular emphasis on the role of federal courts in the American system of government, including the federal courts' relationship to the other branches of the federal government and their relationship to the separate state systems of government.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1011: Civil Procedure I

LAW-1012: Civil Procedure II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3191 : Federal Income Taxation

This course provides a study of the basic principles of federal income tax, concentrating on individual taxpayers, business taxpayers, and investors as taxpayers. Particular emphasis is placed on the use of the Internal Revenue Code and federal tax regulations. Topics include items of inclusion and exclusion from gross income, deductions from gross income, capital gains and losses, basic tax accounting, and the identification of income to the appropriate taxpayer.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3202 : Healthcare Law

This course provides a study of the key concepts in health law such as the structure of health care organizations, quality of health care, and liability of health care providers. It also addresses access to health care; financing mechanisms of health care, including Medicare and Medicaid; regulation of health care; and oversight of managed health care. New developments in health care law will also be examined.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3208 : Medicine for Lawyers

Multiple areas of law, including personal injury, criminal law, workers' compensation, employment discrimination, disability, medical malpractice, family law, and conservatorships, require consideration of medical issues impacting the parties and the need for expert medical evidence. Yet, lawyers often enter the practice of law with little or no medical training, no understanding of how the human body responds to injury or disease, no understanding of how to determine appropriate standards of care, and no practical advice for how to develop or challenge expert medical evidence in the context of legal proceedings. This course is designed to provide law students with a practical understanding of the physiology of the human body, the impact of injury or disease on the human body, how medical providers assess, diagnose, and treat patients pursuant to appropriate standards of care, and practical considerations for how to develop and/or challenge effective expert medical evidence in the context of legal proceedings. The students will examine a broad array of medico-legal issues and discuss how various courts have addressed such issues in different contexts.

**Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1041: Torts I

LAW-1042: Torts II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3211 : Immigration Law

This course provides a study of the legal, historical, and policy perspectives that shape U.S. law governing immigration and citizenship, including the constitutional bases for regulating immigration, the history of immigration law in the United States, and the source and scope of congressional and executive branch power with regard to immigration. The course will also examine the role of the judiciary in interpreting immigration law, citizenship and naturalization, the admission and removal of immigrants and non-immigrants, and the issue of undocumented immigration. Students will also analyze the impact of immigration in other areas, including employment, criminal law, family unification, and discrimination.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3231 : Intellectual Property

This course provides a survey of the basics of copyrights, patents, trade and service marks, and trade secrets. The course teaches the concepts as an integrated system rather than disparate, unrelated areas of the law presenting a framework for understanding intellectual property doctrine. Additionally, a study of developments in the laws governing the protection of property

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1031: Property I

LAW-2031: Property II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3270 : Juvenile Law

This course provides a study of the rights and responsibilities of children in relation to parents, state and federal institutions, and society as a whole. During this course, students will learn about the history of the juvenile court system, the development of children's rights, and trends in juvenile justice.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-3271 : Tennessee Juvenile Law

This course provides a study of the rights and responsibilities of parents, children, attorneys, and the State in the context of a Tennessee juvenile law practice. During this course, students will learn about the history of the juvenile court system, the development of children's rights and the practical application of the law in dependency and neglect, severe abuse, termination of parental rights, unruly, and delinquency matters.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-3571: Domestic Relations

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-3275 : Tennessee Workers' Compensation Law**

This course is designed to provide students with a practical understanding of workers' compensation laws nationwide, with a particular emphasis on Tennessee's workers' compensation system. The course provides the history, foundation, and development of workers' compensation laws, and students will analyze the decisions of workers' compensation courts. The course will examine a broad array of legal issues, including the statutory requirements to establish entitlement to workers' compensation benefits, the types of benefits available to injured workers, the defenses employers assert to such claims, and the dispute resolution processes used by various states, with an emphasis on Tennessee's dispute resolution and litigation schemes.

**Credits 2**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-3325 : Remedies**

This course provides a study of the law of judicial remedies, both legal and equitable, focusing on the nature and scope of relief as distinguished from substantive and procedural law. The four major categories of remedies are addressed: damages, including measurement issues for both compensatory and punitive damages and limitations on the damages remedy; restitution, including measurement issues and issues related to rescission, constructive trust, and equitable lien; injunctions, including issues relating to requirements for obtaining preliminary and permanent injunctive; and declaratory relief, including ancillary remedies to effectuate the relief obtained and legal and equitable defenses.

**Credits 3**

#### **LAW-3351 : Sports Law**

This course provides a study of the academic (e.g., labor and antitrust) and practical (e.g., contracts and agents) aspects of professional sports and the emerging field of sports law, including rules governing Olympic competition, the NCAA, and other amateur athletics.

**Credits 2**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-3456 : Post-Conviction Remedies**

This course focuses on collateral challenges to criminal convictions, which are known as post-conviction remedies. Post-conviction remedies balance the need for finality and the conservation of judicial resources against the protection of the innocent and the guarantee of constitutional rights. The course will explore both state post-conviction remedies (with an emphasis on Tennessee's post-conviction scheme) and federal habeas corpus. Topics covered in the course will include the threshold requirements for post-conviction relief; post-conviction procedure; the grounds for post-conviction relief such as prosecutorial misconduct, ineffective assistance of counsel, newly discovered evidence, "free-standing" innocence claims, and illegal sentences; federal habeas corpus under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996; and the ethical considerations that arise in post-conviction proceedings.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1061 or LAW-2061

#### **LAW-3571 : Domestic Relations**

This course provides a general study of the laws which affect marriage and custody issues, with a particular focus on Tennessee laws. The legal issues to be discussed include premarital contracts and disputes, requirements of formal marriage, legal separation, annulment, grounds for divorce, property settlements, spousal support, child custody, and child support. This course will provide students with instruction in skills such as spotting issues, legal analysis, and evaluation of domestic relations issues.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-4025 : Death Penalty Seminar**

This seminar focuses on the death penalty in the United States. The seminar will survey its history, its future, and the pro and con arguments, addressing the legal, moral, and ethical considerations. It will also examine the interplay between the death penalty and both substantive and procedural criminal law. The seminar provides a vehicle for each student to engage in an in-depth scholarly examination of a facet of the death penalty, focusing predominately, but not necessarily exclusively, on its legal dimensions. This course may satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

Criminal Law, LAW-1061 or LAW-2061

#### **Corequisite Courses**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4027 : Disability Law

This course provides an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other state and federal laws and regulatory schemes designed to protect the interests of persons with disabilities in employment, government programs, public accommodations, and education. It will also address federal programs affecting persons with disabilities such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This class may satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4037 : Police Law, Policy & Practices Seminar

This course studies the history, evolution and challenges associated with modern policing in the United States through a shared legal and criminological lens. It deals with fundamental issues concerning the relationship between the state and the individual, and raises critical concerns about surveillance, force, racial justice, and basic civil liberties. Topics include police stops, frisks, searches, uses of force, examining various models of policing, and police culture. This course is essential starting ground for anyone interested in practicing in the criminal justice space, be it direct services or law reform, but will be of interest to anyone concerned about some of the paramount issues of the day: community policing, police strategy, tactics, and oversight, excessive force cases, and qualified immunity.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4042 : Advanced Legal Research Seminar

This course is designed to reinforce and build upon the research skills learned in the first semester. Students will learn about legal research resources for use during the five phases of civil litigation: case assessment and due diligence, pleadings, discovery, trial, and appeal. Students will: develop and execute research plans; study specialized topical legal materials; study significant factual sources, such as statistical databases, public records, and non-legal sources; learn how to find information about expert witnesses, attorneys, and judges; and evaluate research and reference products for a cost-effective practice of law. The course may satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement.

**Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1051: Legal Research I

LAW-1053: Legal Research II

LAW-1052: Legal Communication I

LAW-1054: Legal Communication II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4051 : Independent Study

An Independent Study is appropriate for a student who wishes to study a particular area of law that is not covered in the school's existing course offerings. An independent study is supervised by a faculty member, with prior approval of the Curriculum Committee. A student wishing to conduct an independent study for credit must complete a Request for Independent Study consistent with the Guidelines for Independent Study. The student's request must demonstrate that the proposed writing project satisfies the requirements of an Academic Legal Writing Seminar. However, a student may propose an Independent Study while using different courses to fulfill the Upper-Level Writing Requirement. If the student earns a passing grade on an Independent Study lower than a "B" or otherwise fails to meet the criteria of an Academic Legal Writing Seminar, the student will receive credit for the Independent Study but may not use the Independent Study writing project to satisfy the Upper-Level Writing requirement. The Independent Study Request Form proposal should be completed prior to the following deadlines based on the semester in which the student wishes to do the Independent Study: fall semester, July 1; spring semester, November 1; summer semester, March 15.

**Credits 1**

-2

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4061 : Comparative Legal Traditions

This course focuses on the method and concept of comparative law between the civil law tradition and the common law tradition. The history, culture, and distribution of the civil law tradition, the legal structures in civil law nations, legal actors, procedure, and fields of substantive law in civil law systems, and sources of law and the judicial process in civil law systems will be examined and compared to similar areas in the common law tradition. This course will introduce students to competing legal systems in areas such as Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. An emphasis is placed on the historical developments, cultural environment and social climate that define the adoption and implementation of rules in these legal systems. This course further explores the role of comparative law in the American legal system and how to effectively litigate cases with foreign parties or foreign law issues in American courts. This class may satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4089 : National Security and U.S. Foreign Relations Law Seminar

This course provides a study of presidential and congressional national security powers under the Constitution and case law. Major areas of analysis include: the domestic effect of international law, the use of the armed forces at home and abroad, intelligence operations abroad, investigating terrorism and other national security threats, with a focus on electronic surveillance and privacy, prosecuting terrorists in the federal courts, detention and trial of terrorists by military commissions, congressional investigations and oversight, and restraints on disclosing and publishing classified information.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

### LAW-4115 : Fair Housing & Landlord/Tenant Law

This course will provide an introduction to fair housing laws. The course will expose students to the problems created by housing discrimination and to the laws which seek to remedy this persistent, evolving, and complicated social issue. The course will cover federal and state fair housing laws, rental and eviction laws, land use practices, and alternative dispute mechanisms. They will study enforcement in administrative agencies and in the courts. The course will expose students to careers in landlord/tenant and fair housing laws and enforcement. During the semester, students will prepare and present a research topic chosen in conjunction with the professor.

**Credits 2**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4123 : Topics in Environmental Law

This course provides a conceptual overview of environmental law, starting with coverage of the basics of administrative law, constitutional law, and standing for citizen groups. The course will then explore how environmental law operates through discussion of major federal environmental statutes, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. Class discussions will explore cross-cutting themes (such as scientific uncertainty, market failures, and the challenge of enforcement) and dominant theories that drive policy development (such as environmental justice and the need to address transboundary resource conflict).

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4240 : Aggression and Use of Force in International Law

This seminar examines the prohibition on aggression and the use of force during times of ostensible "peace" (*jus ad bellum*). Students will examine the definitional challenges in this area of law; concepts of unlawful and lawful uses of force, such as self-defense; threats and "minor uses of force"; use of force against non-state actors; humanitarian intervention; and emerging issues in *jus ad bellum*, such as cyberoperations, the use of autonomous weapon systems, and "lawfare."

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4310 : Law Review

The LMU Law Review edits and publishes articles written by scholars, practitioners and students. Selection to the Law Review occurs via a write-on competition immediately following the end of the first year (for full-time students) or second year (for part-time students). After serving for at least one semester as a member of the Law Review, each student must undertake a writing project under the supervision of the Law Review's faculty advisor. The student must complete a request form consistent with the Law Review Writing Project Guidelines. The student's request must demonstrate that the proposal could satisfy the upper-level writing requirement. However, a student may propose a Law Review Writing Project while using a different course to fulfill the upper-level writing requirement. If the student earns a passing grade on a Law Review Writing Project lower than a "B" or otherwise fails to meet the criteria of the Upper Level Writing requirement, the student will receive credit for this course but may not use the Law Review Writing Project to satisfy the Upper-Level Writing requirement. The request form must be completed prior to the following deadlines based on the semester in which the student wishes to complete the writing project: fall semester, July 1; spring semester, November 1; summer semester, March 15. To receive credit for this course, the student must, in addition to completing the Law Review Writing Project, satisfactorily complete two academic years on the Law Review, to be certified by the Law Review faculty advisor.

#### **Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

Membership determined by organization by-laws

#### **Course Frequency**

Each semester, requires faculty sponsor

### LAW-4341 : Federal Criminal Law - Academic Writing

This course covers substantive federal criminal law to include the scope and structure of federal crimes. The course will explore prosecution and defense strategies in federal cases, including decision making before and after trials. Topics covered will include drug trafficking, money laundering, asset forfeiture, firearms, the Hobbs Act, anti-terrorism, espionage, immigration, wire and mail fraud, public corruption, bribery, RICO, obstruction of justice, perjury, and the federal sentencing guidelines. This course may satisfy the Upper- Level Writing Requirement.

#### **Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4350 : Federal Indian Law

This seminar provides an overview of the history, framework, and application of Federal Indian Law in America. There are over 575 Native American Tribes in the land mass of the United States. Over 300 of those tribes have tribal trial courts. Over 175 of those tribes have appellate courts. State courts in some jurisdictions (P.L. 280 states) and many federal courts apply Federal Indian Law. Statutes such as the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) draw Federal Indian Law into state juvenile courts. This class prepares students to be included in this unique and interesting field of law as tribal judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, gaming adviser, court administrator, or legislative advisers. This course may satisfy the upper-level writing requirement.

#### **Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-4605 : Pleadings and Practice - Practice Oriented Writing

This course provides a study of pre-trial practices and procedures. Students will become familiar with the relevant Rules of Civil Procedure and other pre-trial techniques, including client interviewing and counseling, witness interviewing, informal discovery techniques, litigation planning, expert development and discovery, pleadings, interrogatories, depositions, requests for production, requests for admission, pre-trial motion practice, settlement strategies, settlement brochures, settlement conferences, pre-trial conferences, and settlement agreements.

#### **Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1053: Legal Research II

LAW-1054: Legal Communication II

LAW-1011: Civil Procedure I

LAW-1012: Civil Procedure II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-4610 : Legislation & Regulations - Practice Oriented Writing**

This course provides an introduction to the substance and procedure of drafting legislation, the administrative state, and canons of statutory interpretation. Specifically, it focuses on: (1) the politics and policy underlying legislative and administrative actions, including campaign finance law and ethical issues; (2) the process of developing, drafting, and enacting legislation; (3) the implementation of legislation by administrative agencies through the promulgation of regulations, and (4) the interpretation of both statutes and regulations by the courts. The course will also provide students with an introduction to career opportunities both inside of government and outside government as lawyer/lobbyists.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-4611 : Real Estate Transactions - Practice Oriented Writing**

This course will include such skills as searching a title and drafting instruments necessary to convey interests in real property. Topics may include legal requirements for the conveyance of real property, financing real estate, title examinations, recording acts, loan closing, foreclosure practices, and planned unit developments.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1031: Property I

LAW-2031: Property II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-4614 : Domestic Relations Drafting - Practice Oriented Writing**

This course covers substantive federal criminal law to include the scope and structure of federal crimes. The course will explore prosecution and defense strategies in federal cases, including decision making before and after trials. Topics covered will include drug trafficking, money laundering, asset forfeiture, firearms, the Hobbs Act, anti-terrorism, espionage, immigration, wire and mail fraud, public corruption, bribery, RICO, obstruction of justice, perjury, and the federal sentencing guidelines.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1061: Criminal Law

#### **LAW-4641 : Federal Criminal Law - Practice Oriented Writing**

This course covers substantive federal criminal law to include the scope and structure of federal crimes. The course will explore prosecution and defense strategies in federal cases, including decision making before and after trials. Topics covered will include drug trafficking, money laundering, asset forfeiture, firearms, the Hobbs Act, anti-terrorism, espionage, immigration, wire and mail fraud, public corruption, bribery, RICO, obstruction of justice, perjury, and the federal sentencing guidelines.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1061: Criminal Law

#### **LAW-4644 : Civil Rights - Practice Oriented Writing**

This course provides a study of the general principles, sources and purpose of race, civil rights and American law to include the parameters of concepts of race; histories of race and racism; anti-discrimination laws; affirmative action; criminal justice; hate speech; the intersection of race and gender; and racial justice.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

#### **LAW-4651 : Advanced Government Relations**

This course covers all aspects of legislative and regulatory advocacy (lobbying), with intensive emphasis on professional skills of oral and written advocacy in the governmental or political arena. Simulated federal and state lobbying scenarios will be highlighted representing members of Congress, staff, committee hearings, state legislators, agency executives and clients. Topics include campaign finance, lobbying disclosure laws legislative drafting, and ethics.

**Credits 2**

-2

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-4610: Legislation & Regulations - Practice Oriented Writing

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest faculty availability allow.

**LAW-4651 : Advanced Government Relations - Practice Oriented Writing**

This course covers all aspects of legislative and regulatory advocacy (lobbying), with intensive emphasis on professional skills of oral and written advocacy in the governmental or political arena. Simulated federal and state lobbying scenarios will be highlighted representing members of Congress, staff, committee hearings, state legislators, agency executives and clients. Topics include campaign finance, lobbying disclosure laws legislative drafting, and ethics.

**Credits 2**

**Required Prerequisites**

**Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

**LAW-4690 : Appellate Advocacy - Practice Oriented Writing**

This course provides an overview of the appellate process, building upon skills learned in Legal Communication III and including learning how to apply the rules of appellate procedure, as well as skills necessary for appellate brief writing and oral advocacy. Students will ultimately draft an appellate brief and present an oral argument.

**Credits 3**

**Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1052: Legal Communication I

LAW-1054: Legal Communication II

**Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

**LAW-5001 : Trial Advocacy**

This course will provide practical instruction in relation to the skills of advocacy in civil and criminal cases. Students will learn effective skills for jury selection, opening statements, direct and cross examination of witnesses (both lay and expert), objections, and closing arguments. Additionally, students will focus on case theory development and strategies best suited to jury persuasion.

**Credits 3**

**Required Prerequisites**

**Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

**LAW-5005 : Pleadings & Practice**

This course provides a study of pre-trial practices and procedures. Students will become familiar with the relevant Rules of Civil Procedure and other pre-trial techniques, including client interviewing and counseling, witness interviewing, informal discovery techniques, litigation planning, expert development and discovery, pleadings, interrogatories, depositions, requests for production, requests for admission, pre-trial motion practice, settlement strategies, settlement brochures, settlement conferences, pre-trial conferences, and settlement agreements.

**Credits 3**

**Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1011: Civil Procedure I

LAW-1012: Civil Procedure II

**Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

**LAW-5012 : Negotiation**

The Negotiation class will provide students with an experiential, simulation-based introduction to the theory and practice of negotiation. This course is designed to: (1) develop students' understanding of negotiation, and your awareness of yourself as a negotiator; (2) provide students with tools and concepts for analyzing and preparing for negotiations; (3) enhance students' negotiating skills through frequent role plays, reflection, and feedback; and (4) teach students how to keep learning from their own negotiation experiences. In addition to negotiation skills and theory, students will be introduced to issues of representation, ethics, and the place negotiation holds in our legal system.

**Credits 3**

### **LAW-5014 : Domestic Relations Drafting**

This course focuses on the basic skills associated with drafting legal documents, by studying and writing documents in the context of domestic relations litigation (primarily the dissolution of marriage). Students will draft documents that create the relationship with the client, such as scope of representation letters and fee agreements as a way to explore some of the ethical and professional responsibilities that arise between attorneys and clients. Students will also draft pleadings related to divorce litigation as a way to explore the relationships between the governing law and the procedural mechanisms by which the client's cause of action is actually presented to the court. Finally, students will draft agreements that are intended to resolve or avoid litigation as a way to consider contract-related considerations.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-3571: Domestic Relations

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### **LAW-5021 : Criminal Practice Skills**

This course explores the processes of the criminal justice system from bail to jail. Specifically, it covers: bail and pretrial release, prosecutorial discretion and charging decisions, grand juries, preliminary hearings, discovery, plea bargaining and guilty pleas, speedy trial rights, right to counsel, trial rights, sentencing, cruel and unusual punishment, double jeopardy and habeas corpus. The class involves several in-class simulation exercises and satisfies the experiential learning requirement.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### **LAW-5035 : Estate Planning and Drafting**

This course focuses on practical aspects of drafting estate planning documents. The course also emphasizes skills of client interviewing and counseling using simulations. Students will have an opportunity to learn how to prepare wills and trusts by designing an estate plan for a hypothetical client. Students will complete planning and drafting projects, which may include drafting powers of attorney, wills, trusts, client letters, and probate documents. Counseling and drafting exercises require students to consider issues surrounding powers of attorney, advance directives, multi-generational trusts, estate planning strategies for retirement assets, how social and religious factors affect estate planning, and ethical considerations in the estate planning process.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-2131: Wills, Trusts & Estates

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### **LAW-5040 : Law Office Management**

This course will provide a systematic overview of the preparation necessary to open and maintain a law office. Students will be introduced to basic concepts of law firm management, predictable problems, and solutions. Students who successfully complete this course will have a sound understanding of the business of practicing law and the importance of a very organized and low overhead office; obtaining skills for organizing files, handling finances, and minimizing accounts receivables; knowing how to develop business and to keep good clients; and gaining communication and interpersonal skills to handle employees, clients, and the people involved in the court system. Rules of Professional Conduct, ethics opinions and attorney general decisions governing office management issues will be discussed.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### **LAW-5051 : Advanced Government Relations**

This course covers all aspects of legislative and regulatory advocacy (lobbying), with intensive emphasis on professional skills of oral and written advocacy in the governmental or political arena. Simulated federal and state lobbying scenarios will be highlighted representing members of Congress, staff, committee hearings, state legislators, agency executives and clients. Topics include campaign finance, lobbying disclosure laws legislative drafting, and ethics.

**Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5060 : Public Speaking for Lawyers

Public Speaking for Lawyers will be an intensive, practical course designed to enhance the oral advocacy and public speaking skills of law students. Recognizing the critical role that effective communication plays in legal practice, this course offers students the opportunity to develop and refine their speaking abilities in a variety of legal contexts. Through a combination of theoretical instruction, practical exercises, and personalized feedback, students will learn to deliver persuasive, clear, and confident presentations and arguments.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5065 : Contract Drafting

This experiential, skills-based course focuses on the practical aspects of drafting transactional documents. The course will include classroom instruction on substantive contract concepts such as representations, warranties, covenants, and conditions. Students will learn basic contract structure and design; how to analyze and understand various provisions of a contract, the role of each, and how they work together; and how to add value to a business transaction while anticipating and minimizing risks. Through classroom discussion, individual feedback, and opportunities for editing and revising, students will practice and hone the skill of drafting unambiguous contract terms that are clear and effective. Assignments will include in-class and group exercises, drafting homework, and larger drafting assignments as major projects.

**Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1021: Contracts and Sales I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5070 : Tennessee Courts Practice

This experiential learning course provides an overview of the legal issues faced by lawyers practicing litigation work in Tennessee, particularly those working in a solo or small-firm environment. It is taught through simulation exercises that require students to work through real-world scenarios that Tennessee attorneys regularly encounter in their practices. Fictional clients retain the students to litigate the most common types of cases in each of the various Tennessee state courts, including Municipal Court, General Sessions Court, Juvenile Court, Chancery Court, Circuit Court, Criminal Court, and the appellate courts. With each exercise, students will research, analyze, interpret, and apply Tennessee-specific legal questions. The goal of this course is to expose students to legal and practical issues they are likely to see as attorneys and to give them the confidence to tackle those issues competently.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-1011: Civil Procedure I

LAW-1012: Civil Procedure II

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5081 : Advanced Evidence

This skills-based course will have limited enrollment and will utilize mini-scenarios to introduce students to the application of the Federal Rules of Evidence in a courtroom setting. Students will prepare, in advance of class, mini scenarios that consist of both criminal and civil cases. Students will research the admission (or exclusion) of potential evidence and, through the use of witnesses, seek to admit (or exclude) such evidence in the context of each scenario. Students will serve in roles as advocates, witnesses and judges. At the conclusion of each scenario, students, who did not participate in a particular scenario, will offer constructive critiques of their colleagues. This will be followed by the instructor's oral and written critique. Each class includes multiple opportunities for assessment from the instructor, their colleagues, and self-assessment. Students are provided copies of the grading rubric used by the instructor and a rubric for self-assessment.

**Credits 3**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5085 : Mediation Skills

This course will explore the various theories underlying and practices basic to mediation. Skills and techniques appropriate to each stage of the mediation process are identified and students will have the opportunity to practice these skills. Simulations and experiential exercises will provide students with an opportunity to develop proficiency as mediators and to rigorously analyze the appropriate roles and behavior of mediators and advocates, taking into account the legal, ethical and public policy issues surrounding the practice of mediation.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5090 : Lawyering for Social Change

In this experiential course, students will explore the theory and practice of lawyering for social change. Building upon these lessons, they will work in teams to propose avenues for social change. Teams will select a local instance of a systemic ill—such as those involving environmental racism, homelessness, gentrification, education, the criminal justice system, immigration law, or access to justice, to name a few—to diagnose the cause and formulate three-layered strategies for advocacy. All students are expected to participate actively and to maintain a reflection journal. Regular feedback will be provided on in-class participation and the performance of lawyering tasks, such as interviewing, fact-gathering, document drafting, and negotiating.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5100 : Interviewing, Negotiation, and Counseling

This course will develop students' skills in the fundamentals of interviewing and counseling clients and negotiating agreements. These three skills have been identified by the ABA Task Force on Law Schools and the Profession: Narrowing the Gap as essential components of competent lawyering. The course will cover conceptual foundations for understanding the processes involved in interviewing, counseling, and negotiation.

**Credits 3**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5140 : Clinical Experience: Domestic Violence Law

This course allows students to assist in the representation of actual clients who are either the subject of or have been sued in a domestic violence court proceeding (Orders of Protection). Although students are responsible for assisting in all aspects of the representation, including client correspondence, motions, briefs, and litigation on behalf of the client, depending upon the number of cases assigned, students may assist individually or in teams. Although every effort will be made to confine student participation to the prescribed class time, students may have to participate in hearings, meetings, depositions, and other client related matters outside of the regularly scheduled class time. All work undertaken by this clinical experience is supervised by a Tennessee licensed faculty member. Students will receive instruction and orientation on the law and procedure related to obtaining an Order of Protection and other matters about domestic violence law, as necessary to effectively advocate for clients.

**Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-3571: Domestic Relations

#### **Required Prerequisites**

Students must have completed at least 45 credit hours prior to the start of the semester, be in academic good standing, and otherwise be eligible to obtain their limited license to practice law under TN Supreme Court Rule 10.03.

Domestic Relations, LAW-2071 or LAW-3571

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5150 : Clinical Experience: Mediation

This course is designed to foster mediation skills while orienting students to major issues in the intersection between law and informal dispute resolution and the delivery and regulation of dispute resolution services. As part of this course, students will receive 40 hours of TN Supreme Court Rule 31-approved mediation training. Through this training, students learn the theoretical and practical underpinnings of the facilitative mediation model and practice mediation skills in simulated case situations. After completing training, students will be required to observe mediations in real cases, and then, in coordination with a local non-profit mediation center, will be authorized to act as co-mediators, partnered with more experienced mediators, in real disputes referred by a court or non-profit mediation center. Students may also be expected to perform certain administrative or other mediation-related tasks. Students will also meet throughout the semester to discuss their cases, receive further instruction and feedback from their instructor, and engage in faculty-guided reflection and self-evaluation.

**Credits 2**

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5160 : Clinical Experience: Immigration Humanitarian Relief

Under the supervision of an immigration law practitioner who is also a faculty member, students will work on real cases involving the provision of humanitarian and/or family-based immigration services to underserved non-citizens. This clinical experience will allow students to gain or further develop professional skills in client interviewing, identifying and resolving legal issues, providing legal advice, developing and implementing a case plan, and preparing written documents such as declarations, legal memoranda and supporting exhibits. Representative cases include U visas for victims of serious crimes, T visas for victims of human trafficking, and applications for immigration relief under the Violence Against Women Act. Students may also have exposure to other types of cases such as Special Immigrant Juvenile and Asylum cases. Students will convene throughout the semester to conduct case reviews, reflection, and self-evaluation, and will meet regularly with their instructor to receive additional feedback and evaluation.

**Credits 2**

-3

#### **Corequisite Courses**

LAW-3211: Immigration Law

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5170 : Clinical Experience: Criminal Expungement

In this course, students work directly with clients seeking to clean up their criminal records and re-enter society with the rights fully provided by law. Students will first receive instruction and orientation on Tennessee law and procedure related to the expungement of offenses from a person's criminal record and other criminal reentry issues, such as driver license reinstatement and restoration of voting and other rights. Then, under the supervision of a Tennessee bar-licensed faculty member, students will work directly with clients seeking expungement of offenses or seeking advice and representation on other re-entry issues. Students will build their skills in interviewing, counseling, advocacy, and problem-solving. They will have multiple opportunities to perform lawyering tasks, self-evaluation, and receive feedback from their instructor.

**Credits 1**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

Students must have completed 45 credit hours and be otherwise eligible for a student limited practice license under Tenn. Supreme Court Rule 7, Section 10.03.

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5210 : Externship I

Students will spend time at off-campus "sites" which have been previously approved by the Director of Experiential Learning. These sites will have a supervisor, who may be an attorney or judge. Weekly journals and/or writing assignments will be completed and reviewed by the Director. Students may participate in up to two externships. Externships are generally taken for two or three credit hours. Students at approved public service sites may register for six credit hours, with the approval of the Director. "Public service sites" are governmental agencies or non-profit sites that provide free or low-cost legal services or otherwise are primarily engaged in promoting access to or the advancement of justice. Examples of sites which may be approved for six hours include prosecutors, public defenders, legal aid organizations, and judicial chambers. These courses are graded on a pass/fail basis.

*A maximum of 9 credit hours of Externship may be obtained by any one student.*

**Credits 2**

-6

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5220 : Externship II

Students will spend time at off-campus "sites" which have been previously approved by the Director of Experiential Learning. These sites will have a supervisor, who may be an attorney or judge. Weekly journals and/or writing assignments will be completed and reviewed by the Director. Students may participate in up to two externships. Externships are generally taken for two or three credit hours. Students at approved public service sites may register for six credit hours, with the approval of the Director. "Public service sites" are governmental agencies or non-profit sites that provide free or low-cost legal services or otherwise are primarily engaged in promoting access to or the advancement of justice. Examples of sites which may be approved for six hours include prosecutors, public defenders, legal aid organizations, and judicial chambers. These courses are graded on a pass/fail basis.

*A maximum of 9 credit hours of Externship may be obtained by any one student.*

**Credits 2**

-6

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-5210: Externship I

#### **Course Frequency**

Offered when student interest and faculty availability allow.

### LAW-5310 : Mock Trial I

Students develop their skills to compete in inter-law school mock trial competitions sponsored annually by various law schools, bar, and trial lawyer organizations. Students learn the techniques involved in trying cases from faculty advisors and local attorneys acting as coaches and judges in preparation for inter-law school trial competitions. Enrollment in this course is limited to students who are members of the law school's mock trial team, and with the approval of the advocacy team's faculty advisor. Students competing in intercollegiate competitions will earn for satisfactory completion of such competition either one (1) credit, if serving as a witness, or (2) credits, if serving as an attorney advocate. Students serving as alternates for attorney advocates may also earn one (1) credit, with the approval of the Mock Trial faculty advisor. No student may earn more than four (4) credits towards graduation for participation on the Mock Trial Team. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis. The class involves several faculty-supervised simulation exercises and satisfies the experiential learning requirement. A minimum law school GPA of 2.333 is required to register for this course.

**Credits 1**

-2

#### **Required Prerequisites**

Membership determined by organization by-laws.

#### **Corequisite Courses**

#### **Course Frequency**

Each semester, requires faculty sponsor

### LAW-5311 : Mock Trial II

Students develop their skills to compete in inter-law school mock trial competitions sponsored annually by various law schools, bar, and trial lawyer organizations. Students learn the techniques involved in trying cases from faculty advisors and local attorneys acting as coaches and judges in preparation for inter-law school trial competitions. Enrollment in this course is limited to students who are members of the law school's mock trial team, and with the approval of the advocacy team's faculty advisor. Students competing in intercollegiate competitions will earn for satisfactory completion of such competition either one (1) credit, if serving as a witness, or (2) credits, if serving as an attorney advocate. Students serving as alternates for attorney advocates may also earn one (1) credit, with the approval of the Mock Trial faculty advisor. No student may earn more than four (4) credits towards graduation for participation on the Mock Trial Team. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis. The class involves several faculty-supervised simulation exercises and satisfies the experiential learning requirement. A minimum law school GPA of 2.333 is required to register for this course.

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-5210: Externship I

#### **Required Prerequisites**

Membership determined by organization by-laws

#### **Course Frequency**

Each semester, requires faculty sponsor

### LAW-5320 : Moot Court I

Students develop their skills to compete in inter-law school moot court competitions sponsored annually by various law schools, bar, and trial lawyer organizations. Students learn the techniques involved in appellate advocacy from faculty advisors and local attorneys acting as coaches and judges in preparation for inter-law school moot court competitions. Selection to the team is based on evaluation by the Legal Communication III faculty in conjunction with the previous year's Moot Court Team and faculty advisor(s). Team members, in conjunction with Legal Communication III faculty and the faculty advisor(s), shall also be responsible for organizing tryouts to select the subsequent Moot Court Team. Students competing in inter-law school competitions will earn two (2) credit hours for satisfactory completion of such competition. No student may earn more than four (4) credits towards graduation for participation on the Moot Court Team. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis. The class involves several faculty-supervised simulation exercises and satisfies the experiential learning requirement. A minimum law school GPA of 2.333 is required to register for this course.

#### **Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

Membership determined by organization by-laws.

#### **Course Frequency**

Each semester, requires faculty sponsor

### **LAW-5321 : Moot Court II**

Students develop their skills to compete in inter-law school moot court competitions sponsored annually by various law schools, bar, and trial lawyer organizations. Students learn the techniques involved in appellate advocacy from faculty advisors and local attorneys acting as coaches and judges in preparation for inter-law school moot court competitions. Selection to the team is based on evaluation by the Legal Communication III faculty in conjunction with the previous year's Moot Court Team and faculty advisor(s). Team members, in conjunction with Legal Communication III faculty and the faculty advisor(s), shall also be responsible for organizing tryouts to select the subsequent Moot Court Team. Students competing in inter-law school competitions will earn two (2) credit hours for satisfactory completion of such competition. No student may earn more than four (4) credits towards graduation for participation on the Moot Court Team. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis. The class involves several faculty-supervised simulation exercises and satisfies the experiential learning requirement. A minimum law school GPA of 2.333 is required to register for this course.

**Credits 2**

#### **Required Prerequisites**

LAW-5320: Moot Court I

#### **Required Prerequisites**

Membership determined by organization by-laws.

#### **Course Frequency**

Each semester, requires faculty sponsor

### **LAW-5999 : Course Sharing**

A student may be registered for a Course Sharing course if the student has been permitted, as part of the law school's Course Sharing Agreement with other ABA-accredited law schools, to register for an elective course online offered by another school while paying tuition to Lincoln Memorial University instead of the institution offering the course, consistent with the Course Sharing Agreement. A student may only be registered for Course Sharing with the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Associate Dean for the Part-time/ Hybrid Program.

Students enrolled in this course would receive Experiential Learning credit if the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs determines that the course requirements fulfill the School of Law's experiential learning requirements. A student may be enrolled in Course Sharing more than once, so long as the Course Sharing topics are substantially different each time. A student may not enroll in more than one Course Sharing course in any semester, and for no more than three credits in any semester.

**Credits 1**

-3

# Appendix

## Full-Time 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>2026</b>
Orientation for full-time 1Ls	August 17-19
First Day of Classes	August 20
Add/Drop Deadline	September 3
Labor Day Holiday	September 7
<i>Midterm Assessment Period (exams during class)</i>	<i>September 24-October 7</i>
Fall Break	October 8-9
Last Day of Classes	November 24
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 26-27
Final Exam Reading Days/ Make-up Days	November 25 & 30
Final Examinations	December 1-12
Commencement (Harrogate)	December 12
<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>2027</b>
First Day of Classes	January 11
MLK Jr. Day Holiday	January 18
Add/Drop Deadline	January 25
<i>Midterm Assessment Period (exams during class)</i>	<i>February 22-March 5</i>
Spring Break	March 8-12
Good Friday Holiday	March 26
Last Day of Classes/ Academic Friday	April 20
Final Exam Reading Days/ Make-up Days	April 21-23
Final Examinations	April 26-May 8
Commencement (Knoxville)	May 6
<b>Summer Semester</b>	<b>2027</b>
First Day of Classes	May 17
Add/Drop Deadline	May 24
Memorial Day Holiday	May 31
<i>Midterm Assessment Period (exams during class)</i>	<i>June 14-17</i>
Juneteenth Observance	June 18
Summer Recess (no classes)	June 28-July 2
Last Day of Classes (for exam courses)	July 9
Final Exam Reading Days/ Make-up Days	July 12-13
Final Exams/ Final Projects	July 14-16

## Part-Time/Hybrid 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>2026</b>
Orientation and first classes for PTH 1Ls	August 13-15
First Day of Classes (for 2Ls/3Ls/4Ls)	August 20
Add/Drop Deadline	September 3
Labor Day Holiday	September 7

PTH residential weekend (1Ls/2Ls/3Ls)	September 18-21
<i>Midterm Assessment Period (during class modules)</i>	<i>September 24-30</i>
Fall Break	October 8-9
PTH residential weekend (1Ls/2Ls)	November 13-16
Last Day of Classes	November 24
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 26-27
Final Exam Reading Days/ Make-up Days	November 25 & 30
Final Examinations	December 1-12
Commencement (Harrogate)	December 12
<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>2027</b>
First Day of Classes	January 11
MLK Jr. Day Holiday	January 18
Add/Drop Deadline	January 25
PTH residential weekend (1Ls/2Ls/3Ls)	February 12-15
<i>Midterm Assessment Period (during class modules)</i>	<i>February 22-28</i>
Spring Break	March 8-12
Good Friday Holiday	March 26
PTH residential weekend (1Ls/2Ls/3Ls)	April 9-12
Last Day of Classes	April 20
Final Exam Reading Days/ Make-up Days	April 21-23
Final Examinations	April 26-May 8
Commencement (Knoxville)	May 6
<b>Summer Semester</b>	<b>2027</b>
First Day of Classes	May 17
Add/Drop Deadline	May 24
Memorial Day Holiday	May 31
PTH residential weekend (1Ls only)	June 11-14
<i>Midterm Assessment Period (during class modules)</i>	<i>June 14-17</i>
Juneteenth Observance	June 18
Summer Recess (no classes)	June 28-July 2
Last Day of Classes (for exam courses)	July 9
Final Exam Reading Days/ Make-up Days	July 12-13
Final Exams/ Final Projects	July 14-16

*Student Complaint Implicating ABA Standards*

Procedures and requirements for filing a Complaint can be found in this student handbook.

Complaint\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number and name of standard implicated: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of parties involved: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* The Complaint must be filed within sixty (60) days of the alleged events giving rise to the Complaint. Pursuit of other remedies does not toll this sixty (60) day limit. The Complaint should be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Associate Dean and Director of the Law Library.

Complainant Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_



***Student Complaint Regarding: Safety; Faculty, Staff or Student Conduct; Discrimination; and/or Handbook/Policy Violations***

Procedures and requirements for filing a Complaint can be found in this student handbook.

Complaint\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number and name of standard implicated: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of parties involved: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* The Complaint must be filed within sixty (60) days of the alleged events giving rise to the Complaint. Pursuit of other remedies does not toll this sixty (60) day limit. The Complaint should be submitted in writing to the appropriate Dean.

Complainant Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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DSOL Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Complainant Name (Printed)

Signature

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Date

**GRADUATION CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS WHO  
MATRICULATED IN FALL 2024 OR LATER**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed at least **90** credit hours, with no more than **45** credit hours from a law school other than LMU Law.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed all required courses as defined in the Student Handbook and Catalog. The semester in which each course is typically offered in the full-time program is indicated, although courses may be offered in a different semester as dictated by the circumstances.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bar Exam Skills I (3) (fall)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Research II (1) (spring)                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bar Exam Skills II (3) (spring)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Prof'l Responsibility (3) (spring)                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus. Organizations (4) (spring)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Property I (3) (spring)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Procedure I (3) (fall)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Property II (3) (fall)                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Procedure II (3) (spring)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Successful Lawyer (2) (spring)                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Con'l Crim. Proc. (3) (spring)                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Torts I (3) (fall)                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Con'l Law I (2) (fall)                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Torts II (3) (spring)                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Con'l Law II (3) (spring)                               |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts & Sales I (3) (fall)                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Legal Reasoning (NC)<br><i>(if necessary)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts & Sales II (3) (fall)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Practice Skills (NC)<br><i>(if necessary)</i>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Law (3) (fall)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Solving Legal Problems (NC)<br><i>(if necessary)</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Relations (3) (fall)                           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence (4) (fall)                                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Comm. I (2) (fall)                                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Comm. II (3) (spring)                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Foundations (1) (fall)<br>(or waived with JDNext) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Research I (1) (fall)                             |   |

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed **25** elective hours, including at least six experiential learning credits (six credits earned in 5000-level courses) and at least two courses that satisfy the required upper-level writing experiences (two 4000-level courses).

**Course Name**

**Credits ULW/Exp.?**

\_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____

*Total elective credit hours completed:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My cumulative LMU Law GPA meets or exceeds **2.000**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have attended eight professionalism series presentations including four "Professional Identity" group meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed **30** hours of pro bono work, at least **10** hours of which involved the rendering of meaningful law-related service to persons of limited means or organizations that provide service thereto.

\_\_\_\_\_ I began my legal studies at LMU Law or another law school from which LMU Law has accepted transfer credit more than 24 months ago and less than 84 months ago.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received the exit counseling information from the University's Office of Student Financial Services.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not have an outstanding balance on my account with the University.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have ordered my graduation attire and paid my graduation fee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Advisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**GRADUATION CHECKLIST FOR PT/HYBRID STUDENTS  
MATRICULATED IN FALL 2023 OR LATER**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed at least **90** credit hours, with no more than **45** credit hours from a law school other than LMU Law.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed all required courses as defined in the Student Handbook and Catalog. The semester in which each course is typically offered is indicated, although courses may be offered in a different semester as dictated by the circumstances.

**First Year**

- Civil Procedure I (3) (fall)
- Civil Procedure II (3) (spring)
- Legal Comm. I (2) (fall)
- Legal Comm. II (3) (summer)
- Legal Foundations (1) (fall)
- Legal Research I (1) (fall)
- Legal Research II (1) (summer)
- Property I (3) (spring)
- The Successful Lawyer (2) (summer)
- Torts I (3) (fall)
- Torts II (3) (spring)
- Advanced Legal Reasoning (NC) (if necessary)

- Domestic Relations (3) (spring)
- Electives (6) (summer)
- Legal Practice Skills (NC) (if necessary)
- Solving Legal Problems (NC) (if necessary)

**Third Year**

- Bus. Organizations (4) (spring)
- Con'l Law I (2) (fall)
- Con'l Law II (3) (spring)
- Evidence (4) (fall)
- Prof'l Responsibility (3) (fall)
- Electives (2) (spring)
- Electives (6) (summer)

**Second Year**

- Contracts & Sales I (3) (fall)
- Contracts & Sales II (3) (spring)
- Criminal Law (3) (fall)
- Property II (3) (fall)
- Con'l Crim. Proc. (3) (spring)

**Fourth Year**

- Bar Exam Skills I (3) (fall)
- Bar Exam Skills II (3) (spring)
- Electives (6) (fall)
- Electives (5) (spring)

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed **25** elective hours, including at least six experiential learning credits (six credits earned in 5000-level courses) and at least two courses that satisfy the required upper-level writing experiences (two 4000-level courses).

**Course Name**

**Credits ULW/Exp.?**

\_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____

*Total elective credit hours completed:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My cumulative LMU Law GPA meets or exceeds **2.000**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have attended eight professionalism series presentations including four "Professional Identity" group meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed **30** hours of pro bono work, at least **10** hours of which involved the rendering of meaningful law-related service to persons of limited means or organizations that provide service thereto.

\_\_\_\_\_ I began my legal studies at LMU Law or another law school from which LMU Law has accepted transfer credit more than 24 months ago and less than 84 months ago.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received the exit counseling information from the University's Office of Student Financial Services.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not have an outstanding balance on my account with the University.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have ordered my graduation attire and paid my graduation fee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Advisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## LMU Law School Administration

Matthew Lyon  
Vice President and Dean; Professor of Law

Maha Ayesh  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Assistant Professor of Law

Vonda Laughlin  
Associate Dean for the Part-time/Hybrid Program; Professor of Law

Randall Mathews  
Associate Dean for Enrollment Services

Andrew McRee  
Assistant Dean of Student and Career Services

Melanie Reid  
Associate Dean of Faculty; Professor of Law

Gordon Russell  
Associate Dean; Director of the Law Library; Professor of Law