

# **I. The Academic Program**

## **A. General Requirements**

### 2. Graduation Requirements

#### a. First-Year Courses

All courses in the first-year curriculum are required and must be successfully completed. To successfully complete a first-year course graded on a standard letter grade scale (i.e., "A" through "F"), a student must earn a grade of D- or better in the course; to successfully complete a first-year course graded on a Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory ("S/U") scale, a student must earn a grade of Satisfactory ("S") in the course. If a student does not successfully complete a first-year course, the student must retake that course at the next available opportunity and successfully complete that course in order to graduate.

#### b. Intensive Writing Experience

As a requirement for graduation, students must complete at least one intensive writing experience during their second year. Students will satisfy this requirement by choosing among a menu of intensive writing course options that will focus on writing skills. A list of these courses will be provided by the Office of Student Life before course registration for each semester. Satisfaction of the writing experience must be certified in writing by the appropriate instructor. The intensive writing experience is satisfied by completion of written work product that evidences:

- (a) Good organization according to the recognized conventions for the type of document the student is writing;
- (b) Mastery of word usage, particularly legal terms of art and the vocabulary of the legal discipline about which the student is writing; and
- (c) Mastery of grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Pursuant to applicable ABA accreditation standards, it is ordinarily expected that the professor will either provide substantive individualized feedback on multiple iterations of one (1) substantial, graded writing project (including feedback on at least one substantial draft prior to the student's submitting the final draft of the project) or provide substantive individualized feedback on multiple graded writing projects assigned during the semester.

That students must satisfy the intensive writing experience through a menu of designated course options during their second year is not meant to limit students from undertaking multiple intensive writing experiences. To this end, students may also undertake additional intensive writing experiences in instructor-supervised writing or drafting projects, whether or not in connection with a regular course. If a course can be used to satisfy both the intensive writing experience and the experiential learning requirement, the student must indicate which requirement the course will satisfy.

### c. Experiential Learning Requirement

Each student must satisfy the School of Law's experiential learning requirement to be eligible for graduation. To satisfy the experiential learning requirement, each student must successfully complete six (6) credits of coursework in the School of Law's Clinical Education Program, Field Placement Program, or in courses designated as simulation courses.

The experiential learning requirement provides instruction in and assessment of specific legal skills, including, but not limited to, interviewing and client counseling, trial and appellate advocacy, alternative dispute resolution, negotiation, drafting, transactional work, and/or factual investigation. Experiential courses will:

- (a) Integrate doctrine, theory, skills, and legal ethics, and engage students in performance of legal analysis and reasoning, problem solving, written and oral communication in the legal context, and/or other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession;
- (b) Develop the concepts of the underlying professional skills being taught;
- (c) Provide multiple opportunities for performance; and
- (d) Provide opportunities for self-evaluation.

### d. Upper Level Courses

All students must successfully complete Evidence, Professional Responsibility and Constitutional Law II. To successfully complete these courses, a student must earn a grade of D- or better in each course. If a student does not earn a grade of D- or better in any of those courses, the student must retake that course and earn a grade of D- or better in order to graduate.

Both Constitutional Law II and Professional Responsibility must be taken before the end of the second year.

### e. Other Mandatory Academic Requirements

It is the policy of the University of North Dakota School of Law that all students will achieve and at all times maintain a level of academic performance sufficient to permit the award of the degree of Juris Doctor

Any student who (a) has a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.67 or lower at the end of any semester during the student's first two years of law school or (b) has received a grade of D+ or lower in any required course during the student's first two years of law school must adhere to the mandatory academic requirements outlined below for the remainder of their law school education.

The mandatory academic requirements include the following:

- (a) **Mandatory meetings with the Director of Bar Passage and Academic Success.** The student must meet with the Director of Bar Passage and Academic Success within 30 calendar days of the date the student's final grades are posted for each semester.
- (b) **Intensive Legal Reading, Writing and Analysis course.** Any student who (a) has a cumulative GPA of 2.67 or lower at the end of the first year or (b) has received a grade of D+ or lower in any first-year class must take the Intensive Legal Reading, Writing and Analysis (ILWRA) course in the fall semester of the second year. If the student has not yet successfully completed both Lawyering Skills I and Lawyering Skills II, the student must have successfully completed both courses by the end of the student's second year of law school, then enroll in ILWRA during the fall semester of the student's third year.
- (c) **Course approval.** The student must obtain approval of the student's course schedule from the Director of Bar Passage and Academic Success prior to registering for any subsequent semester. If a student falls below those requirements for the first time after the first semester of the second year, the student must obtain approval of the student's course schedule only for the fall and spring semesters of the student's third year.
- (d) **Required bar subject matter courses.** The student must take, or have taken, at least six (6) of the following bar subject matter courses prior to graduating:
- i. Business Associations (Law 254)
  - ii. Business Associations II (Law 213)
  - iii. Conflict of Laws (Law 257)
  - iv. Criminal Procedure (Law 218)
  - v. Criminal Procedure II (Law 286)
  - vi. Family Law (Law 265)
  - vii. Sales (UCC 2) (Law 214)
  - viii. Secured Transactions (Law 223)
  - ix. Trusts and Estates (Law 230)

The faculty will review this list of courses during the 2021-2022 academic year and no less than every three years thereafter.

- (e) **Reading, Writing, and Analysis for the Bar Exam course.** Any student who has a GPA of 2.67 or lower at the end of the second year must take Reading, Writing and Analysis Skills for the Bar Exam in the spring semester of the third year. Students must take this course in person.

**(f) Additional requirements.** The Director of Bar Passage and Academic Success may require the student to complete additional tasks designed to address legal study and exam taking skills and to address other issues hindering the student's academic performance.

Any student failing to comply with all of the requirements and conditions outlined above and otherwise established by the Director of Bar Passage and Academic Success may be subject to any combination of:

- (a) prohibition from registering for courses,
- (b) withdrawal from courses, or
- (c) other consequences,

as determined by the Assistant Dean for Student Services, in consultation with the Director of Bar Passage and Academic Success.

The Assistant Dean for Student Services, in consultation with the Director of Bar Passage and Academic Success, may make modifications to the compliance requirements upon the student's demonstration of extraordinary circumstances, as determined by Assistant Dean for Student Services, in consultation with the Director of Bar Passage and Academic Success. Extraordinary circumstances may include, but are not limited to, a situation in which a student's grades in the student's fourth semester trigger the mandatory requirement for the first time.