

## PLANNING YOUR COURSE OF STUDY for the 2nd and 3rd YEAR: Advice from the Curriculum Committee

### Required Courses

The 1st year curriculum is standard for all students. However, in your 2nd and 3rd years, you are free to elect a wide range of courses, subject to the requirements for the JD degree found [here](http://law.wfu.edu/academics/degree/jd/). (<http://law.wfu.edu/academics/degree/jd/>)

### Choosing Elective Courses

If you completed all your 1L courses successfully, you have earned 29 hours. You need 90 hours to graduate, leaving 61 hours for the final two years. As a rule of thumb, you should plan to take 15 hour semesters during the rest of law school. However, you are free to take as few as 13 hours or as many as 16 hours. If you have a special need to take more than 16 hours or fewer than 13 hours, you must seek permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Dean Wright) before you register.

The most important thing for a rising 2L to do is to consider a plan that includes all 4 remaining semesters. Since some classes are only offered in alternate years and some have prerequisites, as you register for your 2L classes you should have a tentative plan for your 3L year as well.

The Fall of your 2L year is viewed by many as the most demanding (timewise) of any semester in law school (difficult classes, job search, moot court, extracurricular obligations, etc.). If you have extra credits from study abroad or summer school, you might consider a reduced load during this semester.

Be very careful as you balance your mix of 2 hour, 3 hour, and 4 hour courses. You do not want to take more than two 4 hour courses in one semester. (Remember, the *Litigation Clinic* (Law 603) is far more time consuming than a typical 4 hour class.) Likewise, you do not want to take seven 2 hour classes. You should also seek a balance between exam courses and paper courses.

If you know where you will be practicing law, you should take a look at the topics tested on that state's bar exam. (You can find links to this information at the National Conference of Bar Examiners' website: <http://www.ncbex.org/>). You will find that some states test on subjects that are unique to practice in that jurisdiction (e.g., *Oil and Gas Law* in Texas). You don't necessarily need to take bar-related courses as a 2L, but you need to factor them in to your plans

While there are the 5 required classes mentioned above, there are a number of subjects frequently tested on bar exams throughout the country which are not required but are regarded as standard courses that most students take. These standard courses include *Business Organizations* (Law 203), *Criminal Procedure* (Law 400), *Decedents' Estates and Trusts* (Law 306), *Family Law* (Law 508), and UCC-based courses [*Sales, Leases, and International Sales Transactions* (Law 517) and/or *Secured Transactions* (Law 516)]. You don't have to take them just know that they are "out there." You can take some of them as a 2L and some of them as a 3L. There is no benefit to getting all of the required or standard courses "out of the way" during your 2nd year.

You should give careful attention to course sequences and availability. Some courses are only available in alternative years [e.g., *Admiralty* (Law 551), *International Civil Litigation* (Law 504), and *Non-Profit Organization Law* (Law 582)]. Course sequencing is also a consideration in the planning process. You should consult course descriptions to determine prerequisites for advanced electives before planning your 2L program.

Be aware: if there is a listed course that is of particular importance to you and it is not offered during your 2nd year, note whether or not it is identified as being offered in alternative years. *If it is not identified as such*, you should make an appointment with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Dean Wright) and inform him of your interest in the course. He can inform you of the likelihood that the course will be offered during your 3rd year and you can then plan accordingly.

The following is a hypothetical 2 year plan. It is provided for illustrative purposes only. This hypothetical student is interested in taking mostly courses that are on his jurisdiction's bar exam and believes he is ultimately interested in employment in a general practice that includes litigation. Obviously, the courses tentatively identified for the 3rd year can be adjusted based on interests that might develop during the 2nd year or summer employment.

### Fall 2nd Year

Course (* denotes required course)	Credits
<i>Business Organizations</i> (Law 203)	4
<i>Constitutional Law II</i> (Law 209)*	2
<i>Evidence</i> (Law 207)*	4
<i>Legal Research and Writing III</i> (Law 219)*	2
<i>Legislation and Administrative Law</i> (Law 200)*	3
Semester Total	15

### Spring 2nd Year

Course	Credits
<i>Criminal Procedure</i> (Law 400)	4
<i>Family Law</i> (Law 508)	3
<i>Sales, Leases, and International Sales Transactions</i> (Law 517)	3
Taxation: Federal Income Taxation (Law 206)	3
Trial Practice (Law 610)	3
Semester Total	16

**Fall 3rd Year**

Course	Credits
<i>Advanced Trial Practice (Law 611)</i>	3
<i>Decedents' Estates and Trusts (Law 306)</i>	4
<i>Pre-trial Practice and Procedure (Law 570)</i>	3
<i>Professional Responsibility (Law 305)*</i>	2
<i>Secured Transactions (Law 516)</i>	3
Semester Total	15

**Spring 3rd Year**

Course	Credits
<i>Dispute Resolution (Law 565)</i>	3
<i>Equitable and Legal Remedies (Law 304)</i>	3
<i>Juvenile Law (Law 531)</i>	2
<i>Law Practice Management (Law 609)</i>	3
<i>Litigation Clinic (Law 603)</i>	4
Semester Total	15
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>61 + 29 = 90</i>

This hypothetical student's schedule has a wide array of subjects during the 2nd year. The advantage to this approach is that it introduces the student to topics which she may then wish to pursue in depth during the 3rd year.

As noted, this schedule reflects the interests of a hypothetical student. As a 2L, you should formulate a personal plan for 4 semesters that reflects your personal interests before registering for the 2nd year (even though you will register only for 2nd year courses at this time). As a 3L, you should formulate one for both semesters of the 3rd year.