



REGISTRATION GUIDE

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I. PURPOSE

Welcome! To prepare yourself for registration, we have created a quick guide regarding class schedule, course requirements, bar preparation, certificates, and more!

II. DEGREE AUDIT

To track your degree progress, you must use the Panther Degree Audit, a powerful tool in PantherSoft that puts you in the driver's seat in terms of understanding and monitoring your ongoing progress in meeting degree requirements.

To access your degree audit:

- Navigate to my.fiu.edu
- Select the "Academic Advising" tile,
- Click on Panther Degree Audit.

If you have any questions about your degree audit, schedule an advising appointment.

NOTE: You are solely responsible for achieving graduation requirements. While the Registrar and Academic Advisors can help you track your completion of these requirements, you are responsible for monitoring your progress by performing your own degree audits.

III. ADVISING RESOURCES

Study the course options and your Panther Degree Audit before your scheduled appointment for registration and plan a tentative schedule for the year. When deliberating about course selection, please take advantage of the following advising resources.

A. *ACADEMIC ADVISOR*

Meet with Ariana Arguello, Esq., our Associate Director of Academic Advising, to have a one-on-one conversation about your academic progress. You will discuss your course options, degree requirements, and any challenges you are facing to ensure you graduate on time. She can go over your Panther Degree Audit and map out your semester load. We recommend meeting with her at least once a year to stay on track of your academic planning.

You can email her at amargue@fiu.edu to schedule an appointment.



B. SPECIALIZED ADVISING

We are grateful to the many faculty who have volunteered to advise you on course selection based on practice areas. They can give you an insight into how courses can help you achieve your professional goals. If you have specific questions about course selection, please put them in writing and send them to the professor corresponding to your specialization or specific need below.

For questions about meeting course requirements, contact our Associate Director of Academic Advising.

Specialization or Need	Professor	Email
Bar Applications	Prof. Ortega	afridman@fiu.edu
Commercial Law	Prof. Norberg	norbergs@fiu.edu
Death Penalty Law	Prof. Gorman	hgorman@fiu.edu
DOJ Honors Program	Prof. Suarez	mdsuarez@fiu.edu
Environmental Law	Prof. Ballan	bballan@fiu.edu
	Prof. Hefti	mhefti@fiu.edu
Experiential Education	Judge Kotey	koteyp@fiu.edu
Externships	Judge Kotey	koteyp@fiu.edu
Federal and civil rights legislation	Prof. Wasserman	wasserma@fiu.edu
FIU Law Review students	Dean Davis	lisdavis@fiu.edu
Immigration Law	Prof. J. Gomez	jcagomez@fiu.edu
Intellectual Property	Prof. Travis	travish@fiu.edu
	Prof. Zhao	yiyzhao@fiu.edu
International Dispute Resolution	Dean M. Gomez	magomez@fiu.edu
International Human Rights	Prof. Gorman	hgorman@fiu.edu
International Law	Dean M. Gomez	magomez@fiu.edu



Specialization or Need	Professor	Email
Labor and Employment law	Prof. Stone	stonek@fiu.edu
Legal Clinic	Prof. Dollar	jdollar@fiu.edu
LL.M. Students	Dean M. Gomez	magomez@fiu.edu
Military Law	Prof. Carpenter	ercarpen@fiu.edu
Moot Court	Prof. Mullins	rmullins@fiu.edu
New Technologies (blockchain, metaverse)	Dean M. Gomez	magomez@fiu.edu
Pro Bono	Judge Kotey	koteyp@fiu.edu
Transfer students	Dean Ruiz	rauruiz@fiu.edu

C. LL.M. STUDENT ADVISING

All LL.M. students must contact Program Director Maruja Kiener Ford at mkienerf@fiu.edu for an advising appointment and submit their proposed class schedule via e-mail to be allowed to register.

IV. REGISTRATION MECHANICS

The processes below describe how registration proceeds each semester.

A. SELF-REGISTRATION THROUGH PANTHERSOFT

Registration occurs through PantherSoft for most courses. Exceptions include any non-classroom course, such as competition teams and journals, courses that require faculty override or special approval, and Clinics and Externships, discussed below.

B. REGISTRATION PORTAL

To register for classes:

- Log into PantherSoft via the portal at <https://my.fiu.edu/>
- Follow this navigation path: Home Page > Manage Classes >
- Follow all the required steps.



C. SUMMER REGISTRATION

For summer, all students, including those on academic supervision, must self-register through PantherSoft.

D. REGISTRATION PRIORITY

Certain students receive Registration Priority. If you are a member of the armed forces or veteran, please email the Registrar to receive priority.

For all other students registration times are assigned based on the number of completed credits:

1. 73-90 Credits
2. 44-72 Credits
3. 21-43 Credits

E. ENROLLMENT CAPS AND WAITLISTS

As a general rule, enrollment is limited by the seating capacity of the assigned classroom. Some courses may have lower caps based on their format or instructional needs. For example, seminars are typically limited to 15 students. When demand exceeds available seats, the Registrar will manage a waitlist and fill seats in order. To be added to a waitlist during registration, please email lawregistrar@fiu.edu.

F. INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students interested in pursuing Independent Study credit shall communicate with the Registrar regarding specific requirements, which include: (i) securing a faculty advisor, (ii) preparing a proposal, and (iii) obtaining authorization from the Vice Dean.

G. IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Please pay attention to the academic calendar for important dates that impact registration and remaining in good standing.

H. COURSE UNDERLOADS AND OVERLOADS

1. MINIMUM COURSE LOAD

A student must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester to be considered a full-time student. A student must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours in the fall/spring semester or a minimum of 5 credits during the summer session to be considered a part-time student.



2. MAXIMUM COURSE LOAD

A full-time student may not enroll in more than 16 credit hours of courses, and a part-time student may not enroll in more than 11 credit hours of courses in one semester.

3. LIMITATION ON OVERLOADS OR UNDERLOADS

If you wish to deviate from these minimums or maximums, you must submit a petition. To submit your petition, go to [my.fiu.edu>student tools>e forms](https://my.fiu.edu/student-tools/e-forms). In general, you may take an overload only once during your program of legal education.

I. PETITIONS

While you should strive to avoid registration that conflicts with the Registration Memo, this Guide, and/or the J.D. Handbook, there are circumstances where Petitions must be made to ensure successful completion of your degree in accordance with graduation requirements. Petitions can be submitted via PantherSoft by the designated deadline provided in the Registration Memo each semester. Late petitions will not be considered.

1. CREDIT OVERLOAD OR UNDERLOAD

For full time students, if you are registering for less than 12 or more than 15 credits in the Fall or Spring semesters, or more than 6 credits in the Summer semester, you must submit a petition for a credit overload or underload. For part-time student if you are registered for less than 6 or more than 11 credits in the Fall or Spring semesters, or more than 6 credits in the Summer semester, you must submit a petition for a credit overload or underload.

2. DROP/ADD

Petitions to add or drop a course must be submitted by the deadline stated in the Academic Calendar.

3. WAIVERS

Only the Vice Dean may waive or provide exceptions to graduation requirements under extraordinary circumstances. Petitioning the Vice Dean for any waiver or exception is a last resort.



V. MINIMUM GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

A. *FULL-TIME PROGRAM*

Students in the full-time program should be aware that if they take only the minimum number of credits required for each semester (12 credits) and do not take summer classes, they will have earned only 72 credits at the end of three years, which is not enough to earn the law degree.

B. *PART-TIME PROGRAM*

Students in the part-time program should be aware that if they take the maximum number of credits allowed for each semester (11 credits) and do not take summer classes, they will have earned only 88 credits at the end of four years, which is not enough to earn the law degree. You must take courses in at least one summer semester.

C. *FAILED COURSES*

Please note that failing a class may keep you from satisfying graduation requirements within the regular time period, i.e., three years for full-time students and four years for part-time students.

VI. UPPER-LEVEL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The College of Law imposes several other requirements summarized below. You are allowed to graduate only if you have satisfied each of these requirements, many of which have additional sub-requirements as to timing or grading. For example, you must get at least a C in Professional Responsibility to satisfy the upper-level requirement. The degree audit described below lets you identify which courses can be taken to satisfy these requirements.

A. *TABLE: OVERVIEW OF UPPER-LEVEL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS*

This table provides a recommended timeline for completing upper-level graduation requirements:

Requirement	# of Credits, Courses, or Hours	Satisfied by	Completed by
Seminar	1 Course	Taking and passing a Seminar course.	Penultimate semester.

Requirement	# of Credits, Courses, or Hours	Satisfied by	Completed by
Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution	2 courses	Pass 2 of the courses listed in Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Course List; see below and Panther Degree Audit.	Your last semester
International and Comparative Law	1 course	Pass 1 of the courses listed in the International and Comparative Law course list; see below and Panther Degree Audit. <i>NOTE: Seminars and ad hoc courses that count for the International and Comparative requirement will be listed in the Registration Memo.</i>	Your last semester
Legal Skills & Values III	1 Course	Pass Legal Skills and Values III	
Professional Responsibility	3 Credits	Receive a C or better in the Professional Responsibility Course.	Your last semester
Experiential Credits	6 credits	Complete a minimum of 6 credits of experiential courses from the Experiential Course List; see below and Panther Degree Audit.	Your last semester
Pro Bono Service		As approved by the Vice Dean for Student Success and Experiential Learning or their designee.	Full-time students: end of your 4 th Semester Part-time students: end of your 6 th Semester

B. TABLE: ENROLLMENT RESTRICTIONS

Course	Requisites <i>All Credit Requisites are Pre-Requisites</i>	Pre-, Co-, or Both or Recommended
Advanced Trial Advocacy	Trial Advocacy	Both



Course	Requisites <i>All Credit Requisites are Pre-Requisites</i>	Pre-, Co-, or Both or Recommended
Bankruptcy	Secured Transactions	Recommended
Bankruptcy Externship	45 credits, Professional Responsibility, Bankruptcy, Evidence	Both
Business, Innovation & Technology Clinic	45 credits, Professional Responsibility and Business Organizations	Both
Civil Externship	45 credits, Professional Responsibility	Both
Community Lawyering Clinic	45 credits, Professional Responsibility and one of these courses: Health Law, Disability Law, Administrative Law, Immigration Law or Family Law	Both
Corporate & Partnership Tax	Federal Income Tax	Pre
Criminal Externship	48 credits and a letter of clearance from the FL Bar, Professional Responsibility, Evidence and Criminal Procedure Investigation	Both
Death Penalty Clinic	45 credits, Professional Responsibility and Death Penalty	Both
Estate & Gift Tax	Federal Income Tax and Wills & Trusts	Pre
Immigration Clinic	45 credits, Professional Responsibility, Evidence and Immigration Law	Both
Law Firm Externship	45 credits, Professional Responsibility and Evidence	Both
LSV III	LSV II	Recommended
Trial Advocacy	Evidence	Both

C. *NON-GRADED AND OUT OF CLASSROOM CREDIT LIMITS*

Under § 1901 of the J.D. Handbook, you are limited to 12 non-graded, also known as pass/fail, credits. This limit means that you can only take 12 pass/fail credits towards the minimum of 90 graduation credits.



Under § 1302 of the J.D. Handbook, you are limited to 6 non-classroom credits. This limit means that you can only take 6 non-classroom credits towards the minimum of 90 graduation credits.

Both limits are tracked in your Panther Degree Audit. The following lists demonstrate the overlap in these two limits, as all non-classroom credits are also non-graded credits.

1. *NON-GRADED CREDITS*

Number	Course	Units (Range)	Notes
LAW 6372	Advanced Appellate Advocacy	2.00	
LAW 7944	Advanced Clinic	1.00 - 5.00	Non-Class
LAW 7946	Advanced Externship	1.00 - 4.00	Non-Class
LAW 7956	African Law Journal	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 7952	Appellate Advocacy Competition	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 6958	Board of Advocates	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 6949	Civil Externship Placement (Civil Placement)	4.00	
LAW 6949	Civil Externship Placement (Law Firm Placement)	4.00	
LAW 6945	Criminal Externship Placement (Criminal Placement)	4.00	
LAW 6905	Independent Study	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 6984	Judicial Externship Placement (Judicial Placement)	1.00 - 4.00	
LAW 6950	FIU Law Review Board of Editors	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 6956	FIU Law Review Senior Staff	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 6957	FIU Law Review Staff Members	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 6919	FIU Law Review Staff Members II	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 5781	Legal Reasoning	2.00	
LAW 7959	Mediation Competition	1.00	Non-Class
LAW 6947	Semester in Practice	1.00 - 8.00	Non-Class
LAW 7930	Special Topics	2.00 - 3.00	
LAW 7951	Trial Ad Competition	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 7955	WAMR	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class



Number	Course	Units (Range)	Notes
LAW 6893	LACLR Board of Editors	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 6890	LACLR Staff Members	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class
LAW 6891	LACLR Staff Members II	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Class

2. *NON-CLASSROOM CREDITS*

Number	Course	Units (Range)	Notes
LAW 7944	Advanced Clinic	1.00 - 5.00	Non-Graded
LAW 7946	Advanced Externship	1.00 - 4.00	Non-Graded
LAW 7956	African Law Journal	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 7952	Appellate Advocacy Competition	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6958	Board of Advocates	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6905	Independent Study	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6950 Board of Editors	Law Review	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6956 Senior Staff	Law Review	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6957 Staff Members	Law Review	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6919 Staff Members II	Law Review	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 7959	Mediation Competition	1.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6947	Semester in Practice	1.00 - 8.00	Non-Graded
LAW 7951	Trial Ad Competition	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 7955	WAMR	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6893	LACLR Board of Editors	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6890	LACLR Staff Members	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded
LAW 6891	LACLR Staff Members II	1.00 - 2.00	Non-Graded



EXPERIENTIAL CREDITS VIA CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS

Students who want to enroll in one of the legal clinics or externships must complete and upload an application (available on Canvas). Students will be enrolled in a legal clinic or an externship course by the Registrar's Office once their application is approved.

If you have questions, please email: Ms. Zoraya Ledesma, ledesmaz@fiu.edu.

1. CLINICAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND REQUISITES

Clinic	Credit Requisite	Pre- or Co-Course Requisites
Death Penalty Clinic	45 credits	Professional Responsibility Death Penalty Law
Community Lawyering Clinic	45 credits	Professional Responsibility <i>Additional co-requisites will be determined in consultation with individual students</i>
Immigration & Human Rights Clinic	45 credits	Professional Responsibility Evidence Immigration Law

2. EXTERNSHIP COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND REQUISITES

Externship	Requisites	Pre- or Co-Course Requisites
Civil Externship	45 credits	Professional Responsibility
Criminal Externship	48 credits & Letter of Clearance from the Florida Bar	Professional Responsibility Evidence Criminal Procedure: Investigation
Law Firm Externship	45 credits	Professional Responsibility Evidence
Judicial	Completion of Foundation Curriculum	Professional Responsibility



VII. COURSE MODALITIES AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

A. MODALITY DESCRIPTIONS

FIU offers courses in four different modalities; these are represented in the schedule via font colors as follows:

- black for in-person,
- red for asynchronous via FIU Online
- blue for Hybrid, and
- purple for Online Live via FIU Online.

1. IN-PERSON

This is the traditional modality for legal education. Both the instructor and the student are physically located in the same room and engage in face-to-face learning, though the course may involve digital resources such as a Canvas site, periodic taped lectures rather than in-person meetings, out-of-class exercises, and other forms of digital content. Unless otherwise indicated, all courses on the schedule are offered in person.

2. HYBRID

Hybrid course reflects a format in which 50% of the course content and activities are conducted in-class and 50% of the course content and activities are conducted out-of-class, including online components administered through the university's official learning management system ([Canvas](#)). The academic unit schedules the hybrid course's face-to-face session at a 50% reduction in in-person time, once per week. For example, a three-credit certified hybrid course taught in a regular (16-week) session would meet once per week for 75 minutes.

3. ONLINE LIVE

Online LIVE courses are designed to include 50% asynchronous learning and 50% synchronous, live sessions, ensuring a comprehensive and engaging educational experience.

- **Asynchronous Component (50%):** Leveraging the Canvas platform, students have flexible access to course materials, lectures, and supplementary readings, accommodating diverse schedules and learning paces. Through independent study, students tackle assignments, participate in forums, and embark on project work, laying a solid foundation of knowledge for the live sessions.



- **Synchronous Component (50%):** Weekly 75-minute (in a 3-credit course) live sessions via Zoom foster real-time interaction between students and instructors, featuring a blend of teaching, discussion, and application of concepts. These LIVE sessions are highly interactive, encouraging students to apply learned concepts through various activities: collaborative problem-solving, group discussions and projects, case study analyses, debates, or simulations.

4. ASYNCHRONOUS

This is a fully on-line course with no scheduled class meetings. The course is built by a faculty member working with an instructional designer and delivered on Canvas, the University's official learning management system. These materials may include taped lectures, PowerPoint presentations, and team exercises, as well as the full range of conventional assignments, i.e., quizzes, papers, and final examinations, used in traditional in-person classes.

B. ASSESSMENTS

Regardless of modality, course assessments may take place during a specified time or with time restrictions. Consult the course syllabus and with the instructor for assessment modalities.

Final examinations may be in-person regardless of course modality. Therefore, your physical presence may be required for the final examination even if the course modality does not.

NOTE: It is your responsibility to confer with your instructor to determine assessment modality prior to drop/add deadlines to verify whether you should register for the course.

C. DISTANCE EDUCATION CREDIT LIMIT

As a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA), the College of Law must comply with national standards for educational technologies that deliver course content beyond the traditional classroom.

We cap the maximum number of distance education credits that a student can take to 30 credits, including any taken as part of the foundation curriculum. The Registrar's office tracks how much distance education students have taken so as not to exceed our limits or those of the ABA. In exceptional circumstances, the Vice Dean may waive the 30-credit cap based on the following factors: demonstrated professional benefit to the student, the degree to which the student has already taken bar-relevant courses, grade point average, and any previous waiver of administrative or distributional requirements, including those related to distance education.



1. IMPACT ON PRACTICE OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA

Some state bars impose restrictions on granting credit for distance education courses, be it asynchronous, remote synchronous, or a hybrid form. For example, New York requires that students take professional responsibility in-person rather than through distance education. We cannot monitor the practice requirements for other states or countries, so you must assume responsibility for that. If you are interested in taking the bar of a state other than Florida, please educate yourself about the corresponding local Bar rules so that you take qualifying courses. When researching these questions, please make sure to drill down and to understand exactly what a particular modality involves.

VIII. PREPARING FOR THE BAR EXAMINATION

The law school is proud to have one of the country's leading programs in academic excellence and bar preparation. To learn about Dean Ruiz's pioneering work in this area, please read his article about our program. Central to its success are the following requirements and recommendations about course selection, including the bar-tested courses that we strongly urge you to take.

A. LAW & PROCEDURE: U.S. AND FLORIDA (FLAP)

Law & Procedure: U.S. and Florida (FLAP) is a four-credit course that is available only to third-year and fourth-year graduating students. This is a bar-focused course that emphasizes the particularities of Florida law and the multi-state exam. We offer the course three times a year.

FLAP is:

- This course is taught in the evening only in the Fall semester; and
- The spring section of Law and Procedure is restricted to students graduating in that semester.

Graduating students are automatically enrolled in FLAP in their final semester of law school. To opt out of the class, they must get the approval of Dean Ruiz.

B. RECOMMENDED BAR COURSES

Not all bar-tested courses are created equally. Our bar preparation program continually analyzes the bar exam to identify which subjects are tested most frequently. In particular, we pay close attention to how our students perform on particular subjects tested on the bar examination, focusing on Florida. Based on the testing frequency, difficulty of the subject matter, patterns of student performance, and overlap of the subject between other subjects, we distinguish between bar-tested courses that are "highly recommended" or "recommended."



Based on our research of student performance, the former are more important than the latter, so, all else being equal, it is better for students to take a highly recommended course than a recommended course. Of course, taking a course reduces a student's "cognitive load" for that course during bar review, because the student has already encountered the material. Nevertheless, we believe that highly recommended courses can be particularly challenging, which is borne out in our students' raw scores on the bar exam.

You should take these in recommendation priority:

Course Number	Course Name	Bar Preparation Level	Credits
LAW 6060	Business Organizations	Highly recommended bar tested	4.00
LAW 6112	Criminal Procedure Investigation	Highly recommended bar tested	3.00
LAW 6330	Evidence	Highly recommended bar tested	3.00 - 4.00
LAW 7303	Florida Civil Practice	Highly recommended bar tested	2.00 - 3.00
LAW 6350	Law and Procedure: US and Florida	Highly recommended bar tested	4.00
LAW 6010	Sales	Highly recommended bar tested	2.00 - 3.00
LAW 6430	Wills and Trusts	Highly recommended bar tested	3.00 - 4.00
LAW 6710	Family Law	Recommended bar tested	2.00 - 3.00
LAW 7511	First Amendment	Recommended bar tested	2.00 - 3.00
LAW 7503	Florida Constitutional Law	Recommended bar tested	2.00 - 3.00
LAW 6031	Payment Systems	Recommended bar tested	2.00 - 3.00
LAW 6702	Products Liability	Recommended bar tested	2.00 - 3.00
LAW 6305	Remedies	Recommended bar tested	3.00
LAW 6051	Secured Transactions	Recommended bar tested	2.00 - 3.00
LAW 6520	Administrative Law	May be bar tested in other jurisdictions	2.00 - 3.00
LAW 6340	Conflict of Laws	May be bar tested in other jurisdictions	2.00 - 3.00



Course Number	Course Name	Bar Preparation Level	Credits
LAW 6302	Federal Courts	May be bar tested in other jurisdictions	3.00
LAW 6600	Federal Income Tax	May be bar tested in other jurisdictions	3.00 - 4.00

C. OTHER BAR JURISDICTIONS

Because tested subjects vary by jurisdiction, if you are interested in seeking eligibility in another state, you should check with the relevant Board of Bar Examiners regarding bar tested courses and other requirements.

IX. CERTIFICATES AND PROGRAMS

The College of Law has three excellent Certificates in Intellectual Property, Environmental & Natural Resources, and National Security & Military Law. Students enrolled in these certificates are responsible for meeting additional course and grade requirements to earn the certificate. The Registrar's office now allows students to apply for these certificates as soon as they finish their foundation requirements. Additionally, the FIU Law Library offers the Legal Research Skills Program (LRSP), a voluntary certification program based in the Law Library's curriculum. Please consult the applicable requirements for these programs online at: <https://law.fiu.edu/academics/jd/certificate-programs/https://library.law.fiu.edu/lrsp>

A. CERTIFICATE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Professors Hannibal Travis and Mary Zhao supervise the certificate. For more information, visit the [Certificate in Intellectual Property website](#) and watch the [13-minute program overview video](#).

B. CERTIFICATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

Professors Ballan and Hefti supervise the certificate. For more information, visit the [Certificate in Environmental & Natural Resources website](#) and watch the [10-minute program overview video](#).

C. CERTIFICATE IN NATIONAL SECURITY AND MILITARY LAW

Vice Dean Carpenter supervises the certificate. For more information, visit the [Certificate in National Security and Military Law website](#) and watch the [program overview video](#).



D. LEGAL RESEARCH SKILLS PROGRAM

A voluntary certification program that recognizes the legal research skills you build through the Law Library's research labs and/or Advanced Legal Research course. After completing the requirements and graduating, you will receive a Legal Research Certificate and a notation on your final transcript. For more information and to register, visit the [Legal Research Skills Program Information website](#).

X. LL.M. STUDENTS

LL.M. students are fully integrated into the College of Law community. They take specialized courses as well as foundation courses and the same upper-level electives taken by J.D. students. With certain exceptions stemming from regulatory restrictions, LL.M. students are welcome to participate in the full range of certificate offerings, co-curricular activities, and extracurricular professional groups that form an important part of a rewarding legal education. The general policies in this guidebook apply to both J.D. and LL.M. students. In addition, LL.M. students should be aware of the following issues that are unique to their situation as foreign law graduates who may be planning to practice law in the United States.

A. MEETING CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

LLM students must complete twenty-four credits over a minimum of two semesters.

B. AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION

LL.M. students will be automatically registered in the LL.M. mandatory courses.

C. MANDATORY ADVISING

All LL.M. students must contact Program Director Maruja Kiener Ford at mkienerf@fiu.edu for an advising appointment and submit their proposed class schedule via e-mail before registering for elective courses.

D. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BAR ADMISSION

LL.M. students planning to take the bar exam in a U.S. jurisdiction benefit from the specialized Law and Procedure course offered every semester. LL.M. students should consult with Professor Erin Loeb at eloeb@fiu.edu regarding advising and bar eligibility in U.S. jurisdictions. Because tested subjects vary by jurisdiction, students interested in seeking eligibility in another state should check with the relevant Board of Bar Examiners regarding bar-tested courses and other requirements. Additional information on



bar eligibility was provided to LL.M. students during orientation, and students are encouraged to refer to those materials for further details.

1. RESTRICTIONS ON DISTANCE EDUCATION CREDITS

Certain state bars in the United States impose restrictions on granting credit for distance education courses, whether asynchronous, remote synchronous, or hybrid. For example, New York requires that students complete professional responsibility in person rather than through distance education and also imposes a maximum number of credits that may be obtained through such modality. The New York Bar, for instance, accepts a maximum of four credits earned during the summer. Other countries may impose similar restrictions applicable to a U.S. graduate seeking admission to practice law.

2. IMPACT ON LL.M. STUDENTS

LL.M. students should pay close attention to these limitations when planning their course schedules. When researching specific jurisdictional requirements, students should take care to understand precisely what each modality involves. LL.M. students with questions or concerns about bar eligibility requirements, including distance education restrictions, should contact Professor Erin Loeb at eloeb@fiu.edu.

E. ACADEMIC SUPERVISION

Academic supervision for LL.M. students is provided through the Office of International and Graduate Studies in coordination with the LL.M. Program Director. LL.M. students are not directed to, nor do they receive supervision from, the College of Law's Academic Excellence Program, which is designed exclusively for J.D. students.

XI. COMPLIANCE

In addition to complying with Florida law and federal law, the law school is subject to accreditation standards and policies.

A. AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

The law school is accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA), which establishes standards with which law schools must comply. See ABA Standards. Every year, the law school submits comprehensive information to demonstrate our ongoing compliance with these standards. The ABA uses this information to prepare the Standard 509 disclosure of consumer information, which you can find [here](#).



If you are aware of a problem or situation that may implicate the law school's compliance with an ABA Standards, please send an email to gabilond@fiu.edu titled "ABA Standards Complaint." Your email should identify and describe the problem or situation that you believe implicates the Standard. You will receive confirmation that your email has been received. If you are not satisfied with the eventual resolution, you may write directly to the Vice Dean.

B. ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

FIU Law belongs to the Association of American Law Schools, establishing [core values](#) which we must promote.

C. ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

FIU Law has a zero-tolerance policy against all forms of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and discrimination based on sex (or other prohibited basis). This policy applies to all FIU Law affiliates including students and employees. As set forth in [Regulation FIU-105](#), the policy extends not only to sexual misconduct and sexual harassment, but also to gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. To report a possible violation, please follow the instructions provided by the department of Human Resources [here](#).

D. JD HANDBOOK

All requirements and academic policies are provided in the J.D. Handbook. Prior to registration, you must familiarize yourself with those requirements and academic policies.