Selecting Upper-Level Courses

Spring 2020
Thank you for filing your Student Registrant Applications with the Florida Board of Bar Examiners!!!
I. JD Requirements

• Completion of (and credit for) all FOUNDATION COURSES

- 31 credits of Foundation Courses.

• Completion of (and credit for) UPPER-LEVEL COURSES

- 59 credits of Upper-Level Courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2019</th>
<th>Spring 2020</th>
<th>Fall 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Torts</td>
<td>LSV II</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>Civil Procedure</td>
<td>Intro. to International and Comp. Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSV I</td>
<td>Property</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
90 total credits to receive a JD degree from FIU Law
Upper-Level J.D. Requirements

• Earn at least 90 hours of passing grades in all courses.
  – 78 of those hours must be in graded courses.
  – A passing grade is D or above, but no more than 13 credits of D.
• Must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above at the end of every semester.
• Complete all degree requirements within 84 months (7 years) of enrollment (full-time students).
• Complete Professional Responsibility with a grade of C or better.
• Should complete LSV III no later than fourth semester (2L Spring) after enrollment (not counting Summer).
• Complete two Litigation/ADR courses.
• Complete one Upper-Level International Law course.
• Complete one seminar.
• Complete six credit hours of experiential courses.
• Should complete pro bono requirement by end of 2L year.
II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

- What types of Upper-Level Courses are offered at FIU Law?
  - 1. Doctrinal Courses
  - 2. Skills/Simulation Courses
  - 3. Experiential Courses
  - 4. Non-Classroom Work
1. Doctrinal Courses

What is a Doctrinal Course?

– Vast majority of courses taught at FIU Law.
– Courses generally utilize casebooks and other sources of primary law (like statutes and regulations) to teach material.
– Students are generally evaluated by examination (essay, short answer, multiple choice) and/or paper, and class participation.
1. Doctrinal Courses

What is a seminar?

• A doctrinal course that is focused on a very specific area of the law.
• Enrollment is generally capped at 15 students.
• Grade is based on a paper (generally 25-30 pages or longer), class presentations, and other class participation.
• Sample seminar course titles: Law and Literature; The Sierra Leone Tribunal’s Contribution to International Law.
1. Doctrinal Courses

• How do I know whether a course satisfies the specific J.D. requirements?
  – Registrar’s Office will provide Course Registration Guide, which lists all courses and which (if any) requirements they fulfill; and

• Can a single course satisfy two or more specific J.D. requirements?
  – Yes. For example, you could satisfy both the International and Seminar requirements by taking The Sierra Leone Tribunal Seminar.
Degree Audit
You have no Panther Degree Audit at this time. Panther Degree Audit is available for active degree seeking Graduate, Law and Undergraduate Students.
1. Doctrinal Courses

• Do any Doctrinal Courses have pre-requisites?
  – Yes. For example, Mergers and Acquisitions requires Business Organizations (as do many other Upper-Level business courses).
  – Registrar’s Office will provide Course Registration Guide, which lists all courses that have pre-requisites.
  – You can get a full list of all FIU Law courses, which includes a brief course description and all pre-requisites and co-requisites at:
1. Doctrinal Courses

• Other than the specific J.D. requirements, does FIU Law recommend I take any other Doctrinal Courses?
  – Yes!
  • Bar-Tested Courses
  • Other Strongly Recommended Doctrinal Courses
1. Doctrinal Courses

- **Bar-Tested Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highly Recommended Courses</th>
<th>Recommended Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Organizations</td>
<td>Family Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Procedure: Investigation</td>
<td>First Amendment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>Florida Civil Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law and Procedure: U.S. and Florida</td>
<td>Florida Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>Payment Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills and Trusts</td>
<td>Products Liability</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remedies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secured Transactions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

• A. What types of Upper-Level Courses are offered at FIU Law?
  – 1. Doctrinal Courses
  – 2. Skills/Simulation Courses
  – 3. Experiential Courses
  – 4. Non-Classroom Work
3. Skills/Simulation Courses

• You must complete six credit hours of experiential or simulation courses in order to graduate.
2. Skills/Simulation Courses

a. What is a Skills/Simulation Course?
Focus on developing lawyering skills.
Do not focus on a specific area of law; rather, they use simulations from various areas of the law to train students on lawyering skills like

• Writing
• Oral Advocacy
• Trial Skills

Students in skills courses are traditionally evaluated by oral argument performance, mock trial performance, brief, paper, and/or class participation.
2. Skills/Simulation Courses

• Is there anything else I need to know about Skills/Simulation Courses?
  – Yes. In order to qualify for the Moot Court team, you must complete Advanced Appellate Advocacy Fall of your 3L year.
  – You do not have to take Trial Advocacy before trying out for Trial Team.
  – What is the difference between Moot Court and Trial Team?
II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

A. What types of Upper-Level Courses are offered at FIU Law?
   
   – 1. Doctrinal Courses
   – 2. Skills/Simulation Courses
   – 3. Experiential Courses
   – 4. Non-Classroom Work
3. Experiential Courses

• You must complete six credit hours of experiential or simulation courses in order to graduate.
3. Experiential Courses

a. What is an Experiential Course?
   A course that allows students to earn law-school credit for real-world legal work representing or working on behalf of a client.

b. What Experiential Courses does FIU Law offer?
   - **Externships**
     - Law-related work in **off-campus** field placements
     - Classroom component.

   - **Clinics**
     - **In-house law offices** in different areas of practice.
     - Students represent clients under the supervision of a clinical professor and/or staff attorney.
3. Experiential Courses

c. What types of Externships does FIU law offer?

- Judicial
  - Prosecutors
    - State Attorney’s Office
    - U.S. Attorney’s Office
  - Government Defense
    - State Attorney’s Office
    - Federal Public Defender

- Criminal
  - Private Criminal Defense

- Civil
  - Government Office
  - Law Firm
  - Non-Profit Organization
  - In-House Corporate Counsel
3. Experiential Courses

d. What are the requirements to enroll in an Externship?

– Procedural

• You must meet with the Externship Director (Professor Kotey) before enrolling;
• You must complete an Externship Application;
• You must prepare a cover letter for all employers for which you wish to work;
• You must obtain a transcript and prepare a writing sample, which the Externship Program will forward to all potential placements
3. Experiential Courses

- What are the requirements to enroll in an Externship (continued)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Externship</th>
<th>No. of credits that must be completed before enrollment</th>
<th>Course Pre-Requisites</th>
<th>CLI Florida Bar Clearance Required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td>Completion of all Foundation Courses</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil</td>
<td>45 credit hours</td>
<td>Professional Responsibility (pre-or co-req.)</td>
<td>No (but recommended)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>48 credit hours</td>
<td>Professional Responsibility; Criminal Procedure: Investigation; Evidence (pre- or co-req.)</td>
<td>Yes for SAO and State PD only; not for FPD, USAO, or law firm placement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Experiential Courses

• How many Externships can I take?
  – You can only take ONE entry-level Externship (Judicial, Criminal, Civil).
  – You can only take ONE Advanced Externship.
    • Your entry-level Externship and Advanced Externships **do not** have to be in the same category.
      – Ex: You can complete a Criminal Externship and then complete an Advanced Civil Externship.
3. Experiential Courses

- f. How many credits do I earn from completing an Externship?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Externship</th>
<th>Semester of Enrollment</th>
<th>No. of Credits</th>
<th>Graded or Pass/Fail?</th>
<th>In-Class/Non-Classroom Work Credit?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil/Criminal Externship</td>
<td>Fall or Spring</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>All Pass/Fail</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Externship</td>
<td>Fall or Spring</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 Graded 2 Pass/Fail</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil/Criminal Externship</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 Graded 4 Pass/Fail</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Externship</td>
<td>Fall, Spring, or Summer</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>All Pass/Fail</td>
<td>Non-Classroom Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester in Practice</td>
<td>Last Semester* 3L or 4L year only</td>
<td>Up to 12 for full-time work</td>
<td>Combination*</td>
<td>Combination*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Experiential Courses

• May I get paid from my externship placement and also receive course credit?

Yes
Experiential Courses

What is the hour requirement for an externship placement?

Fall / Spring 180 hours
Summer 210 hours
3. Experiential Courses

• What types of Clinics does FIU law offer?
  – Death Penalty Clinic
  – Immigration Clinic
  – Community Lawyering Clinic
  – Business, Innovation, and Technology (BIT) Clinic (formerly Small Business Clinic)
3. Experiential Courses

• What are the requirements to enroll in a Clinic?
  • You must apply; the Clinic will email the application and deadlines to all students.

Look for an email from Zoraya Ledesma!
### 3. Experiential Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinic</th>
<th>No. of Credits B/F Enroll.</th>
<th>Course Pre- or Co Requisites</th>
<th>No. of Credits</th>
<th>Pass/Fail or Graded In-Class/ Non-Classroom Work Credit?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death Penalty Clinic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Death Penalty Course (P) Professional Resp. (C/P)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Graded In-Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Professional Resp. (C/P) Evidence (C/P) Immigration Law (C/P)</td>
<td>4 or 6</td>
<td>Graded In-Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Lawyering Clinic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Professional Resp. (C/P) and ONE: Family Law (C/P) Health Law (C/P) Admin Law (C/P) Disability Law (C/P) Immigration Law (C/P)</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Graded In-Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIT Clinic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Professional Resp. (C/P) Bus. Orgs. (C/P)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Graded In-Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Credits/Hours Conversion for Clinics

- 2 credits = 112 hours / semester
- 3 credits = 168 hours/ semester
- 4 credits = 196 hours / semester
- 5 credits = 238 hours/ semester
- 6 credits = 280 hours/ semester
Experiential Courses

Are there credit caps on Experiential Courses?

Yes.

- You may NOT enroll in more than 20 hours (combined) of
  - Trial Advocacy (12 credits maximum)
  - Appellate Advocacy
  - Clinical (12 credits maximum)
  - Externship (12 credits maximum)
II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

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  – 4. Non-Classroom Work
4. Non-Classroom Work

• a. What is Non-Classroom Work?
  – Credit-earning work that is not completed in a classroom.
  – Pass/Fail.

• b. What types of credit-earning work is considered Non-Classroom Work?
  – (Some) Externship credits;
  – Law Review;
  – Some Team competitions; and
  – Independent Study.
4. Non-Classroom Work

• Is there anything else I need to know about Non-Classroom Work?
  – Students are limited to a total of 6 credits for Non-Classroom work; no more than 4 of those can be for Independent Study.
Intellectual Property Law Certificate

• Faculty Contacts: Professor Travis and Professor Osei Tutu
• Completion of required credits in designated Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Law courses.
• For more information, visit: https://law.fiu.edu/academics/curriculum/certificate/
B. How do I plan my schedule?

• Map out your requirements and the courses you want to take.
• Check out the Pathways to the Profession. (Under the Academics link on the FIU Law website).
• The Registrar’s Office will issue a Course Registration Guide for Summer and Fall courses. It will provide:
  – All courses offered;
  – What requirements those courses fulfill; and
  – Descriptions for all seminars offered in those terms.
C. How do I register for Upper-Level Courses?

• You register for classes through Panthersoft.
• For Summer 2020 courses, you will register in April.
• For Fall 2020 courses, you will register in June.
• For Spring 2021 courses, you will register in November 2020.
• You will receive registration instructions and a registration appointment from the Registrar’s Office.
D. Pro Bono Requirement

• All students must complete 30 hours of pro bono work before the fall of their final year.
• Students who complete 130 hours of pro bono work will receive a graduation medallion.
• Pro bono hours may be completed at FIU Law or at an outside placement.
• You should start pro bono work by this summer!
• For approved placements, please visit:

https://law.fiu.edu/pro-bono/
D. Pro Bono Requirement

• To get started, please visit the Pro Bono website and meet with Zoraya Ledesma.