

A faint, light blue watermark of a pair of scales of justice is centered in the background of the slide. The scales are balanced, with a central vertical pillar and two pans hanging from a horizontal beam.

# Selecting Upper-Level Courses

Spring 2020

A large, faint watermark of a pair of scales of justice is centered in the background of the slide. The scales are rendered in a light blue color, matching the background, and are slightly out of focus.

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

Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Fall 2020
Torts	LSV II	Constitutional Law
Contracts	Civil Procedure	Intro. to International and Comp. Law
LSV I	Property	Criminal Law

- 31 credits of Foundation Courses.
- Completion of (and credit for) UPPER-LEVEL COURSES
  - 59 credits of Upper-Level Courses.


A faint, light blue silhouette of a pair of scales of justice is centered in the background of the slide. The scales are balanced, with a central vertical pillar and two pans hanging from a horizontal beam.

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.
- Designed to teach a specific area of law (ex: Torts, Intellectual Property, Family 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

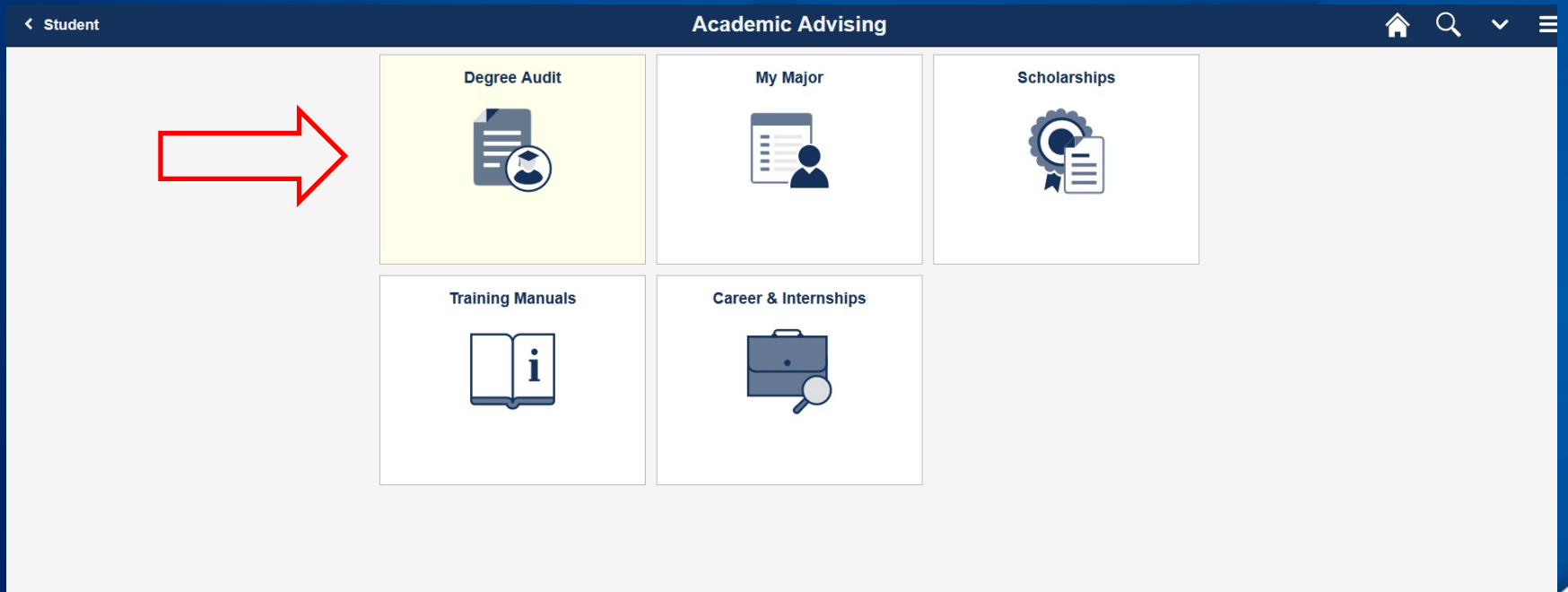
- **How do I know whether a course satisfies the specific J.D. requirements?**
  - Registrar's Office will provide Course Registration Guide, which lists all courses and which (if any) requirements they fulfill; and
  - Degree audit on <https://myfiu.edu>.
- **Can a single course satisfy two or more 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

MY **FIU** Student Home Dropdown

<b>Profile</b>  	<b>My Messages</b>  2 New	<b>Student Tools</b> 	<b>Tasks</b>  1 To Do's 4 Holds
<b>Admissions</b>  	<b>Academic Advising</b> 	<b>Manage Classes</b> 	<b>Financial Aid</b> 
<b>Financial Account</b>  Payment Due	<b>Academic Records</b> 	<b>Career &amp; Internships</b> 	<b>How-to Videos</b> 

# Degree Audit

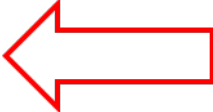


# Degree Audit

Academic Advising **Degree Audit Summary** Home Search

- Advisors
- Panther Degree Audit Summary**
- Panther Degree Audit
- View What-if Report
- My Planner
- MyCourseScheduler
- Apply for Graduation

**i** 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:  
[http://catalog.fiu.edu/2015\\_2016/graduate/College\\_of\\_Law/Graduate\\_College\\_of\\_Law.pdf](http://catalog.fiu.edu/2015_2016/graduate/College_of_Law/Graduate_College_of_Law.pdf)

# 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

Highly Recommended Courses	Recommended Courses
Business Organizations	Family Law
Criminal Procedure: Investigation	First Amendment
Evidence	Florida Civil Practice
Law and Procedure: U.S. and Florida	Florida Constitutional Law
Sales	Payment Systems
Wills and Trusts	Products Liability
	Remedies
	Secured Transactions

## 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

– Criminal

Government Defense  
State Attorney's Office  
Federal Public Defender

Private Criminal Defense

– Civil

Government Office

Non-Profit  
Organization

Law Firm

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)?

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

# 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?

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

# 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

Clinic	No. of Credits B/F Enroll.	Course Pre- or Co Requisites	No. of Credits	Pass/Fail or Graded In-Class/ Non-Classroom Work Credit?
Death Penalty Clinic	45	Death Penalty Course (P) Professional Resp. (C/P)	4	Graded In-Class
Immigration	45	Professional Resp. (C/P) Evidence (C/P) Immigration Law (C/P)	4 or 6	Graded In-Class
Community Lawyering Clinic	45	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)	2-4	Graded In-Class
BIT Clinic	45	Professional Resp. (C/P) Bus. Orgs. (C/P)	4	Graded In-Class



# 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

- 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 

# 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.