

# Selecting Upper-Level Courses

Guidelines for Part-Time Evening Students

Spring 2016

# I. JD Requirements

- Completion of (and credit for) all FOUNDATION COURSES

Fall 2015	Spring 2016	Fall 2016
Torts	Civil Procedure	Intro. to International and Comp. Law
Contracts	Property	Criminal Law
LSV I	LSV II	Constitutional Law

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

A faint, large-scale illustration of the scales of justice is centered in the background of the slide. The scales are rendered in a light blue color, matching the overall theme of the slide. The background is a solid, deep blue with a subtle gradient and a white curved line at the bottom right corner.

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 Upper-Level 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 the sixth semester (3L Spring) after enrollment (not counting Summer semester).
- Complete two Litigation/ADR courses.
- Complete one Upper-Level International Law course.
- Complete one seminar.
- Should complete pro bono requirement by end of 3L year.

## II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

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

# 1. Doctrinal Courses

- a. **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

- **b. Are there specific types of Doctrinal Courses that I am required to take?**
  - Yes.
    - Two Litigation and Alternative Dispute courses (could also be satisfied by one or more Skills Courses);
    - One Upper-Level International Law course;
    - One seminar;
    - Professional Responsibility
  - Wait! What is a seminar?
    - A doctrinal course that is focused on a very specific area of the law.
    - Enrollment is 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

- **c. 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>.
- **d. 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.



# 1. Doctrinal Courses

- **e. 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.

# 1. Doctrinal Courses

- **f. 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

<b>Highly Recommended Courses</b>	<b>Recommended Courses</b>
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

# 1. Doctrinal Courses

- Other Strongly Recommended Upper-Level Doctrinal Courses

**Administrative Law**

Conflict of Laws

Federal Courts

Federal Income Taxation

## 2. Skills Courses

- a. What is a Skills 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 Courses

- b. Are there any Skills Courses that I am required to take?
  - Yes.
    - LSV III.
    - Two Litigation or Alternative Dispute Resolution Courses (can also be satisfied with Doctrinal courses).
- c. Do any Skills Courses have pre-requisites or co-requisite?
  - Yes.
    - LSVIII requires completion of LSV I and LSV II.
    - Appellate Procedure I requires completion of LSV I and LSV II and all Foundation Courses.
    - Trial Advocacy requires Evidence as a pre-or-co-requisite.
    - The Registrar's Office will provide Course Registration Guide, which lists all courses that have pre-requisites.

## 2. Skills Courses

- d. Is there anything else I need to know about Skills Courses?
  - Yes. In order to qualify for the Moot Court team, you must complete Appellate Procedure I in the Fall of your 3L year.

# 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
  - Criminal
  - Civil

# 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.
    - Clinic administrator will register you on Panthersoft once your application is approved.

# 3. Experiential Courses

- d. 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 some placements do require it)
Criminal	48 credit hours	Professional Responsibility; Criminal Procedure: Investigation; Evidence (pre- or co-req.)	Yes

# 3. Experiential Courses

- e. 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?

<b>Type of Externship</b>	<b>Semester of Enrollment</b>	<b>No. of Credits</b>	<b>Graded or Pass/Fail?</b>	<b>In-Class/ Non-Classroom Work Credit?</b>
Externship	Fall or Spring	4	2 Graded 2 Pass/Fail	In Class
Externship	Summer	6	2 Graded 4 Pass/Fail	In Class
Advanced Externship	Fall, Spring, or Summer	2-4	All Pass/Fail	Non-Classroom Work

# 3. Experiential Courses

- g. What types of Clinics does FIU law offer?
  - Death Penalty Clinic
  - Immigration and Immigrant Children’s Clinic ←
  - Community Lawyering Clinic
    - Neighborhood HELP
    - Domestic Violence Project
    - Veterans’ Project
  - Small-Business Clinic ←

# 3. Experiential Courses

- h. What are the requirements to enroll in a Clinic?
  - Procedural
    - You must apply; the Clinic will email the application and deadlines to all students.
    - Clinic administrator will register you on Panthersoft once your application is approved.

# 3. Experiential Courses

- h. What are the requirements to enroll in a Clinic?
  - Pre-Requisites and Co-Requisites

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 and Immigrant Children's Clinic	45; 48 if need to appear in state court	Professional Resp. (C/P) Evidence (C/P) Immigration Law (C/P)	4, 5, or 6	Graded In-Class
Community Lawyering Clinic	45	Professional Resp. (C/P) and ONE:	4	Graded In-Class



# Credits/Hours Conversion for Clinics

- 4 credits = 196 hours / semester
- 5 credits = 238 hours/ semester
- 6 credits = 280 hours/ semester

# 3. Experiential Courses

- i. Is there anything else I need to know about Experiential Courses?
  - 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)

# 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;
  - Moot Court/Trial Team competitions; and
  - Independent Study.

## 4. Non-Classroom Work

- c. 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.

# Certificate Programs at FIU Law

- Intellectual Property Law
- Environmental and Natural Resources Law

# 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, please visit:

<https://law.fiu.edu/academics/curriculum/certificate/>

# Environmental and Natural Resources Law Certificate

- Faculty Contacts: Professor Robbins and Professor Stoa
- Completion of required credits in designated Environmental and Natural Resources courses.
- Field Study in Cuba (Spring 2017)

- For more information, please visit:

<https://law.fiu.edu/academics/curriculum/environmental-law-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](#).
- 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. You will receive a registration appointment from the Registrar.
- You will For Summer 2016 courses, you will register in April 2016.
- For Fall 2016 courses, you will register in June 2016.
- For Spring 2017 courses, you will register in November 2016.