

A faint, light blue watermark of a pair of scales of justice is centered in the background of the slide. The scales are slightly tilted, with the right pan appearing lower than the left.

Selecting Upper-Level Courses

Spring 2018

A faint, large-scale illustration 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 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

I. JD Requirements

- Completion of (and credit for) all FOUNDATION COURSES

Fall 2017	Spring 2018	Fall 2018
Torts	LSV II	Constitutional Law
Contracts	Civil Procedure	Criminal Law
LSV I	Property	Intro. Inter. Comp. Law

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

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.
- 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.
- Complete pro bono requirement by end of 2L year.

Upper-Level J.D. Requirements

- **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

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the FIU myportal interface. The browser's address bar shows the URL: https://myportal.fiu.edu/psp/psepprd/EMPLOYEE/EMPL/h?tab=FIU_STUDENT_TAB. The page is organized into several sections:

- Academic Advisement:** Contains links for [Panther Degree Audit](#) (highlighted with a red arrow) and [Panther Degree Audit Summary](#).
- Document Upload:** Includes a section for [Upload My Documents](#) with instructions on submitting documents for Financial Aid, Registration, or Undergraduate Admissions.
- Course Evaluations:** Features a [Course Evaluations](#) link and a brief description of the online evaluation process.
- Campus Resources:** Lists various services such as [Meal Plans](#), [Student Elections](#), [FIU Online](#), and [Virtual Parking Permits](#).
- Internship Opportunities:** Promotes [Career Services](#).
- Finances:** Includes a **My Account** section with a **Static Image** stating "You have no outstanding charges at this time." and links for [Account Inquiry](#), [Direct Deposit](#), [Payment Plan](#), and [International Wire Payments](#). It also has a **Financial Aid** section with links for [View Financial Aid](#), [Accept/Decline Awards](#), and [Report Other Financial Aid](#).
- Personal Information:** Contains a **Contact Information** form with fields for [Home Address](#), [Address 2](#), [Home Phone](#), and [FIU Email Address](#).
- Admissions:** Features an **Application Status** section with a **Static Image** stating "You do not have any pending applications at this time."
- Right Sidebar:** Contains several utility sections: **To Do List Items**, **Enrollment Dates** (with [Open Enrollment Dates](#) link), **More Appointments**, **Registrar Links** (including [FIU Home Page](#), [FLVC.org](#), and [Enrollment Verification](#)), **Student Health Portal** (with [Immunization Waivers FAQ](#) and [Student Health Portal](#) links), and **Student Electronic Forms** (with [My_eForm](#) and [Student eForms](#) links).

The browser's search bar at the bottom shows the text "trade" and indicates "1 of 1 match".

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

- **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

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

1. Doctrinal Courses

- Other Strongly Recommended Upper-Level Doctrinal Courses

Administrative Law
Conflict of Laws
Federal Courts
Federal Income Taxation

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



2. Skills/Simulation Courses

- You must complete six credit hours of **Simulation** *or* **Experiential** 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

Do any Skills/Simulation Courses have pre-requisites or co-requisites?

– 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/Simulation Courses

Skills/Simulation Courses and Competition Teams: What you need to know:

- In order to qualify for the **Moot Court** team, you must complete Appellate Procedure I in the 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

- 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 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

- 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?

Type of Externship	Semester of Enrollment	No. of Credits	Graded or Pass/Fail?	In-Class/ Non-Classroom Work Credit?
Any Externship	Fall or Spring	4	All Pass/Fail	In Class
Judicial Externship	Summer	3	1 Graded 2 Pass/Fail	In Class
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

- g. May I get paid from my externship placement and also receive course credit?

Yes

3. Experiential Courses

- g. What types of Clinics does FIU law offer?
 - Death Penalty Clinic
 - Immigration Clinic
 - Community Lawyering Clinic
 - Small-Business Clinic

3. Experiential Courses

- h. 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 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: Health Law (C/P) Admin Law (C/P) Disability Law (C/P) Immigration Law (C/P)	2-4	Graded In-Class
Small-Business 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

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)

II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

- A. What types of Upper-Level Courses are offered at FIU Law?
 - 1. Doctrinal Courses
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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, visit:

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

Environmental and Natural Resources Law Certificate

- Faculty Contacts: Professor Robbins
- Completion of required credits in designated Environmental and Natural Resources courses.
- Possible Field Study.
- For more information, visit:

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

Summer 2018

Study Abroad in Seville, Spain

- Sports and Entertainment Law (M. Gomez)
- Comparative Property Law (Rodriguez-Dod)
- Courses satisfy the upper-level international course requirement.

It's not too late! Visit or email (ldlima@fiu.edu)
Lisbeth D'Lima at the FIU Law Office of
International
Programs!

Summer 2018

On Campus Courses

(Summer Course schedule is not finalized; if these classes are offered, these are the ones you should consider.)

- Judicial Externship (in-class portion)
- Florida Constitutional Law
- Administrative Law
- Professional Responsibility

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 2018 courses, you will register in April.
- For Fall 2018 courses, you will register in June (not applicable to you).
- For Spring 2019 courses, you will register in November 2018.
- 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.
- We will have a Pro Bono Program information table (where you can meet with Zoraya Ledesma) at Academic Advising Session Part II on Friday, March 23, at 12:30 p.m.