



Graduation Requirements

for students entering August 2026 and later

TOTAL CREDITS: Students must complete a total of at least **88 academic credits** and **6 Professional Development credits**.

A. FIRST YEAR REQUIREMENTS:

Full-Time:

Fall Semester (15)	Spring Semester (15)
Civil Procedure (4)	Constitutional Law (4)
Criminal Law (4)	Contracts (4)
Torts (4)	Property (4)
Legal Skills I (3)	Legal Skills II (3)
	IL Lab for ASAP students (0)

Part-Time Day:

First Semester (11 credits)	Second Semester (11 credits)	Third Semester (4 credits)
Civil Procedure (4)	Contracts (4)	Criminal Law (4)
Torts (4)	Property (4)	
Legal Skills I (3)	Legal Skills II (3)	Fourth Semester (4 credits)
	1L Lab for ASAP students (0)	Constitutional Law (4)

FLEX Part-Time:

First Semester (11 credits)	Second Semester (11 credits)	Third Semester (4 credits)
Civil Procedure (4)	Contracts (4)	Constitutional Law (4)
Torts (4)	Criminal Law (4)	Property (4)
Legal Skills I (3)	Legal Skills II (3)	
	1L Lab for ASAP students (0)	

B. UPPER LEVEL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Professional Responsibility** (2L Year for FT and 2L or 3L year for PT)
- Upper Level Skills Requirement**

Students must successfully complete a total of 6 credits of coursework in courses approved by the Faculty Curriculum Committee as upper-level skills courses. This requirement can be satisfied by choosing Option 1 or Option 2, below.

Option 1 – ONE Course from the following list (at least 6 credits each):

Clinic: Criminal Defense (6/6)
 Clinic: Environmental Litigation (6)
 Clinic: Fairbridge Investor Rights (5/4)
 Clinic: Food and Farm Business (6)
 Clinic: Immigration Justice (6)
 Externship: Corporate (6)
 Externship: Environmental Law (DC) (6)
 Externship: Legal Services (6 CR version)
 Externship: Honors Prosecution (6)
 Pro Bono Scholars Program (15)
 Semester-in-Practice (14)

Option 2 – At least SIX credits from courses in the below lists, in any combination, as long as at least one course comes from Column A (credit allocations are in parentheses):

Column A

Clinic: Health Law/ Disability Rights (4)
 Clinic: Gould Representation in Mediation (4)
 Environmental Skills (4)
 Externship: Environmental Law (NY) (4)
 Externship: Family Court (3)
 Externship: Federal Judicial Honors (4; spring)
 Externship: Legal Services (4 credit version)
 Externship: Prosecution (4)
 Externship: Real Estate (3 or 4)
 Externship: Social Justice Advocacy (3)
 Federal Criminal Pre-Trial Simulation (4)
 Lawyering (4)
 Mediation Practicum (4)
 Pre-trial Civil Litigation Simulation (4)
 Trial Advocacy (4)

Column B

Advanced Appellate Advocacy (3)
 Advanced Legal Research (3)
 Advanced Real Property (3)
 Advanced Trial Advocacy (3)
 Commercial Real Estate Trans. & Skills (3)
 Drafting Legal Documents (2)
 Environmental Dispute Resolution (3)
 Healthcare Lawyering Skills (2)
 Intellectual Property Agreements & Licensing (3)
 Law Practice Management (3)
 Matrimonial Practice (2)
 Negotiations (2)
 Patent Practice and Procedure (3)
 Skills Workshop (any; 1 credit each)
 Trademark Practice and Procedure (2)

Students may not satisfy both the Upper-Level Skills Requirement and the Upper-Level Writing Requirement with the same course except that for a 2-semester clinic, a student may use the Fall semester of the clinic to satisfy one requirement and the Spring semester to satisfy the other requirement. For purposes of this rule, the seminar component of a clinic or externship is considered the same course as such clinic or externship, even if the seminar component bears a separate course number.

- 3. Upper Level Writing Requirement, including Research & Citation Workshop. Please see Registration Guide for a full list of courses that satisfy this requirement.**

4. Administrative Law/Regulatory Process Requirement (1 course, minimum 3 credits)

☐ Administrative Law	☐ Labor Law
☐ Environmental Skills	☐ Law & Education (Prof. Morris)
☐ Environmental Law Survey	☐ Legislative and Regulatory Processes
☐ Federal Income Taxation I	☐ Natural Resources Law
☐ Health Law in America	☐ Securities Regulation
☐ Immigration Justice Clinic	

- 5. Professional Development Requirement:** Registration and counseling with CCPD, and 6 PD credits in approved activities. 1 of the 6 PD credits must be diversity-based (for those entering Fall 2022 and later). See Career Services for a list of approved activities. **These are not considered academic credits.**
- 6. For ASAP students only: All courses required as part of the ASAP program (Principles of Legal Analysis, Bar Preparation courses in final year)**
- 7. For students who earn lower than a 3.0 GPA after the first year:** Students whose first-year (1L) cumulative GPA is below 3.0 must enroll in and pass Evidence, Criminal Procedure: Investigations, and Corporations.

C. Limitations on Allocation of Credits: Under the Rules of the New York Court of Appeals and the ABA, of the 88 Academic credits required to graduate, no more than an aggregate 24 of those 88 Academic credits may fall into the following categories:

1. Field Placement: Credits designated as "Field Placement" in externships, practicums, and continued clinical work, not including credits earned from any seminar accompanying those credits;
2. Non-law graduate school: A maximum of 12 credits taken at a non-law graduate school after matriculation at the Law School as a J.D. student, either as a joint degree candidate or otherwise;
3. Co-curricular: A maximum of 4 credits in non-classroom based, co-curricular activities such as Moot Court or other Student Competition teams,
4. Law Review: A maximum of 2 credits in the first year of membership, and a maximum of 4 credits in the second and third years of membership;
5. Faculty-guided research: A maximum of 4 credits of Guided Research or Directed Research;
6. Faculty-guided Writing Project (for the Federal Judicial Honors Program): 1 credit; and
7. A maximum of 4 credits in Teaching Assistant Credits.

D. Distance Education: Of the 88 Academic credits required to graduate, no more than 15 of those credits may be credits from Distance Education courses.

E. NY STATE BAR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. All law students seeking admission to the New York State (NYS) Bar must perform 50 hours of qualifying pro bono work. Completion and certification of these pro bono hours is each student's responsibility. For more information, [visit the NYS 50-Hour Pro Bono Requirement](#).
2. All students must establish that they have acquired the skills and are familiar with the professional values necessary to competently practice law. JD students entering in the Fall 2016 semester or thereafter who complete the USLR (see page 1) will meet this requirement.