# Academic Advising

Presented by Kirsha Trychta

Academic Excellence Center Director & Teaching Professor

Last Updated October 2, 2024

**WVULAW**
**Academic Excellence Center**

1

---

# Presentation Overview

➢Requirements

➢Electives

➢Outside the Classroom

➢Career Planning

➢Additional Resources

**WVULAW**
**Academic Excellence Center**
Academic Planning Worksheets

**First-Year Required Courses (32 credits)**
_____ Civil Procedure Rules (3)
_____ Contracts I (4)
_____ Criminal Law (3)
_____ Torts I (4)
_____ Legal Writing I (2)
_____ Intro to Legal Research (1)
_____ Civil Procedure Jurisdiction (2)
_____ Constitutional Law I (4)
_____ Legislation & Regulation (3)
_____ Property (4)
_____ Legal Writing II (2)

**Upper-Level Required Courses (13+ credits)**
_____ Professional Responsibility in 2L year (3)
_____ Appellate Advocacy (2)
_____ Seminar Requirement (2-3)
_____ Perspective Requirement (2-3)
_____ Capstone Requirement (4+)
        Either Business Transaction Drafting (4) or
        Evidence (3) + Trial Advocacy (4), or
        Evidence (3) + Clinical Law Program, or
        Evidence (3) + Federal Externship

**Bar Tested Electives**
_____ Business Organizations (4) (fall + spring)
_____ Conflict of Laws (3)
_____ Constitutional Law II (3) (fall)
_____ Criminal Pro. Investigation (3) (fall + spring)
_____ Evidence (3) (fall + spring)
_____ Family Law (3) (fall)
_____ Sales and Secured Transactions (4) (spring)
_____ Torts II (3)
_____ Wealth Transfers (3) (fall)

**Bar Preparation Courses (online)**
_____ Essay Writing Workshop I (1)
_____ Multiple Choice MBE Workshop (2)
_____ Multistate Performance Test Workshop (1)

**Other Electives**
_____ Elective: _____
_____ Elective: _____
_____ Elective: _____
_____ Elective: _____
_____ Elective: _____
_____ Elective: _____

2

# Requirements

## Requirements

❑91 credits, with 2.50 GPA
❑First Year Courses
❑2L Admin Law
❑2L Professional Responsibility
❑Appellate Advocacy
❑Seminar course
❑Perspective (3Ls only)
❑Capstone course

# Enrollment Standards for Financial Aid

https://financialaid.wvu.edu/home/disbursement-refunds/enrollment-standards#Standards

| Enrollment Status | Fall/Spring | Summer |
|---|---|---|
| Full-Time | 9 or more | 6 |
| 3/4 Time | 6 to 8 | 4 to 5 |
| Half Time | 5 | 3 |
| Less Than Half | 1 to 4 | 1 to 2 |

# Required: First Year Courses

- Civil Procedure I (4)
- Criminal Law (3)
- Legal Research (1)
- Legal Writing I (3)
- Torts I (4)
- Constitutional Law I (4)
- Contracts I (4)
- Legal Writing II (2)
- Property (4)
- Professionalism (1)

## Required: Two Second Year Courses
### (3-Credit Courses Offered Every Semester)

**Administrative Law 764**
- Statutory interpretation
- Agency regulations

**Professional Responsibility 742**
- Lawyer Ethics
- MPRE Exam

## Required: Anytime in Upper-Level

**Seminar**
- Research Paper
- 2 credits

**Appellate Advocacy**
- Aka Legal Writing 3
- 2 credits

**Capstone**
- Skills Focused
- 4+ credits

*Tip: Spread out these intensive courses across three semesters. Must earn a C or better in these required courses.

# Required: Seminar Course

- Small-sized class with discussions geared toward the production of a substantial (i.e. 25+ pages) written product supported by extensive research
- Offered in fall and spring semesters
- Typically 2 credits
- May take anytime before graduation
- Must earn a grade of "C" or better
- Usually **red colored** on the schedule grid

# Required: Appellate Advocacy

- Drafting of an appellate brief and an argumentation of the brief, similar to legal writing
- Offered in fall and spring semesters, and occasionally in the summer too
- Typically 2 credits
- May take anytime before graduation
- Must earn a grade of "C" or better
- Usually **green colored** on the schedule grid

# Required: Capstone Course

- Provides students with opportunity to synthesize critically and apply knowledge and skills they have developed during law school
- May take anytime before graduation
- Choose From:
  - Business Transaction Drafting
  - Trial Advocacy, with Evidence pre-req.
  - Clinic, with potential pre-reqs.
  - Federal Externship, with Evidence pre-req.

# Clinics in Your Third Year

https://www.law.wvu.edu/clinical-law/information-for-law-students

| Clinic | Rule 10 Evidence + PR + GPA | Preferences |
|---|---|---|
| Child and Family | Yes | Family Law |
| Immigration | No | Immigration Law |
| Innocence Project | Yes | Demonstrated Interest |
| Litigation / General | Yes | |
| Veterans | Yes | Student Veterans |
| Land Use | No | Demonstrated Interest |
| Supreme Court | No | |

# Electives

## Electives

**Tested on the Bar Exam**

**Not Tested on the Bar Exam**

**Non-Law and Non-Classroom**

# Bar Exam Tested Electives

## Essay & Multiple Choice
- Evidence
- Civil Procedure II
- Criminal Procedure I
- Constitutional Law II
- Contracts II / Sales
- Torts II

## Essay Only
- Business Organizations
- Family Law
- Secured Transactions*
- Wealth Transfers*

*not tested in 2026*

---

| Subject | July 2025 | Feb. 2026 | July 2026* | Feb. 2027 | July 2027 | Feb. 2028 | Feb. 2028 | July 2028 | Feb. 2029 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Business Associations | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Civil Procedure | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Conflict of Laws | Green | Green | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red |
| Constitutional Law | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Contracts | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Criminal Law | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Criminal Procedure | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Evidence | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Family Law | Green | Green | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Green | Green |
| Real Property | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Sales (UCC Art 2) | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Secured Transactions (UCC Art 9) | Green | Green | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red |
| Torts | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Trusts and Estates | Green | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |

| | |
|---|---|
| Green | Tested closed note on the bar exam |
| Yellow | Tested open note on closed universe tasks |
| Red | No longer tested on the bar exam |

# Bar Exam Preparation Workshops

| Performance Test (1) | MEE Essay Writing (1) | MBE Multiple Choice* (2) |
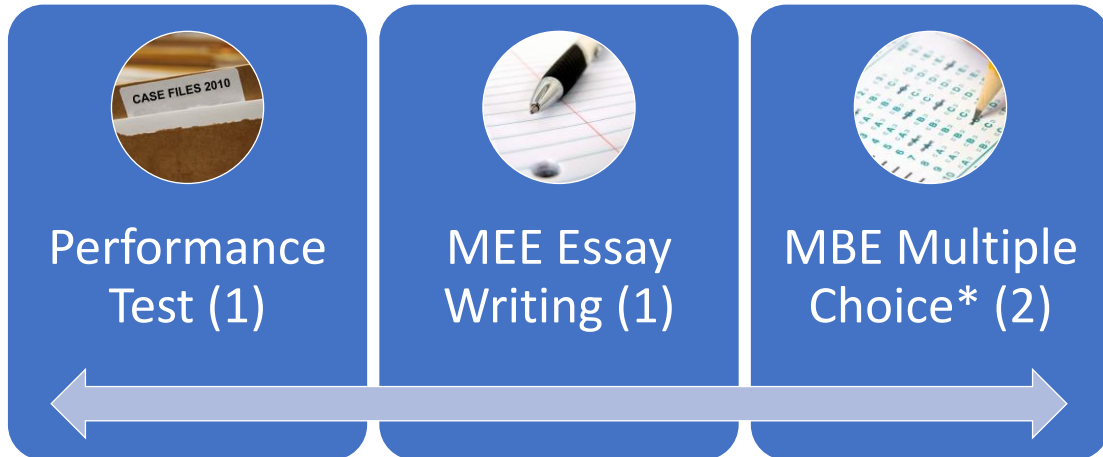
# Tip: Each semester balance one course that you "need" to take with one course that you "want" to take

**1 Fun Elective**

**1 Bar Tested Elective**
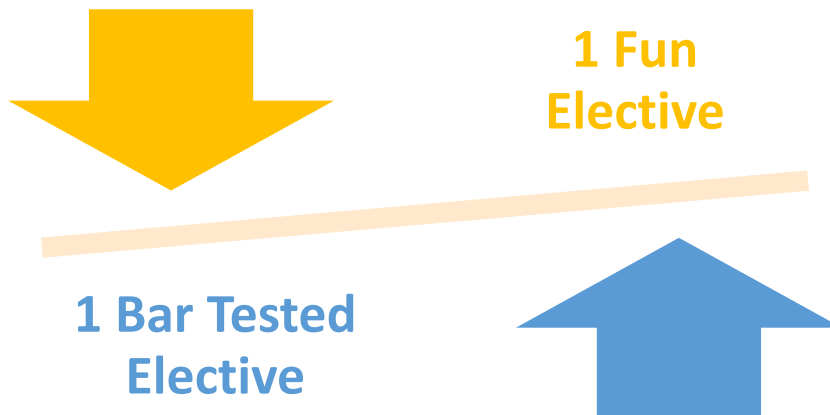
# "Outside the Classroom"

# Maximum of 26
# "Outside the Classroom" Credits

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Externship | Appellate Moot Court | Lugar Trial Advocacy | Law Review |
| Indy. Study | Foreign Study | Other Grad Dept. | Online, but covid waiver |

## Co-Curricular Application Process

| Moot Court | Lugar | Law Review |
|---|---|---|
| • Tryout at end of 1L spring<br>• 2L Comp. | • Meet pre-reqs. and apply<br>• 1L Comp. | • Write On at end of 1L spring |

# Career Planning

## Typical Career Paths

- Litigation (in the courtroom)
- Transactional (drafting documents)
- Regulatory Compliance
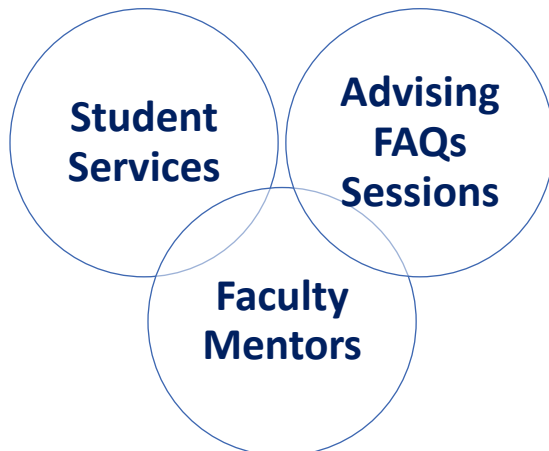- In-House Counsel
- Judicial Clerkship
- JD Preferred Career

---

## Don't go it alone!

- Start with basic FAQs and graduation requirements
- Find faculty/staff professional mentor
- Plus Career Services Staff

**Student Services**

**Advising FAQs Sessions**

**Faculty Mentors**

## Course Options for Criminal Law

- Recommended Courses
  - Criminal Procedure I: Investigation
  - Criminal Procedure II: Adjudication
  - Post-Conviction Remedies and Sentencing
  - Evidence
  - Civil Rights Section 1983
  - Litigation Skills courses, esp. Trial Advocacy
- Faculty
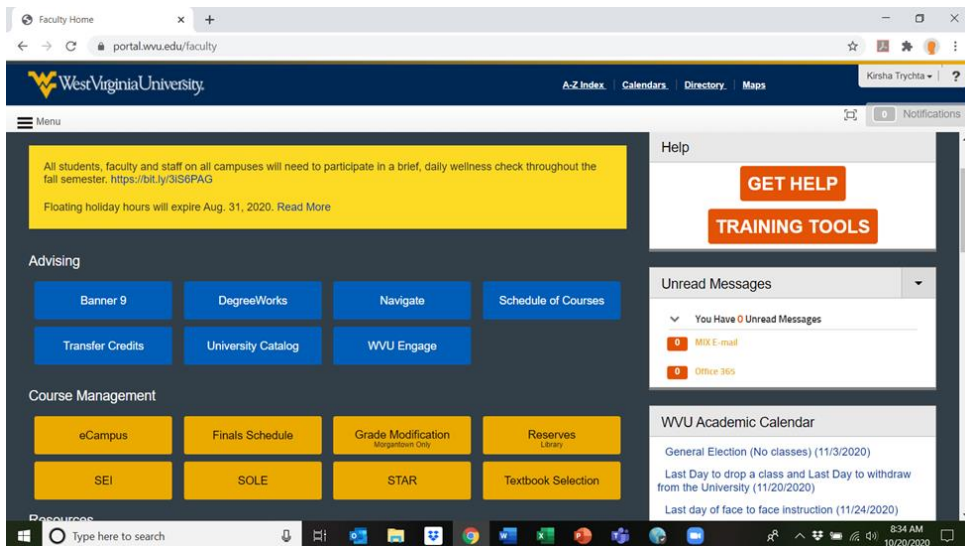  - Kirsha Trychta, Melissa Giggenbach, Cody Corliss
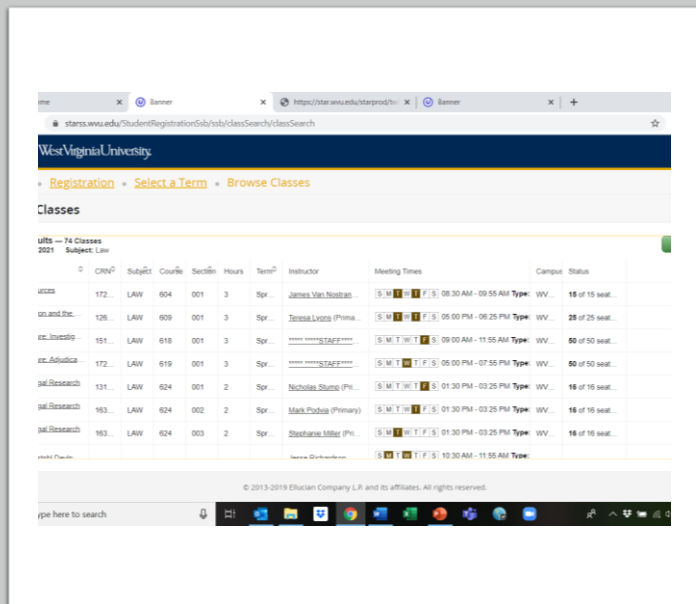
For Example

# Additional Resources

# WVU Portal
# (portal.wvu.edu)

---

## STAR Schedule of Courses

- Accessible in portal or at star.wvu.edu

- Select desired term

- Enter "Law"

- To see more on screen, uncheck "attribute" under settings wheel on left to and select "50 per page" at bottom

# STAR Schedule Builder

# DegreeWorks: Graduation Requirements

**WVU Law Academics: Course Schedule & Registration**

https://www.law.wvu.edu/academics/course-schedule-and-registration-information

# We're Here to Help

- Peers
- Faculty/Staff Mentors
- Associate Deans
- Student Services Suite
- Office of Accessibility Services (academic accommodations)