

J.D. ESTATE PLANNING EMPHASIS AREA REQUIREMENTS

Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from this program will:

- Students will demonstrate mastery of core doctrinal knowledge.
- Students will demonstrate mastery of the skills necessary for objective legal analysis
- Students will demonstrate mastery of the skills necessary for effective legal research.
- Students will demonstrate mastery of legal writing across formats
- Students will demonstrate mastery of the duties of attorneys as members of the legal profession
- Students will demonstrate ability to work with people in a professional environment.
- Students will demonstrate competency in professional work habits
- Students will demonstrate entry-level proficiency in lawyering skills

First Year Required Courses

Full-time students complete the following required courses during the first year.

Full-Time Progress

Code	Title	Credits
Typical Fall Semester		
LAW 8501	Contracts I	3
LAW 8634	Criminal Law	3
LAW 8531	Lawyering Skills I ¹	3
LAW 8541	Property I	3
LAW 8511	Torts	3
Typical Spring Semester		
LAW 8521	Civil Procedure – Pleadings, Motions, and Related Matters	3
LAW 8631	Constitutional Law	4
LAW 8502	Contracts II	3
LAW 8532	Lawyering Skills II ¹	2
LAW 8542	Property II	3
Total Credits		30

¹ **Lawyering Skills I and II:** These two first-year courses introduce students to legal reasoning; analytical and critical thinking; case research and analysis; legal writing, including office memoranda, briefs and letters to and on behalf of clients; advocacy; and all forms of legal research. They offer education in many of the fundamental skills and processes of legal practice through a combination of lecture classes and small group sessions. They are required of all first-year law students in order to supply a strong foundation of thinking, research and writing skills upon which all later, advanced courses will depend.

Part-time Progress

Students enrolled on a part-time basis typically take three of the required courses, including Lawyering Skills, in their first year. The remaining courses must be completed in their second year of study.

Other Required Courses

Students must complete the following courses as a condition of graduation:

Code	Title	Credits
Required to be Taken During the Summer Preceding or During the Fall of the Second Year		
LAW 8601	Business Organizations	3
LAW 8552	Federal Taxation	3
LAW 8522	Civil Procedure - Jurisdiction	2
Required to be Taken During the Summer Preceding or During the Second Year		
Evidence		3
Required to be Taken Prior to Graduation.		
LAW 8635	Criminal Procedure I	3

LAW 8731	Professional Responsibility	2
Experiential Course or courses (see below)		6
Total Credits		22

Experiential Course Requirement

A student must take 6 credit hours in a course or combination of courses that meet the school's experiential course requirement. These courses are primarily clinical, internship, or skills simulation courses. Courses fulfilling the requirement will be designated by the faculty.

American Bar Association (ABA) 303(c) Course Requirement

A student must take 1 credit hour in a course that meets the school's ABA 303(c) course requirement. These courses provide education to students on bias, cross-cultural competency, and racism. Courses fulfilling the requirement will be designated by the faculty. This requirement applies to students who matriculated in or after Fall 2023.

Requirements for the J.D. Degree

1. Completion of 91 credit hours, 75 of which must be classroom credits.
2. A cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 (see Administrative Rules and Regulations, Scholastic Probation and Dismissal, in this section)
3. Completion of all required courses (see Required Courses in this section).
4. Fulfilling the school's research and writing requirement. This requires students to have a rigorous writing experience evidencing legal analysis resulting in a paper of professional quality.
5. Regular and punctual class attendance.
6. Successful completion of all coursework within five years from the day students began their course of studies leading toward the degree. A student will not be allowed to enroll in any course after the five-year period, unless an exception is granted by the Student Affairs Committee.

Policy on Certification of Completion of Graduation Requirements for Bar Authorities

The Law School will certify to a state's bar authorities (such as a board of law examiners) that a student has completed degree requirements and is eligible to take a bar exam only if the following conditions have been met.

1. **Graduation Date:** A student will not be certified to take a bar exam prior to the date the student's degree has been awarded. This means that:
 - a. A May graduate's first bar exam cannot be before July of the graduation year.
 - b. An August or December graduate's first bar exam cannot be before February following the graduation year.
2. **Papers:** A student writing a paper for any course (including seminars, independent studies, and all other courses) must submit a complete, finished version of the paper by the following dates. The deadlines apply to papers written to fulfill the Research & Writing (R&W) requirement, but the deadlines also apply to all other papers.
 - a. A student graduating in May and taking the bar exam in July must have every paper completed and submitted to the professor by May 1st of the graduation year.
 - b. A student graduating in December and taking the bar exam the following February must have every paper completed and submitted to the professor by December 1st of the graduation year.
 - c. A professor may set an earlier deadline for a particular course, independent study, paper, or R&W requirement.
 - d. These deadlines are not waivable.
3. **Incompletes:** A student who has an Incomplete for any credit or credits from a previous semester must have all work required to earn the credits completed by the following dates.
 - a. A student graduating in May and taking the bar exam in July must have all work required to earn the credits completed by May 1st of the graduation year.
 - b. A student graduating in December and taking the bar exam the following February must have all work required to earn the credits completed by December 1st of the graduation year.
 - c. A professor may set an earlier deadline for the completion of any work for an Incomplete.
 - d. These deadlines are not waivable.

These deadlines will not apply where the student has an Incomplete for credits from a previous semester only because the student was in a course involving a commitment to do something (such as for a law journal, clinic, or field placement) for multiple semesters and credit is not awarded for the prior semester until the full commitment has been completed.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from this program will:

- Students will demonstrate mastery of core doctrinal knowledge and objective legal analysis within emphasis area
- Students will demonstrate mastery of research and writing skills in the emphasis area.
- Students will demonstrate entry-level proficiency in lawyering skills especially relevant to the emphasis area
- Students will demonstrate competency in professional work habits, including the ability to work with others in a professional environment.

Minimum Total Hours Required

Students must complete 24 semester hours of approved course work in the emphasis. In the final semester, students must complete a capstone portfolio assessment (not for credit) demonstrating mastery of essential skills and professional development. All courses used to satisfy the emphasis requirements must be taken for a grade (with the exception of those courses for which a grade option is not available) and a grade of B- or higher must be earned in each course counted toward the emphasis. If a student wishes to take a course that is not listed and have it count towards the minimum total hours required, the student must obtain written approval by an Emphasis Faculty Advisor.

Required Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
LAW 8541	Property I (satisfied as part of JD curriculum)	3
LAW 8542	Property II (satisfied as part of JD curriculum)	3
LAW 8552	Federal Taxation (satisfied as part of JD curriculum)	3
LAW 8611	Estates And Trusts	3
LAW 8868	Trusts: Planning, Drafting, Administering & Litigating	2-3
Total Credits		14-15

Elective Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
In addition, students must select from an approved list of elective courses (9-10 additional hours beyond the required courses above) to total 24 total semester hours.		24
LAW 8609	Ethical Issues In Family Law Representation	1-2
LAW 8610	Introduction to Trusts	1
LAW 8613I	Estate Planning and Drafting Lab	2
LAW 8614R	Estate Planning For Retirement Plan Benefits	1
LAW 8615R	Estate Planning For Charitable Giving	1
LAW 8617R	Elder Law For Estate Planners	1
LAW 8656G	Government Internship	1-6
LAW 8733E	Elder Law	2-3
LAW 8746I	Internship-Estate Planning	2-6
LAW 8751	Family Law	3
LAW 8752S	Child & Family Services Clinic	1-6
LAW 8793B	Health Law II: Regulation, Organization and Finance	2-3
LAW 8843	Federal Income Taxation Of Estates And Trusts	2
LAW 8845	Deferred Compensation	2-3

Capstone Competency Requirements

In the capstone portfolio assessment, students must demonstrate that they have fulfilled the following components within the above coursework or in other approved coursework or extracurricular experiences:

Writing Component Students must complete an academic research paper of high professional quality concerning a topic within the field of the emphasis area. Students may fulfill this requirement (1) in conjunction with any of the approved emphasis courses, (2) as part of the Law School's Research and Writing requirement, (3) as part of an Independent Study, (4) through one of the Law School's journal offerings, or (4) through a research project pursued through an internship, externship, or other practical experience. Emphasis Faculty Advisors must approve of the topic and paper quality in order to satisfy this requirement. This paper may be written in conjunction with any of the required or elective coursework or students may

submit a paper written as part of an independent study, another course, or an article written for the UMKC Law Review or other journal. Students must include this paper and may include other examples of written work product to demonstrate their writing skills as part of the portfolio assessment.

Research Component All students in the program must satisfy an advanced research requirement which provides familiarity with materials and sources frequently consulted by lawyers practicing in the estate planning and administration field. Subject to approval by the Emphasis Faculty Advisors this may entail a separate course, a component of an existing course, a separate lecture, seminar or workshop offering, or demonstrably satisfactory training on advanced research in connection with the Emphasis Writing Requirement. Work product demonstrating mastery of advanced research in the emphasis area must be included in the student's portfolio.

Practical Skills Component Students must satisfactorily complete a one-semester practical skills experience or its equivalent. Students may complete these requirement through the elective courses LAW 8656G, LAW 8746I, or LAW 8752S. Other field placement courses or clinics may be used to fulfill this requirement with approval of the emphasis advisor.

Ethics Component Each candidate for the Emphasis must attend at least 200 minutes (e.g., four 50-minute sessions) of instruction dealing with ethical issues that arise in the field of estate planning. Attendance at any session on an estate planning topic that qualifies for Missouri continuing education program ethics credits will count toward meeting this requirement, as will the viewing of such pre-recorded ethics sessions. The Emphasis Faculty Advisors may also approve other presentations that can count toward satisfying this Ethics Requirement. Students are required to include summaries and/or reflections on these presentations as part of their portfolios.