**The JD: An Overview**

The JD Degree at St. Mary’s University consists of five major components as listed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FIVE MAJOR COMPONENTS** | |
|  | 1. First Year Required Curriculum |
|  | 1. Second and Third Year Required Curriculum |
|  | 1. UBE Coursework |
|  | 1. Electives |
|  | 1. Service Requirement |

Within the JD program, students will complete a mix of required and elective courses. Please note the following requirements while planning your coursework:

* Students must complete a minimum of 90 hours before graduation.
* Courses must be completed with a “D” or higher in order to count towards the 90 hour requirement.
* Additionally, only 18 of the 90 hours may be earned through online courses (Online courses completed in Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2020, Spring 2021, or Summer 2021 do not count towards the 18 credit hour limit.) Use Appendix A to track hours.
* Ordinarily, no more than 8 ungraded elective credit hours earned at any law school may count towards graduation. However, up to 10 ungraded elective credit hours are permissible if a portion of the ungraded elective credit hours are earned as a staff writer or editor for *Law Journal* or *The Scholar*. In extraordinary cases, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs may be petitioned for a waiver to receive a higher limit. Courses taken as pass/fail during the Spring 2020 semester do not count towards the pass/fail limitation. Use Appendix B to track hours.

All JD students are bound to the degree requirements as stated in the JD Student Handbook. This Degree Overview and the accompanying Advising Worksheet are for course planning purposes and do not constitute an official degree audit. For an official audit, please utilize the Degree Works tool in your Gateway account.

**The JD: Advising Worksheet**

The purpose of this advising worksheet is to assist you in your course planning as you progress each semester. Students should review their progress on this worksheet at least once a semester prior to registration. As you complete each major component, remember to check it off on the overview sheet.

**COMPONENT 1: FIRST-YEAR REQUIRED CURRICULUM**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COURSE #** | **COURSE NAME** | **CREDIT HOURS** | **GRADE EARNED** |
| LW6477 | Civil Procedure | 4 |  |
| LW6335 | Legal Communication, Analysis & Professionalism I | 3 |  |
| LW6478 | Torts | 4 |  |
| LW6490 | Contracts | 4 |  |
| LW6336 | Legal Communication, Analysis & Professionalism II | 3 |  |
| LW6480 | Property | 4 |  |
| LW6341 | Criminal Law | 3 |  |
| LW6440 | Constitutional Law | 4 |  |

Total Hours Earned in this Component: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

GPA at the end of your first-year 29 credit hours: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*If you completed all courses in this component with a “D” or above, you have completed the first step towards graduation – congratulations!*

**COMPONENT 2: SECOND AND THIRD YEAR REQUIRED CURRICULUM**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COURSE #** | **COURSE NAME** | **CREDIT HOURS** | **GRADE EARNED** |
| LW6333 | Professional Responsibility | 3 |  |
| LWXXXX | Upper Level Writing Course:\* | Hours vary: |  |
| LWXXXX | Experiential Learning Course(s):  1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6. | Hours vary\*\*: |  |
| LW7628 | Bar Preparation for Credit\*\*\* | 2 |  |

Total Hours Earned in this Component: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

\* In order to meet the Upper Level Writing Requirement, the course must require

the completion of a 6000-word scholarly paper. Hours will vary by course.

\*\* Students are required to earn 6 credit hours of Experiential Learning. There is

no set number of courses you must take as long as you fulfill the minimum hour

requirement. For a list of courses, please refer to Appendix C: Experiential

Learning Courses.

\*\*\* Bar Preparation for Credit is required for all students with a cumulative GPA

below a 2.7. Students above this threshold may also enroll in the course.

*If you completed all requirements in this component with a “D” or above, you have completed the second step towards graduation – congratulations!*

**COMPONENT 3: UBE COURSEWORK**

The courses in this component are tested on the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE).

**If your cumulative GPA at the end of your first-year required 29 credit hours was below a 3.0, you are required to take all courses listed in this component as part of your degree plan.**

**If your cumulative GPA was 3.0 or above, you are encouraged to take courses in this component in preparation for the UBE**. These courses will count as electives toward the 90 credit hour requirement. (You may account for any courses you elect to take here.)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COURSE #** | **COURSE NAME** | **CREDIT HOURS** | **GRADE EARNED** |
| LW6434 | Evidence | 4 |  |
| LW7310 | Business Associations | 3 |  |
| LWXXXX | Sales (or Sales/Secured) | 2 or 4 |  |
| LWXXXX | Secured Transactions (or Sales / Secured) | 3 or 4 |  |
| LWXXXX | Wills & Estates (or Wills, Estates, & Trusts) | 3 or 4 |  |
| LWXXXX | Trusts (or Wills, Estates, & Trusts) | 2 or 4 |  |
| LW7375 | Constitutional Criminal Procedure | 3 |  |
| LW7331 | Family Law | 3 |  |
| LW7356 | Conflicts of Law | 3 |  |
| LW8318 | Mortgages | 3 |  |

Total Hours Earned in this Component: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*If you completed the applicable courses in this component with a “D” or above, you have completed the third step towards graduation – congratulations!*

**COMPONENT 3: UBE COURSEWORK**

**COMPONENT 4: ELECTIVES**

All students are required to complete a minimum of 90 credit hours before graduation. Determine the amount of specific elective credits required by adding the totals from each of the three components above and subtracting the sum from 90. The amount of electives required will vary by student.

Account for your electives below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COURSE #** | **COURSE NAME** | **CREDIT HOURS** | **GRADE EARNED** |
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Total Hours Earned in this Component: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*If you completed the applicable courses in this component with a “D” or above, you have completed the fourth step towards graduation – congratulations!*

**COMPONENT 5: SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

Service is a major component of the Marianist spirit at St. Mary’s and the legal profession. To foster this spirit of service, students are required to complete thirty (30) hours of service before graduation. **Keep in mind, at least fifteen (15) must be law-school approved or law-related**. Law school-approved hours are defined as services provided by law students, without compensation or credit, performed under attorney supervision, to non-profit organizations that primarily address the needs of individuals and families of limited financial means; public agencies engaged in legal work, including courts; or services performed in connection with activities and organizations approved by the Director of Pro Bono Programs.

Hours must be completed as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **STATUS** | **MINIMUM HOURS REQUIRED** | **COMPLETED? (YES/NO)** |
| Prior to completion of first 29 credit hours | 10 |  |
| Prior to completion of 60 credit hours | 20 |  |

Total Service Hours Completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*If you have completed 30 hours of service before graduation, you have satisfied the fifth step towards graduation – congratulations!*

**PROGRESS TRACKER**

**TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED = \_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Component 1 Component 2 Component 3 Component 4 TOTAL CREDIT HOURS**

**TOTAL HOURS NEEDED = 90 - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Hours Completed**

**Appendix A: Online Coursework Tracking Sheet**

According to the Law Student Handbook, only 18 of the 90 required credit hours may be completed through online courses. Online courses taken in Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2020, Spring 2021, or Summer 2021 do not count towards the 18-credit hour limit.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Online Course Name (other than those taken in semesters listed above)** | **Credit Hours** |
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Total Hours of Online Coursework Completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix B: Pass/Fail Tracking Sheet**

According to the Law Student Handbook, students are limited to 8-10 ungraded elective credit hours (pass/fail) credit hours. If over eight hours are pass/fail, a portion of the credit hours must be earned through *Law Journal* or *The Scholar*. Please review full details of the policy in the Student Handbook. Pass/fail courses taken in Spring 2020 do not count towards this limitation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pass/Fail Course Name (other than those taken in semester listed above)** | **Credit Hours** |
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Total Hours of Pass/Fail Coursework Completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix C: Experiential Learning Courses**

Students are required to complete 6 credit hours of Experiential Learning coursework. The following courses will satisfy this requirement.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **COURSE #** | **COURSE NAME** | **CREDIT HOURS** |
| LWXXXX | Clinic | 3 or 6 |
| LWXXXX | Mini Courses | 1 |
| LW7213 | Depositions Skills | 2 |
| LW7295 | Family Law Mediation | 2 |
| LW7302 | Externship | 2 or 3 |
| LW7390 | Contract Drafting | 3 |
| LW7632 | Evidence in Practice | 2 |
| LW7640 | Practices in Child Protective Services | 2 |
| LW8209 | Law Practice Management | 2 |
| LW8670 | Estate Planning | 2 |
| LW8708 | Corporate Planning | 3 |
| LW8755 | Mediation *(PREREQUISITE: Negotiation)* | 3 |
| LW8761 | Negotiation | 3 |
| LW9202 | US Attorney’s Office Western District of Texas | 2 |
| LW9202 | Bexar County District Attorney’s Office | 2 |
| LW9202 | Court of Criminal Appeals | 2 |
| LW9202 | Federal Public Defender West District of Texas | 2 |
| LW9404 | US Court of Criminal Appeals | 4 |
| LW9445 | Bexar County District Attorney 3L | 4 |
| LW9758 | Trial Advocacy *(PREREQUISITE: Evidence)* | 3 |