

Common Curricular Plan for Iowa Law Advanced Standing Students

Updated Summer 2024

Overview

Advanced Standing students usually enter the JD program with second year standing based on credit transferring in from their foreign legal studies. All foreign transfer credit is designated as elective credit. Advanced Standing students must complete all Iowa Law JD requirements during their time in the program.

Iowa Law JD Requirements

The requirements to earn a JD from Iowa Law are as follows:

- 88 total credit hours of course work (including foreign transfer credit)
- All first-year courses:
 - o Fall Semester: Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning; Contracts; Property; Torts; Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research I
 - o Spring Semester: Civil Procedure; Constitutional Law I; Criminal Law; Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research II
- Constitutional Law II
- Professional Responsibility
- 4 writing units
- 6 credit hours of experiential courses

Note that we cannot transfer in credit from LLM programs in the United States. If a student took any required first-year courses during their time in the LLM program, we may consider the student to have satisfied a graduation requirement. In this case, a student will not receive credit for the class, but we will not require the student to take the class again while in the JD program. We will only consider doctrinal first-year courses (Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law I, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, and Torts) for curricular satisfaction.

Most Advanced Standing students will need to complete all required JD coursework, including all first-year courses. For this reason, new Advanced Standing students are considered first-year students for curricular purposes and take the standard first-year curriculum in their first year in the program.

Sample Schedule

Please note this sample schedule is based on an Advanced Standing student who has the full amount of 29 foreign credit hours transfer in, and who will complete the full first-year curriculum.

<u>Fall Semester 1 (15 credits)</u>	<u>Spring Semester 1 (15 credits)</u>
Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning (1)	Civil Procedure (4)
Contracts (4)	Constitutional Law I (3)
Property (4)	Criminal Law (3)
Torts (4)	Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research II (3)
Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research I (2)	Elective (3)

<u>Fall Semester 2 (15 credits)</u>	<u>Spring Semester 2 (14 credits)</u>
Professional Responsibility (2)	Constitutional Law II (3)
Writing Units (2)	Writing Units (2)
Elective Course (3)	Skills Units (6)
Elective Course (3)	Elective Course (3)
Elective Course (3)	
Elective Course (2)	

Course Selection

Iowa Law will place Advanced Standing students into a first-year section for all their required first-year courses. Advanced Standing students will not register themselves for their first semester in the program. Advanced Standing students may be approved to take additional courses in their first year in the program, such as a January or May intersession course.

We encourage Advanced Standing students to spread out their writing and experiential units throughout their second year in the program. Examples of these types of opportunities include:

- Writing units: Law Journals, Seminars, Moot Court, Independent Research, Legislation
- Experiential units: Advanced Legal Research classes, Arbitration, Client Counseling, Clinical Law Internship Program, Field Placement Externship Program, Negotiations, Sports Law, Trial Advocacy

Some upper-level courses are part of a registration lottery.

Curricular Standing and Program Standing

There is an important distinction between an Advanced Standing student's curricular standing and program standing. Advanced Standing students are considered second-year students when they enter the program, because they can graduate in two years based on their foreign transfer credit. Advanced Standing students thus participate in On-Campus Interviews as a second-year student when they enter the program and receive bar preparation and graduation materials based on this timeline. For most other purposes, Advanced Standing students are treated as new first-year students, including for the curriculum taken in the first year, and orientation programming.

Graduation

Upon completing all the requirements to earn a JD from Iowa Law, Advanced Standing students graduate from Iowa Law with the Juris Doctor degree, which qualifies students to sit for the bar examination in any U.S. jurisdiction.

Iowa Law Student Handbook

The Student Handbook contains all the policies and procedures—on course selection, grading, retention, and misconduct—that you will need to know while a student at Iowa Law. Please take the time to [review the Student Handbook](#).