

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

2020  
2021



VERMONT  
LAW SCHOOL



## VERMONT LAW SCHOOL'S BETTER COMMUNITY STATEMENT

As members of the Vermont Law School (VLS) community, we choose to be a part of an academic community that is dedicated to principles that foster integrity, civility, and justice.

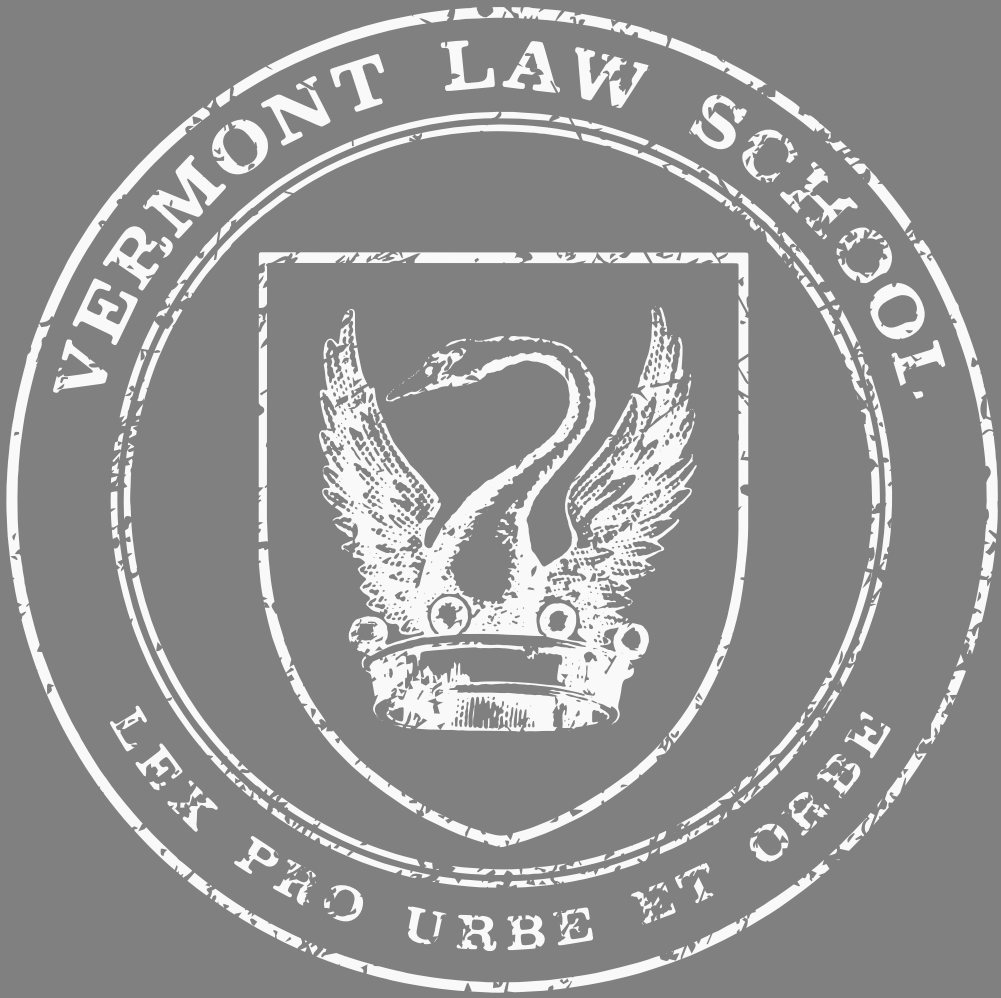
As citizens of a broad and pluralist society, we encourage those of all cultures, orientations, and backgrounds to educate and respect one another in a safe environment.

- We respect the dignity of all persons and assume the best about them.
- We challenge and reject all forms of bigotry while striving to learn from each other's differences.
- We celebrate our differences while appreciating our similarities.
- We value an inclusive environment that is accepting of each other's physical, cognitive, social, and professional differences.
- We respect the rights of each and every member of the community, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or lifestyle, medical condition, or socio-economic status.
- We realize that our common interests exceed our individual differences.

As members of the Vermont Law School community, we affirm our rights to freedom of expression and association, and the belief that they must be exercised responsibly.

The spirit of building a better community is best served when the ideals of integrity, civility, and justice are expressed and debated with tolerance, understanding, appreciation, and good will.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein, Vermont Law School reserves the right to make any changes at any time without prior notice. Notification of changes and additions will be posted on the official bulletin board in Oakes Hall and may also be distributed by campus mail, by the email system, by posting to the online Policies webpages, and by posting to the online Handbook. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the information herein and with any and all subsequent changes in official policies procedures, and regulations.



# STUDENT HANDBOOK

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>WELCOME MESSAGES</b>	<b>6</b>
Dean Jefferson, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity	6
Heather Francis JD'22, Student Bar Association President	7
<b>ACADEMIC CALENDAR</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>10</b>
Departmental Information	11
Event Planning	19
Counseling Services	20
Mediation	23
Notary Public	23
Federal Work Study Payroll Schedule	25
<b>STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>ACADEMIC REGULATIONS</b>	<b>31</b>
Introduction	32
General Provisions	32
Juris Doctor	42
Requirements for the Degree	42
Qualifications and Requirements for Clinics and Externships	48
Vermont Journal of Environmental Law and Off-Campus Programs	49
Vermont Law Review and Off-Campus Programs	50
Independent Research Projects	50
Directed Study	52
Grades and Academic Standards	53
Master's Degree Programs	56
General Provisions	56
Externships	57
Independent Research Projects	58
Directed Study	58
Grades and Academic Standards	58
Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP)	59
Master of Energy Regulation and Law Degree (MERL)	64
Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP)	65
Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ)	66
Joint Degrees	68
Joint JD/Master's Degree	68
Joint JD/LLM in Environmental Law Degree	69
Joint JD/LLM in Energy Law Degree	69
Joint JD/LLM in Food and Agriculture Law Degree	69
Dual Degrees	69
Dual Degrees – JD Program	71
Dual Degrees MELP Program	73
Dual JD/MELP Degree Programs with Other Law Schools	75
Master of Laws (LLM) Degree Programs	76
Master of Laws in Environmental Law Degree (LLM)	79
Master of Laws in Energy Law Degree (LLM)	80
Master of Laws in Food and Agriculture Law Degree	82
Master of Laws in American Legal Studies (LLM)	83

Professional Certificate Programs	84
Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice	84
Concentration Programs	85
General Practice Program Concentration	86
International and Comparative Law Concentration	87
Concentration in Climate Law	88
Concentration in Energy Law	89
Concentration in Land Use Law	90
Concentration in Water Resources Law	91
Concentration in Criminal Law	92
Concentration in Business Law	93
Concentration in Food and Agriculture Law	94
Vermont Law School Honor Code	95
Committee on Standards Policies and Procedures	101
<b>CODE OF CONDUCT</b>	<b>103</b>
Article I. Standards of Conduct	104
Article II. Application of the Code of Conduct	104
Article III. Student's Duty to Report	107
Article IV. Procedure	107
Article V. Sanctions	111
Article VI. Amendment	112
Involuntary Withdrawal or Separation	112
<b>SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, AND STALKING PROHIBITED BY TITLE IX POLICY</b>	<b>114</b>
Article I. Policy Overview	114
Article II. Statement of Nondiscrimination	114
Article III. Scope	114
Article IV. Prohibited Sexual Harassment	114
Article V. Definitions	116
Article VI. Reporting Prohibited Sexual Harassment	117
Article VII. Procedures for Resolving Complaints of Sexual Harassment	122
Article VIII. Live Hearings Under the Grievance Process	122
Article IX. Appeals	124
Article X. Remedies and Sanctions	125
Article XI. Retaliation Prohibited	125
Article XII. Confidentiality	126
Article XIII. Required Trainings	126
Article XIV. Recordkeeping	127
Article XV. Effective Date; Revisions	127
<b>MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>	<b>128</b>
Accidents and Safety Hazards	129
Alcohol Policy	129
Program for the Elimination of Alcohol and Substance Abuse	131
Business Office Policies	134
Accessing Your Online Account	134
Tuition and Fees	135
Tuition Payment Policies	136
Withdrawals	138
Residential Program	139
Summer Term	140

Online Learning Program	141
Campus Bulletin Board	142
Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices	142
Class Cancelations	143
School Cancelations / Delayed Openings	143
Flag Policy	143
Exams / Soft Test / Laptops	145
Confidentiality of Student Records (FERPA)	146
Directory of Records	148
Disability Policy and Procedures	149
Dogs on Campus	153
Service Animal Policy	153
Facilities Accessible to Disabled Students	155
Financial Aid Policies	156
Fire Safety Rules	159
Firearms, Weapons, and Explosives	159
Fitness Center Policy	159
Food and Beverage in Law School Buildings	159
Fraudulent or Dishonest Conduct Policy	159
Fundraising and Solicitation Policy	160
Solicitation Policy	161
Licensing and Use of VLS Name and Trademark	163
Locker Policy	163
Parking	163
Peaceful Assembly	164
Political Activities on Campus	164
Public Safety	167
Reporting Character and Fitness	168
Smoking Policy	169
Technology	169
Audio/Visual Support and Services for Students	173
Media Release Policy	174
<b>LOCAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>175</b>
Book Stores	176
Business Cards	176
Cable/Satellite TV and Internet	176
Cars and Car Repair	176
Children	177
Community Services	177
Composting, Recycling, Redemption, and Trash Services	178
Dry Cleaners and Laundromats	178
Entertainment and Culture	178
Farmers Markets	179
Florists	179
Furniture	180
Grocery Stores and Supermarkets	180
Hair and Nail Care	180
Insurance	181
Libraries	181
Local Resources and Services	181

Lodging	181
Massage Therapy	182
Medical	182
Other Specialized Agencies and Support	182
Alternative Health Care	182
Mental Health	183
Other Specialized Agencies and Support	183
Money and Finance	184
Newspapers	184
Passports	184
Pets	185
Photocopying	185
Recreation	185
Religious Services and Spiritual Resources	187
Restaurants and Take-Out	188
Shopping	188
Transportation	188
Weather	189



# WELCOME!



**DEAR VERMONT LAW SCHOOL STUDENT:**

I want to welcome you to campus, and express my great excitement for our year ahead! The purpose of the Student Handbook/Planner is to provide all of you with Vermont Law School's policies and resources. These policies and the expectations we have to support and respond to each other are core components of our small, rural law school community.

Most of the policies you read about here have been developed by students, faculty, and staff. A good number of resources mentioned here started out as ideas or initiatives by students. Speaking to all students, and especially our first year students, I encourage you to manage your time and focus your energies so that you can flourish on campus and beyond.

The value of your involvement in both curricular and co-curricular life cannot be overstated. Opportunities to learn are all around you, but you must shoulder much of the responsibility for using these resources to their fullest potential. You can find many different ways to socialize and make life-long friends. You may also participate in student groups, engage in music, theater, and the arts, and create a community where closeness and friendships across racial, ethnic, religious, gender, and sexual orientation, background, deepen our understanding of each other.

We are all here to help you. Do not hesitate to call on me or any of the staff and faculty if you need assistance as you learn, work, and play within the law school community.

Best wishes for a successful academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley A. Jefferson".

**Shirley A. Jefferson JD'86**  
**Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity**



# MESSAGE FROM THE SBA PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Student Bar Association (SBA), I am honored to welcome to you to the next chapter of your life at Vermont Law School. This year will leave a footprint on us as we deal with the impact of an International pandemic and one where we either elect a new U.S. President or re-elect our current President. I believe that we are ready to take on the challenges of the upcoming year and commit to show up when our family, friends, and our community needs us to.

I am honored to serve as your leader as we take a step into a year filled with uncertainty. VLS is my home. I chose VLS because of the focus on environmental law, the community-based comradery, and the vast amount of opportunities VLS offers. VLS is a tight-knit community filled with dreamers, go-getters, activists, pragmatists, and exceptional leaders.

The Student Bar Association represents our tight-knit community and addresses critical issues our school faces. We have senators from each class who work on proposals, participate in student-led committees, and attend bi-weekly meetings on Tuesdays to address students concerns. Our student trustee members meet with the board and advocate on behalf of our student body. The SBA holds events, funds a solution-conference every year, and oversees student groups. I encourage you to join the SBA and use your passion and work ethic to help cultivate our community to mirror your vision for the future of VLS. You can submit proposals to the SBA on improving our community, run for a position, join a committee, and attend town halls.

As SBA President, my goal for 2020-2021 is to focus on academic excellence and prioritize mental health. Prioritizing your health is the new normal. If you decide participating in extracurricular activities is too much for your schedule, listen to your intuition. Academics should always come before any extracurricular activities. Put all your effort into one or two things, so you may succeed in your school work instead of falling short in extracurricular positions or your classes.

Remember that you came to VLS to learn to make a difference in our world. You can do anything, but not everything.

I look forward to serving the Vermont Law School community as the SBA President for the 2020-2021 school year. If you have any concerns, thoughts, or questions please do not hesitate to reach out to the SBA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Francis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Heather Francis JD'22**  
**President, Student Bar Association**

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2020-2021

## FALL TERM 2020

### Online Classes

August 31 (Monday)  
October 12  
October 18 (Sunday)  
October 19-25  
October 26 (Monday)  
December 13 (Sunday)  
December 14-January 2

## August 22 to December 25, 2020

Online Classes Term One Begins  
Indigenous Peoples Day  
Online Classes Term One Ends  
Online Fall Break  
Online Classes Term Two Begins  
Online Classes Term Two Ends  
Online Winter Break

### Residential Classes

August 17-22  
August 19-20  
August 20  
August 21  
August 24  
September 1  
September 7  
October 10-13  
October 12  
November 4  
November 26-29  
December 4  
December 5-8  
December 9-17  
December 18

JD and Master's Orientation  
LLM Orientation  
Masters and LLM Registration Opens  
2L and 3L Registration Reopens  
Fall Classes Begin  
End of Add-Drop (5 p.m.)  
Labor Day Holiday  
Fall Recess  
Indigenous Peoples Day  
Monday Class Schedule Followed  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
Fall Classes End  
Reading Period  
Final Examination Period  
Exam Makeup Day (Snow)

## SPRING TERM 2021

### Online Classes

January 4 (Monday)  
February 21 (Sunday)  
February 22-28  
March 1 (Monday)  
April 18 (Sunday)

## January 1 to May 9, 2021

Online Classes Term One Begins  
Online Classes Term One Ends  
Online Spring Break  
Online Classes Term Two Begins  
Online Classes Term Two Ends

### Residential Classes

December 28  
January 6  
January 11  
January 15  
January 18  
January 19  
February 27-March 7  
March 2  
April 26  
April 27-28  
April 29-May 7  
May 8  
May 12  
May 15  
May 21  
May 31

February Early Bar Class starts  
Fall 1L Grades Due (12 p.m.)  
Classes Begin  
All Other Fall Grades Due (12 p.m.)  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday)  
Add-Drop Ends (5 p.m.)  
Spring Break  
Town Meeting Day (Holiday)  
Classes End (Monday Class Schedule)  
Reading Days  
Exam Period  
Preliminary Bar Exam (all 1L JD students)  
Grades for Graduating Students Due (12 p.m.)  
Commencement  
Spring Term Grades Due (12 p.m.)  
Memorial Day (Holiday)

## SUMMER TERM 2021

May 10 to August 24, 2021

### Online Classes

May 10 (Monday)  
June 27 (Sunday)  
June 28-July 4  
July 5 (Monday)  
August 22 (Sunday)

Online Term One Begins  
Online Term One Ends  
Online Mid Summer Break  
Online Term Two Begins  
Online Term Two Ends

### Residential Classes

June 1-17  
June 11-August 6  
June 21-July 1  
July 3-10  
July 12-22  
July 26-August 5

Session One (exams June 19)  
Eight-Week Classes (exams August 8)  
Session Two (exams July 3)  
Summer Residential Break  
Session Three (exams July 24)  
Session Four (exams August 7)

### AJD Residential Classes

May 27  
June 1-August 5  
June 4  
July 5-9  
    revised 2.5.20  
August 6-7  
August 9-13  
June 1-August 5  
  
August 23-26

Accelerated JD 1L Orientation  
Accelerated JD 1L Classes  
Monday Scheduled for JD 1L Classes  
AJD (and JD) Summer Break

Accelerated JD 1L Reading Period  
Accelerated JD 1L Exams  
2L and 3L Classes (various lengths)  
Exams depend on the length of class  
JD Orientation (all JD students including  
AJD students)

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August 31  
September 7

Fall On Campus Classes Begin  
Labor Day (Holiday)

Revised 2.5.20

## SCHOOL HOURS

### **FALL AND SPRING TERMS:**

Offices open Mon-Fri from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Library Information Desk Services: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends. Students can access the Library, Chase Center, Chase Computer Lab, and the Fitness Center 24/7 with their VLS proxy ID card.

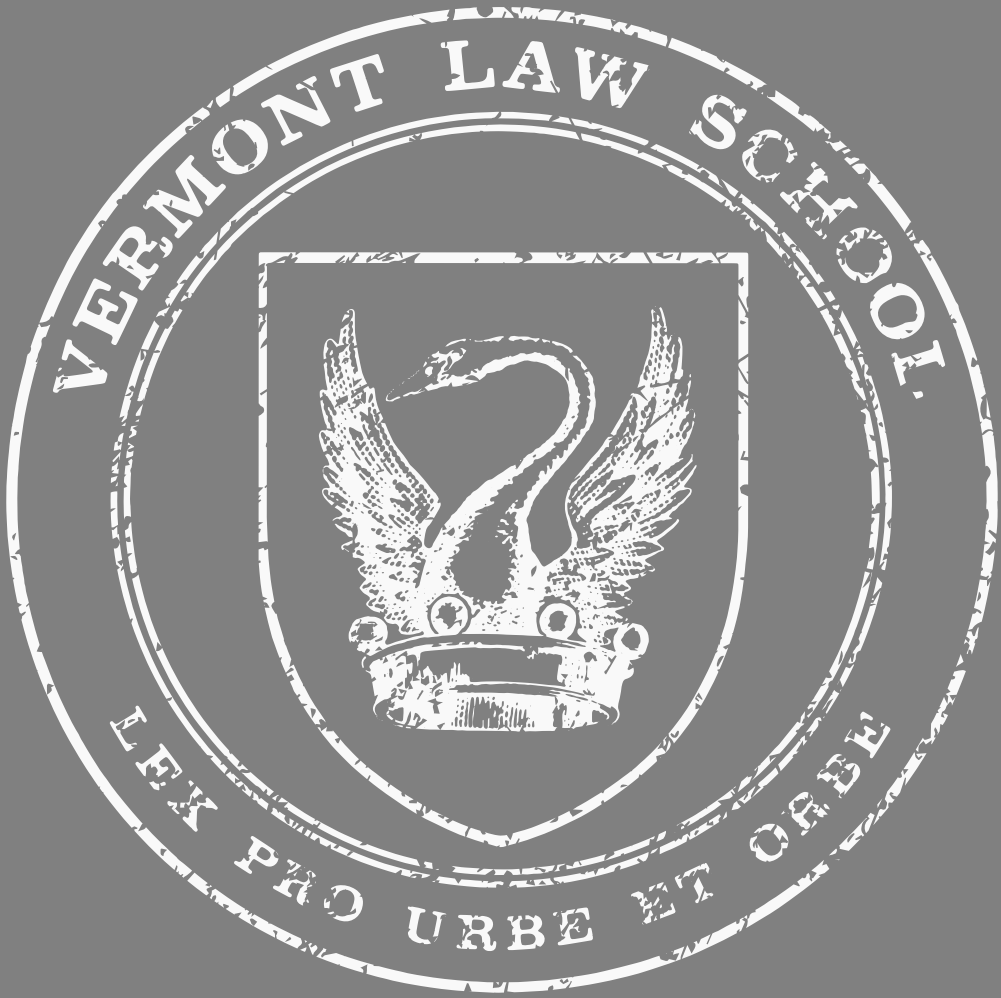
Other campus buildings are locked at midnight every night.

### **SUMMER SESSION:**

Offices open Mon-Fri from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Library: as shown left  
Chase Center, Chase Computer Lab, and the Fitness Center are accessible 24/7 with a VLS proxy ID card.

### **VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS:**

During holidays and vacations, Library Information Desk Services special hours are emailed to the VLS community and posted on the Library's webpage and in the Library. Students can access the Library 24/7 via their VLS proxy ID card except during the winter vacation break. All buildings will be locked when the library closes.



# INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES

Academic and Extra Curricular



## **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS DEBEVOISE HALL, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

The Office of Academic Affairs is responsible for supporting the work of the faculty and administering academic department programs. The Office of Academic Affairs also handles academic accommodations and other student issues involving academics.

The Office of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity serves as the primary focal point for addressing student needs, issues, and concerns and serves as a resource and referral office for all faculty, staff, and students. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity represents the student's perspective to the Vermont Law School community.

Ext. 1444	Cynthia Lewis, Vice Dean for Faculty
Ext. 1004	Beth McCormack, Vice Dean for Students
Ext. 1333	Shirley Jefferson JD'86, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity
Ext. 1281	Theresa Johnson, Assistant Director for Student Affairs
Ext. 1237	Sue Folger, Executive Assistant to the President and Dean
Ext. 1918	Stephanie Chiarella, Executive Assistant to the Vice Dean for Faculty
Ext. 1327	Ashley Ziai, Manager of Mental Health Services and Academic Accommodations, Executive Assistant to the Vice Dean for Students
Ext. 1238	Rick Floyd, Events and Virtual Student Life Coordinator

## **ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM (ASP) OLD SCHOOLHOUSE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

The Academic Success Program is designed to empower students, stimulate learning, and augment the classroom experience. ASP offers skills workshops, personal study plans and learning assessments, time management tools, bar exam information, and advice and support. All VLS students have access to informational materials, a free resource library, peer mentors, and one-on-one meetings with our departmental faculty to help you develop "best practices" for success in law school.

Ext. 1244	Joe Brennan, Director
Ext. 1105	Katrina Munyon, Program Manager
Ext. 1011	Richard Sala JD/MELP'13, Assistant Director

## **ADMISSIONS CURTIS HOUSE 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

The Admissions Office provides information on the educational opportunities available to prospective students at Vermont Law School. The office counsels students through the admissions and matriculation process.

Ext. 1308	Kelly Burkett, Admissions Counselor
Ext. 1239	Shirley Crawford JD'87, Assistant Director of Recruitment
Ext. 1326	Genevieve Nichols, Online Admissions Counselor and Student Services Advisor
Ext. 1239	Nikki Manning, Office Manager
Ext. 1070	Katie Merrill, Director of Admissions
Ext. 1334	John D. Miller, Jr. JD'09 Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications, and Adjunct Professor of Law
Ext. 1321	Veronika Schlerf, Admissions Counselor and Master's Team Lead
Ext. 1220	Nancy Wight, Admissions Outreach Manager
Ext. 1255	Simon Willbanks, Admissions Counselor and Database Administrator
Ext. 1142	Xiaoyu Zhang, Director of Partnerships

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (B&G) EATON HOUSE BARN**

The Vice President for Finance and Administration is responsible for the oversight of the Buildings and Grounds Department, Fitness Center, and the custodial subcontractor. B&G responsibilities include general maintenance and repair of all campus facilities and grounds, and providing support for special events as required. To notify Buildings and Grounds of maintenance needs or problems, please submit a helpdesk ticket by emailing [bgrequests@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:bgrequests@vermontlaw.edu).

Ext. 1260	Jeff Knudsen, Maintenance Supervisor
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## **BUSINESS OFFICE ABBOTT HOUSE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

The mission of the Business Office is to provide accurate and timely financial services and information in a friendly, service-oriented way to all community members and prospective students, thereby assisting in furthering their goals and the mission of the school. Please refer to the Vermont Law School website for updated details about tuition and health insurance. The Business Office staff and their responsibilities include:

Ext. 1218	Accounts Payable
Ext. 1271	Accounts Receivable/Student Accounts
Ext. 1219	Endowment and Grant Accountant
Ext. 1233	General Ledger Accountant
Ext. 1209	Comptroller
Ext. 1233	Student Insurance Administrator

## **CAMPUS GREENING COMMITTEE (CGC)**

The Campus Greening Committee is a standing committee of the law school, with membership open to all interested faculty, students, administrators, and staff. The charge of the Campus Greening Committee is to establish environmentally sound practices and policies that advance the ideas inherent in the institution's mission by providing leadership, education, example, and opportunity for responsible use of the Earth's finite resources.

## **CAREER SERVICES ABBOTT HOUSE, 1ST FLOOR**

The Office of Career Services (OCS) provides services to help all VLS degree students develop an effective career plan that integrates their professional development with their academic studies. We recruit employers for on-campus interviews and video interviewing; offer an online jobs database, produce weekly jobs newsletters, and professional development programs; and provide individualized career counseling. Call 802-831-1243 for an appointment.

Ext. 1243	Chandra Anderson, Program Coordinator
Ext. 1208	Abby Armstrong JD'84, Director
Ext. 1273	Monica Collins, Associate Director (Master's Program Counselor)
Ext. 1283	Eli Gleason, Assistant Director of Career Services
Ext. 1249	Shelly Parker, Recruitment Coordinator/Office Manager
Ext. 1243	Mary Sheffer, Assistant Director (Recent Grads and Alum Counselor)

## **CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS (CAFS) DEBEVOISE HALL, 3RD FLOOR**

The Center for Agriculture and Food Systems trains law and policy students to develop real-world solutions for a more sustainable and just food system. To do this, CAFS educates students through a comprehensive array of residential, online, and experiential courses. Students can pursue a degree or certificate in food and agriculture law as a Master's, JD, or LLM student. CAFS' diverse course offerings, Food and Agriculture Clinic, and varied degree options give students the opportunity to explore food and agriculture law from a variety of perspectives and experiences.

Ext. 1035	Cydnee Bence JD'20, LLM Fellow
Ext. 1030	Laurie Beyranevand JD'03, Director and Professor of Law
Ext. 1035	Claire Child, Assistant Director and Research Fellow
Ext. 1447	Sophia Kruszewski JD'13, Clinic Director and Assistant Professor of Law
Ext. 1304	Molly McDonough, Environmental Communications Specialist
Ext. 1035	Gordon Merrick JD'20, Legal Food Hub Fellow
Ext. 1063	Francine Miller, Senior Legal Fellow
Ext. 1625	Lihlani Nelson, Associate Director and Research Fellow
Ext. 1307	Whitney Shields MFALP'17, Clinical Teaching Fellow
Ext. 1072	Emily Spiegel, Assistant Professor of Law

## **CENTER FOR JUSTICE REFORM ROGERS HOUSE, 1ST FLOOR**

The Center for Justice Reform at Vermont Law School is a statewide, regional, national, and international educational and training location for justice reform efforts including restorative justice. The center trains law and graduate students, community members, criminal justice professionals, educators, social service providers, and policy makers in the value of restorative and innovative criminal justice programs.

The Center for Justice Reform is uniquely positioned to address deficiencies in our justice systems and to train the next generation of justice leaders. With residential and online educational programs including a Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ), joint JD/Master of Arts in Restorative Justice, Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice, and experiential learning opportunities, students gain the skills to become agents for change within the justice system.

Ext. 1315	Stephanie Clark, Director and Assistant Professor of Law
Ext. 1264	Alanna Ojibway, Program Manager
Ext. 1155	Dr. Lindsey Pointer, Assistant Director
Ext. 1061	Robert Sand JD'87, Founding Director and Professor of Law

## **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE CURTIS HOUSE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

The Communications Office can help students publicize VLS events that are open to the general public and provide guidance on the production of materials aimed beyond the VLS community, including use of the VLS logo or seal.

Ext. 1071	Angie Campbell, Associate Director of Marketing
Ext. 1228	Justin Campfield, Director of Communications
Ext. 1246	Karen Henderson, Creative Designer
Ext. 1354	Kate Jenkins, Social Media and Marketing Coordinator
Ext. 1229	Amy McClure, Digital Marketing Specialist
Ext. 1334	John D. Miller, Jr. JD'09, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications, and Adjunct Professor of Law
Ext. 1229	Emily Potts, Multimedia Production Manager
Ext. 1405	Ian Sears, Web Content and Digital Communications Manager

## **CORNELL LIBRARY**

The Julien and Virginia Cornell Library serves as the intellectual center for VLS students and faculty as they pursue legal education and scholarly research. The library's collection includes legal and multidisciplinary resources in print and electronic formats as well as an outstanding environmental law collection. The library staff is dedicated to providing the VLS community with exceptional service and first rate legal research instruction. We look forward to assisting you.

Ext. 1441	Library Information Desk
Ext. 1461	Library Information Desk
Ext. 1442	Lisa Donadio, ILS Administrator
Ext. 1403	Michele LaRose, Access Services Librarian and Interlibrary Loan Librarian
Ext. 1414	Rhonda Murphy, Serials and Access Services Assistant
Ext. 1448	Christine Ryan, Environmental Law Librarian and Assistant Professor
Ext. 1440	Sarah Scully, Community Legal Information Center (CLIC) Coordinator
Ext. 1446	Jennifer Sekula, Reference and Academic Outreach Librarian
Ext. 1463	Mary Snook, Evening Access Services Assistant
Ext. 1439	Beth Sullivan, Access Services and Serials Supervisor
Ext. 1449	Jane Woldow JD'99, Library Director and Associate Professor
Ext. 1445	Chenfang Yang, Electronic Resources and Technology Librarian

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CLINIC (EAC) CENTER FOR LEGAL SERVICES; LOWER LEVEL AND 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

The Environmental Advocacy Clinic at Vermont Law School trains the next generation of environmental advocates while protecting people and nature. Under the supervision of experienced environmental attorneys, student clinicians represent community groups and conservation organizations in real-world cases and projects.

Ext. 1374	Abigail André, Staff Attorney
Ext. 1630	Monica Litzelman MELP'12, Litigation Paralegal and Clinical Educator
Ext. 1123	Jim Murphy LLM'06, Director
Ext. 1627	Mason Overstreet JD'16/MELP'13, Staff Attorney
Ext. 1305	Pat Parenteau, Senior Counsel and Professor of Law
Ext. 1031	Ken Rumelt LLM'12, Senior Attorney
Ext. 1073	Rachel Stevens JD/MELP'13/LLM'16, Staff Attorney

## **THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CLINIC (EJ) CENTER FOR LEGAL SERVICES; LOWER LEVEL AND 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

The Environmental Justice Clinic at VLS is one of just a few law school clinics in the United States specifically devoted to environmental justice, an interdisciplinary practice at the intersection of civil rights and the environment. Students are involved in real-life cases. They work in partnership with low-income communities and communities of color to address racial disparities and ensure that residents can fully participate in decisions affecting their health and welfare. They gain experience working on law and policy issues at the nexus of environment, race, and policy, while also learning essential community lawyering skills.

Ext. 1365	Marianne Engelman Lado, Director
Ext. 1630	Monica Litzelman MELP'12, Litigation Paralegal and Clinical Educator
Ext. 1073	Rachel Stevens JD/MELP'13/LLM'16, Staff Attorney

## **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER (ELC) DEBEVOISE HALL, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

The Environmental Law Center is the administrative hub of Vermont Law School's environmental law programs and houses both faculty and administrative offices. The Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP), LLM in Environmental Law, Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL), LLM in Energy Law, Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP), LLM in Food and Agriculture Law, Summer Session, and Master's Externship Program are run by the ELC. The ELC also sponsors speakers and conferences throughout the year. The Environmental Law Center's programs include: the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, the Environmental Tax Policy Institute, the Institute for Energy and the Environment, the New Economy Law Center, the U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law, and the Water and Justice Program.

Ext. 1371	Courtney Collins, Assistant Director
Ext. 1338	Anne Linehan, Associate Director
Ext. 1304	Molly McDonough, Environmental Communications Specialist
Ext. 1136	Jennifer Rushlow, Director and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs
Ext. 1287	Christine Saul, Executive Assistant

## **FAMILY LAW CLINIC 190 CHELSEA ST., 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

This busy Clinic provides students with many opportunities to appear and argue cases in court on behalf of live clients. Students are able to hone their litigation skills by appearing in relief from abuse hearings as well as divorce and parentage cases. In addition, the Family Law Clinic provides many opportunities for students to interview and counsel clients, and negotiate with opposing counsel/parties. The Family Law Clinic contains the Children First! Legal Advocacy Project and the Domestic Violence Project. The Children First! Legal Advocacy Project provides representation to children caught up in high-conflict family law cases in Windsor, Orange, and Washington Counties. The Children First! Legal Advocacy Project is the only program in Vermont providing free, direct, legal representation to children in these difficult situations. The Domestic Violence Project at the South Royalton Legal Clinic provides legal representation to victims of domestic violence. We provide representation at Relief from Abuse proceedings, divorce, parentage, and juvenile matters. The Family Law Project operates under a three-year grant to provide consultations and representation in divorce and parentage matters.

Ext. 1500	Michelle Donnelly JD'13, Project Director, Staff Attorney, and Assistant Professor
Ext. 1500	Sharon Mee, Office Manager
Ext. 1500	Amanda Murphy, Program Coordinator

## **FINANCIAL AID OFFICE ABBOTT HOUSE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

Currently, approximately 90% of Vermont Law School students receive some form of financial assistance. Students are always welcome to stop by the Financial Aid Office with any questions or assistance with the aid process. The Financial Aid Office is open Monday–Friday.

Ext. 1037	Mel DeFlorio, Senior Director for Enrollment Management
Ext. 1234	Deb Becker, Operations Manager
Ext. 1235	Melissa Erickson, Financial Aid Counselor

## **FOOD SERVICE ON CAMPUS**

Aladdin Food Management Service LLC provides food services for Vermont Law School. The school's food service philosophy requests a minimum of 85% local, organic sustainably grown food be used whenever feasible. Relying on the established relationships with the local farm community, our food service procures meats, vegetables, cheese, maple syrup, and other foods that contribute to making Vermont a leader in sustainable agriculture.

### **THE CAFÉ**

The VLS Café, casual and accommodating, offers a diverse menu. To start the day, Vermont Coffee Company & Artisanal tea service, house made bagels, muffins, and pastries, breakfast made to order or "Grab & Go" breakfast sandwiches. For lunch, house made soups, hot lunch, salads, deli sandwiches made to order, "Grab & Go" options, snacks and sundries. Students may open a pre-paid account with the VLS Café. To enroll in the program or to deposit funds in an existing account, please see a Café staff member during regular business hours. Cash, checks, and charge cards are also accepted. A \$25 fee will apply on all returned checks.

With the 'After Hours Grab & Go' cooler program we hope that your needs will be better served with refreshments on campus when the VLS Café is closed. Everything from beverages, yogurt, sandwiches, salads, specialty meals and desserts are available in this cooler after hours on an honor system. Simply reconcile your purchases the next day in the Café.



- **CATERING OF ON- AND OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS**

All off-campus and on-campus events must be approved by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. Please refer to the Office for Student Affairs and Diversity section below, or go to: [25live.collegenet.com/pro/vermontlaw#!/home/event/form](https://25live.collegenet.com/pro/vermontlaw#!/home/event/form) for further information on planning catered events.

- **COMPOSTING**

VLS collaborates with Certified Organic, individual homestead and the local sustainable farm community to compost the food waste produced on campus. All food served in The Café and at catered events is compostable. Compost bins for food waste are located in The Café. Learn more about this effort from the Campus Greening Committee.

- **ALCOHOL CATERING PERMITS**

To serve alcohol at any event at Vermont Law School, an application for a permit must be filed with the town and state licensing agency a minimum of six weeks prior to your event. Applications for alcohol permits must be submitted through the Events Coordinator. There are no exceptions on the alcohol procedure and no guarantee of license approval. No alcohol can be served on campus without a state certified liquor permit! All on-campus alcohol service is provided by Aladdin.

Refer to the Office for Student Affairs and Diversity section below, or go to: [25live.collegenet.com/pro/vermontlaw#!/home/event/form](https://25live.collegenet.com/pro/vermontlaw#!/home/event/form) for further information on planning events. See also the Alcohol Policy listed under Policies and Procedures in this Student Handbook.

## **THE GENERAL PRACTICE PROGRAM (GPP) WATERMAN HALL, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

The General Practice Program provides an experiential environment for students, particularly those who contemplate a career in small firm or solo law practice, to develop the practical skills and legal knowledge to solve real-world problems. Class sizes are small and are designed to promote creativity, active discussion, collaboration and problem solving. Courses are taught by faculty, many of whom are practicing lawyers, who are experts and experienced in the fields in which they teach. Students leave the program with the skill, capacity, and insight to “hit the ground running” in general law practice.

To receive a Concentration in General Practice a student must complete 16 approved credits, eight of which must be GPP sponsored courses, including GPP Practice Labs associated with doctrinal courses in the regular curriculum. GPP Concentration students are also encouraged to participate in a Legal Clinic, a Semester in Practice (SiP), an Externship or an Internship, and these experiences can fulfill up to six credits of the 16 credits required for the GPP Concentration. In order to be a candidate for a Concentration, a student must meet with the Director of the Program to establish a course plan, and file an approved “Declaration” with the Registrar no later than the end of the fourth semester.

Ext. 1555      Donald Hayes JD’10, Director  
Ext. 1211      Brenda Caron, Faculty Support Specialist for GPP

## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND PAYROLL ANDERSON HOUSE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

The Human Resources Department is responsible for all programs, services, and systems that enable VLS to recruit, reward, and retain high performing employees. This includes such areas as staffing, compensation, benefits, performance management, training, employee relations, legal compliance, and organizational design.

While Human Resources administers payroll, all student payrolls are administered by the Financial Aid Office. Students cannot begin a work study program without completing W4 and I-9 forms.

Ext. 1225      Betsy Erwin, Director of Human Resources  
Ext. 1236      Lori Campbell, Payroll and Benefits Administrator

## **VERMONT IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CLINIC (VIA) 162 ST. PAUL STREET, BURLINGTON AND CENTER FOR LEGAL STUDIES, 190 CHELSEA STREET, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

The Vermont Immigrant Assistance Clinic works to protect the legal interests of immigrants and refugees related to persecution and torture; domestic violence; human trafficking; crime victimization; civil rights abuses; family reunification; and immigration enforcement actions. Students enrolled in the VIA will interview clients and witnesses, file applications with USCIS, draft motions for the Immigration Court, prepare legal briefs, prepare witnesses for direct and cross examination, and represent immigrants at their hearings. Other opportunities include policy work at the state and local level; community-based legal presentations; and advocacy for detained immigrants. The VIA Clinic is located in Burlington and South Royalton, Vermont. Students can choose to work in either location.

Ext. 1500 Erin Jacobsen JD'11, Managing Attorney and Professor of Law  
Ext. 1500 Sharon Mee, Office Manager  
Ext. 1500 Amanda Murphy, Program Coordinator

## **INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (IEE) EATON HOUSE**

The Institute for Energy and the Environment oversees our Masters of Energy Regulation and Law, LLM in Energy Law and JD concentration in energy law degrees and is a national and world energy policy resource focused on the energy policy of the future. The institute serves as a center for graduate research on the transition to a clean energy future and maintains a vibrant student-staffed energy clinic, which works on legal and business models for community energy development. We also support a comprehensive Research Assistant program where our student researchers tackle a wide variety of issues the world faces including low-income community access to renewable energy, clean transportation policy, cybersecurity of the electric grid and through our collaboration with CAFS, Farm and Energy sustainability issues. To learn more about the IEE and our work, visit our website at [vermontlaw.edu/energy](http://vermontlaw.edu/energy).

Ext. 1053 Genevieve Byrne, Staff Attorney, Farm and Energy Initiative  
Ext. 1056 Jenny Carter JD'87/MELP'86, Staff Attorney  
Ext. 1054 Kevin Jones, Director and Professor of Energy Law and Policy  
E xt. 1201 Jeannie Oliver LLM'14, Staff Attorney and Assistant Professor  
Ext. 1060 Dr. Tade Oyewunmi, Assistant Professor and Senior Energy Research Scholar  
Ext. 1151 Molly Smith, Program Coordinator

## **INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW PROGRAMS (ICLP) CURTIS HOUSE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

The International and Comparative Law Programs offer students an exciting range of opportunities to help them prepare to make a difference in an ever-changing global environment. Our curriculum of courses and wide choice of study experiences broaden knowledge and skills, add new perspectives, and provide the cross-cultural understanding required to practice law in an increasingly complex world. Partnerships with leading universities in Canada, England, France, and Italy allow students to study abroad in a weeklong group seminar, for a semester, or to earn a specialized dual degree. Foreign-trained lawyers can earn an LLM in American Legal Studies to qualify to sit for the bar exam in New York and Washington, D.C.

ICLP also serves a student services office for all international students, connecting individuals with resources across campus and answering questions about life in the United States. Students interested in demonstrating a committed focus to international law can earn a Concentration in International and Comparative Law. Experiential learning opportunities are available in the Applied Human Rights and International Climate Change Law courses, and international JD and master's externships. Scholarships are available for study/travel coursework and for international human rights fieldwork.

Ext. 1211 Brenda Caron, Program Coordinator

## **JD EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS ROGERS HOUSE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

The JD Externship Program at Vermont Law School provides students the opportunity to participate in three different courses: Semester in Practice (SiP) (full-time externship); Part-Time Externship; and Judicial Externship (offered on a full- and part-time basis). Students apprentice to lawyers in all areas of practice or in judicial chambers.

JD Externships provide students an opportunity—through observation, participation, practice, and reflection—to improve legal knowledge and skills and to inform and expand their vision of what the practice and profession of law can be.

The overarching goal of the externship program is to provide opportunities for students to develop lawyering skills, learn substantive law, and engage in critical reflection. Students learn about the legal profession, their legal career, and their priorities and values as lawyers and individuals through supervised field experiences and a contemporaneous seminar. Students who have a GPA of 2.4 or higher may participate in the externship programs in their fourth, fifth, or sixth semesters. The courses are offered only in the fall and spring semesters. They are not offered in the summer terms.

Ext. 1074 Matthew Bernstein, Assistant Professor of Law  
Ext. 1156 Sage Kochavi, Program Coordinator  
Ext. 1259 Beth Locker, Director of Externships and Associate Professor of Law  
Ext. 1302 Nicole Killoran JD/MELP'12, Assistant Professor of Law

## **LEGAL WRITING PROGRAM THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

The Legal Writing Program strives to make every student a better writer. The intensive, required three-semester program is designed to prepare students for practice by teaching the essential skills of critical thinking, applied analysis, and legal communication. Students write a variety of documents in different writing styles over the course of the three semesters. Professors in the program work closely with every student to establish a dialog on the particular strengths and weaknesses of their writing. Through the program, VLS students become accomplished, confident writers.

Ext. 1040	Jared Carter JD'09, Writing Specialist, Assistant Professor of Law
Ext. 1318	Catherine Fregosi JD'16, Appellate Advocacy Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Law
Ext. 1284	Greg Johnson, Director of Legal Writing and Professor of Law
Ext. 1032	Sandy Johnston, Program Coordinator for Legal Writing
Ext. 1004	Beth McCormack, Vice Dean for Students and Professor of Law
Ext. 1144	Brian Porto, Assistant Director of Legal Writing and Professor of Law

## **OFFICES FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT (OARD) DEARING HOUSE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

The Offices for Alumni Relations and Development are dedicated to building lifelong connections with students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, corporations, foundations, and friends. OARD furthers the Vermont Law School mission through continued engagement with these constituencies, and by raising funds—including the annual graduating class gift—to support the school's initiatives, programs, and scholarships.

With a robust mentoring program in place, the OARD team also strives to assist current students by matching them with alumni who work in their desired field and geographic region. Any student who is interested in becoming a mentee—or who is looking to conduct any other alumni outreach—should contact the Offices for Alumni Relations and Development for more information.

Ext. 1339	Crystal Brownell, Director of Alumni Relations
Ext. 1325	Lauren Close, Alumni Communications Manager
Ext. 1078	Brooke Herndon, Vice President for Alumni Relations and Development
Ext. 1230	Ashley Patton, Assistant Director of Data Operations and Annual Fund Manager
Ext. 1064	David Thurlow, Director of Foundations
Ext. 1314	Britny Town, Annual Fund and Class Giving Manager

## **ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM WATERMAN HALL, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

The Online Learning Program oversees all online Master's and LLM degrees, and supports VLS residential students taking online courses toward their degree. The Online Learning Program also manages relationships with other schools and organizations for those who wish to take online classes at Vermont Law School.

Ext. 1037	Mel DeFlorio, Senior Director for Enrollment Management, Online Enrollment Services
Ext. 1232	Hugh McNally, Senior Instructional Designer
Ext. 1326	Genevieve Nichols, Online Admissions Counselor and Student Services Advisor
Ext. 1241	Sarah Reiter JD'13, Faculty Director of Online Learning
Ext. 1248	Jaime Toutant, Online Program Manager
Ext. 1059	Taylor Weingart, Senior Instructional Designer

## **REGISTRAR'S OFFICE ABBOTT HOUSE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

The Registrar's Office maintains the educational records of all students upon their matriculation at Vermont Law School. As stated in VLS' FERPA policy, students have the right to review everything in their files and to challenge any perceived inaccuracy, with the exception of letters of recommendation to which they have waived the right of access. Students are required to provide the Registrar's Office with an official copy of their transcript (LSDAS copies are not official) from their degree-granting institution(s) and from all other institutions whose credits are not reflected on the transcript(s) from the degree-granting institution(s) at the time of matriculation. Students who have not satisfied this requirement will have a registration hold placed on their record preventing them from registering for classes until the hold is cleared upon receipt of the required transcript(s).

Ext. 1356	Holley Dupre, Assistant Registrar
Ext. 1261	Tammie Johnson, Associate Registrar
Ext. 1265	Maureen Moriarty, Registrar and Director of Academic Procedures

## THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO STUDENTS:

- **REGISTRATION OF CLASSES:** First-year JD students are randomly assigned to sections of the required first-year curriculum. Second- and third-year JD students and MELP, MERL, MFALP, MARJ, and LLM candidates register online for their classes in April and August.
- **GRADES AND TRANSCRIPTS:** Semester grades are available to students via CampusWeb and can be converted to an electronic document utilizing downloaded PDF creator software. Students requiring the Registrar to produce a PDF file of the VLS Cumulative Grade Report should make a request via email specifying the student ID number and whether or not class rank should be included on the record. Printed copies of grade reports are not mailed to students. Requests for official transcripts must be completed in writing via [getmytranscript.com](http://getmytranscript.com). This process typically requires 24 to 48 hours for completion, but may take longer depending upon the work demand in the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, and the Business Office. There is a charge of \$5 for each request. If the Business Office or the Financial Aid Office determines that a student has an outstanding debt to Vermont Law School, there is a hold on the student's record preventing transcripts from being produced until the debt has been cleared or arrangements have been made for payment. One (1) free transcript with the degree(s) awarded is provided to each student after graduation.
- **REQUEST FOR WRITTEN CERTIFICATION:** Students often require written certification of status for various reasons: enrollment verification for private health insurance, verification of enrollment for purposes of loan deferment, letters of good standing for scholarships and transfer, certification of degree completion for all bar examinations, etc. All such requests are processed through the Registrar's Office and require a written request, regardless of who will ultimately sign the certification. Holds placed by the Business Office due to outstanding debt to VLS may prevent release of the requested certification.
- **RETENTION OF EXAMINATIONS:** ABA standards require the retention of examinations for at least one year. Adjunct faculty examinations are retained in the Registrar's Office and VLS faculty retain the examinations for their classes. In either case, students may have access to review and/or receive a copy of their examinations. Students wishing to request copies of exams retained in the Registrar's Office should send an email specifying their student number, the course code and section, and professor for all of the exams desired. The Registrar's Office will scan the exams in its possession and send to the student via email. Faculty, at their discretion, may not allow students to receive printed copies but all students retain the right to view their exams. If a student wishes to discuss an examination with the faculty, the student needs to provide a copy to the professor in advance of the meeting. All examinations stored in the Registrar's Office are destroyed after one year.
- **NOTIFICATION OF ILLNESS AND/OR FAMILY EMERGENCY/DEATH:** Students unable to attend class because of illness, emergency, or for any other reason, should notify the Registrar's Office or the Vice Dean for Students at their earliest convenience. In turn, the Registrar's Office will notify the student's professors. Although some members of the faculty want to hear about absences directly from the student, it is generally accepted that notice from the Registrar's Office is all that is required. Depending on the reason stated for the absence, professors will determine if the absence is excused or not. Students need to inform the Registrar's Office only once in the period from Monday to Friday of any week of absences for the same reason, i.e., illness on Thursday and Friday.
- **CHANGE OF STATUS:** If a student's status at Vermont Law School is going to change for any reason, the student should inform the Registrar's Office of this in writing, i.e., request for a leave of absence, notification of withdrawal (either completely or from one package or the other if the student is a joint-degree student), etc. The Registrar's Office will then notify all appropriate offices of this change.
- **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** The Registrar's Office should have students' current addresses at all times. Students may prevent disclosure of this and other personally identifiable information by completing the necessary form available from the Registrar's Office. This request is only valid for the current academic year and must be re-filed each year as desired.
- **ELECTRONIC COPIES** of many forms (PDF files) are available on the **K drive/Course Info/Registrar Forms**.
- **FERPA AND DIRECTORY OF RECORDS:** See separate policy.

## OFFICE FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS AND DIVERSITY DEBEVOISE HALL, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

The Office of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity serves as the primary focal point for addressing student needs, issues, and concerns and serves as a resource and referral office for all faculty, staff, and students. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity represents the student's perspective to the Vermont Law School community.

The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity has been designated as the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating VLS' compliance with Title IX, including overseeing all complaints of sex discrimination and identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems that arise during the review of such complaints. The Law School's Title IX coordinator also oversees, in collaboration with other Law School offices as necessary, the Law School's response to re-



ports and complaints of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking involving Law School students and employees.

This office works with all segments of the Vermont Law School community to help students develop through opportunities, advice, and assistance. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity provides consultation, new program development, and assistance with special projects for the Dean of Vermont Law School. Specifically, the Associate Dean publishes the Student Handbook, advises the Student Bar Association (SBA), assists the Dean in processing cases of discriminatory personal conduct, including sexual harassment and sexual assault, provides human relations programming, coordinates campus-wide community meetings, supervises first-year orientation, coordinates crisis intervention and emergency response strategies with the deans, and promotes the academic and personal growth and development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender law students and other underrepresented student organizations.

The second main function of the Associate Dean's Office includes oversight of student event planning and sponsorship or participation in programming, such as the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, the Race and the Law Symposium, the annual Jewish Law Students Association Seder, Veterans Day Program, the annual Alliance Conference, the annual Women's Law Group conference, and other activities that focus on various ethnic, religious, and international law student populations. Programming is scheduled year-round in the arts, law, history, and literature. Please see Event Planning below for a complete description.

Two campus-wide committees are chaired by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. All VLS community members are welcome to attend their monthly meetings.

- **The Diversity Committee** comprises two faculty representatives, a staff representative, and student representatives from each student group funded by the SBA. The primary mission of the Diversity Committee is to educate the VLS community to understand the diversity, differences, needs, and obstacles confronted by faculty, staff, and students with diverse backgrounds.
- **The Student Services Committee** comprises a staff representative from each department of the law school, two faculty representatives, and the SBA Vice President for Student Affairs. The Student Services Committee meets monthly to exchange information, respond to concerns, and use their collective expertise to suggest solutions.

The Office for Student Affairs oversees the Student Ambassador Program. Student Ambassadors report to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity and are responsible for assisting with Fall Orientation, Alumni events, Development activities, Admissions Open House, and other various events. When not in class, Ambassadors are on-call, responsive to campus emergencies and last-minute event needs, whenever requested by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity.

The Office for Student Affairs and Diversity is also responsible for managing student lockers and VLS identification cards (VLS ID). Time is set aside during orientation week for new students, faculty, and staff to get VLS ID cards. An email announcement will go out when lockers are available for distribution. Theresa Johnson, Assistant Director for Student Affairs can answer questions regarding lockers or Student IDs. She also oversees the Events Coordinator who coordinates events for faculty, staff, and students and Commencement.

## EVENTS AND ROOM SCHEDULING

The Events Coordinator is responsible for assisting students, faculty and staff with event planning and room scheduling; acting as liaison between organizers and service providers (B&G, VLS Food Service, Communications and/or AV).

Vermont Law School uses 25Live as its event and room scheduling platform. Each student, staff, and faculty member must register and create an account in order to schedule events and/or reserve rooms. [25live.collegenet.com/pro/vermontlaw#!/home/dash](https://25live.collegenet.com/pro/vermontlaw#!/home/dash).

### HOW THE EVENTS PLANNING PROCESS WORKS:

1. **Request:** Decide who the PPOC will be, have that person complete the 25Live Event Request Form two months prior to your event. If you are requesting VLS Food Service you must include a budget amount and menu suggestions. Events less than two weeks out require special permission and should still be submitted via the 25Live Event Request Form.

2. **Review:** The Events Coordinator will review your event request and determine whether approval is granted. If additional approval is required, the Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity and the VP for Finance will be consulted. If approval is granted, the date and rooms will be secured and notice of approval will be sent to the PPOC.
3. **Service Provider Coordination:** The 25Live system is used to communicate all necessary details to the Service Providers (B&G, VLS Food Service, Communications, and AV Requests). If food service is requested, Food Service Director Martina Rutkovsky will create a banquet event order (BEO) and email it to the PPOC through the 25Live system. Once the menu is finalized the BEO must be approved within three business days of receipt. Final attendance numbers must be submitted via email to Martina two weeks prior to the event.
4. **Monthly Meeting:** Dean Jefferson and the Events Coordinator will hold a monthly meeting. It is mandatory for each student group to send one representative to this meeting each month.
5. **Collaboration:** Collaboration is strongly encouraged. Requests representing collaboration will receive special consideration.

All student events must be approved by the Office for Student Affairs and Diversity. **Applications will be considered incomplete unless all necessary forms (alcohol planning, funding request and Event Budget forms) have been submitted and the Faculty Advisor has verified their attendance.**

**Please Note: All requests involving alcohol must be received at least eight weeks in advance and include a complete signed Alcohol Planning Form.** An alcohol permit, which is required by the state, will be requested on your behalf. **Last minute requests for alcohol will be denied.**

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Floyd, Events and Virtual Student Life Coordinator, 802-831-1238 or rfloyd@vermontlaw.edu. Events are an important part of life at Vermont Law School. With careful planning, every event can be a success.

## COUNSELING SERVICES

Vermont Law School provides ten short-term, confidential, and free of charge counseling services to Vermont Law School students with no more than five sessions in any semester (fall, spring, or summer). Current on-campus hours are posted under “Mental Health Services” on our website [vermontlaw.edu/resources](http://vermontlaw.edu/resources). The office is located on the third floor of Debevoise Hall in the Belfry. To schedule an appointment in-person or via videoconference, contact The Clara Martin Center at 802-728-4466 ext. 468, and let the Access Team know you are a Vermont Law School student. Students may also contact the Center’s 24-hour emergency services line at 800-639-6360. For confidential sober support group information regarding local meetings in South Royalton, on campus, and/or the surrounding areas, visit [aavt.org](http://aavt.org) or dial the hotline at 802-295-7611.

## CoLAP

A listserv has been developed by the American Bar Association’s Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP) to provide a confidential vehicle for communication among law students in recovery. The listserv provides an opportunity to ask questions of your peers throughout the United States and to share experience, strength, and hope. To be added to the listserv please contact Niki Irish at [nirish@dcbar.org](mailto:nirish@dcbar.org).

## LAP

Lawyer’s assistance programs (LAP) exist in every state to help lawyers, judges, and law students manage stress, cope with depression, seek and maintain substance use recovery, and many other problems. These programs are confidential (they do not report to the Bar Examiner). The Vermont Lawyers Assistance Program’s hotline is 802-355-4352.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

For persons with disabilities to connect with local programs for crisis intervention, peer counseling, court advocacy, referrals, and other services, please call 800-489-7273. Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services can be reached at 802-661-4091.

## HEALTH AND EXERCISES

VLS encourages students to maintain a healthy body and mind by using The Fitness Center located at 180 North Street. The 4,100 square foot facility has a mix of Cybex, cardio, and weight training machines, including treadmills, elliptical machines, bikes, and free weights. Classes such as spinning and yoga, are held in The Fitness Center Studio. For more information about the Fitness Center, or if you're interested in teaching classes, please contact Britny Town at [btown@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:btown@vermontlaw.edu).

Located inside the Fitness Center is the VLS Outdoor Club Gear Shed. The Gear Shed is where VLS Community Members can check out outdoor equipment such as canoes, kayaks, mountain bikes, climbing gear, and golf clubs. For winter activities, cross country skis, snowshoes, skates, etc., are available.

The following student clubs promote physical health and balance through athletics: indoor soccer, fútbol (soccer), Men's and Women's Rugby, Ultimate Justice (Frisbee), ice hockey, martial arts, Outdoors Club, basketball, softball, and bike club.

In addition, VLS has a corporate membership at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center ([uvacswwim.org](http://uvacswwim.org)) with reduced rates for VLS faculty, staff, and students. Students also receive a reduced rate at the River Valley Club ([rivervalleyclub.com](http://rivervalleyclub.com)) in Lebanon, N.H. Please bring your student ID when visiting the Club.

Ext. 1333	Shirley A. Jefferson JD'86, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity
Ext. 1281	Theresa Johnson, Assistant Director for Student Affairs
Ext. 1238	Rick Floyd, Events and Virtual Student Life Coordinator

## TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT (IT) CHASE ANNEX, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

Located above the Café in the Chase Annex, the Vermont Law School Technology department is responsible for implementing and managing technology resources in support of the school's educational mission.

VLS has adopted Microsoft Exchange/Outlook as the school's email system. Your VLS email can be accessed from the VLS network or anywhere you have Internet access. If you would like information or instructions for adding, syncing or accessing your VLS email account from a personal device, please contact the IT Department. Not all devices support Microsoft Exchange accounts.

## EMAIL POLICY

1. VLS reserves the right to review any and/or all emails passing through the school's servers and networks.
2. Email accounts remain available to students for a period of one year following graduation, at which time the account is removed from the school's email system.
3. Vermont Law School's Honor Code, Code of Conduct, and the Policy Against Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation found in the Student Handbook, apply to all uses of electronic mail.
4. Vermont Law School Students are not allowed to send email messages to All-Staff, All-Faculty, and All-Student email groups unless specially permitted. They are, however, allowed to submit messages they would like to share with the All groups to designated members of the student community (including but not limited to SBA Executive Board, Senate, and Committee Members as well as SBA Groups (three members selected by the group) who have permission to send to All groups, or in the case of immediacy, request assistance in sending an email from a member of staff or faculty. Members of the student body that do have permission to send to the All groups are required to make use of the BCC (blind copy) feature ONLY when sending to them.

Ext. 1301	Database Administrator
Ext. 1357	Bill Bonn, Audio/Video Technician
Ext. 1353	Alex Dubreuil, Network Administrator
Ext. 1352	Lori Dubreuil, Web Manager
Ext. 1355	Jennifer Lawrence, IT Help Desk and AV Assistant
Ext. 1355	Kyle Rice, Help Desk System Administrator
Ext. 1348	Oscar Treviño, General Manager of Information Technology

## U.S.-ASIA PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (PEL) JACOBS HOUSE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

The U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law is a collaborative program to advance environmental and energy law and policy throughout Asia. As the most rapidly developing region on the planet, many countries in Asia are in urgent need of leaders to implement and enforce environmental laws and regulations, as well as policymakers and educators to develop the next generation of environmental advocates.

We therefore continue to work with our partners throughout Asia to enhance public participation in environmental decision-making and educate various stakeholders through advocacy, policy reform, research, capacity building, and student opportunities.

Ext. 1342	Claire Andrews, Program Coordinator
Ext. 1382	Siu Tip Lam, Director and Professor of Law
Ext. 1050	Yanmei Lin, Associate Director and Associate Professor of Law

## VETERANS LAW CLINIC CENTER FOR LEGAL STUDIES, 190 CHELSEA ST., 2ND FLOOR

Cases are comprised of veteran-specific matters such as appeals from the denial of VA benefits and discharge upgrades, as well as general civil legal matters, including: wills preparation; and Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcies, and other consumer cases; and landlord/tenant issues. This clinic provides opportunities for students to draft motions and briefs, participate in client interviewing and counseling, and make court appearances, amongst other legal activities.

Ext. 1500	Donald Hayes JD'10, Project Director, Staff Attorney, and Assistant Professor of Law
Ext. 1500	Sharon Mee, Office Manager
Ext. 1500	Amanda Murphy, Program Coordinator

## THE BELFRY DEBEVOISE HALL

The Belfry is a place for quiet reflection, meditation, and prayer. It is a small, round room located on the third floor of Debevoise Hall, in the bell tower overlooking Chelsea Street. Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Belfry and lock the door for privacy. Counseling services also occur in this room. Please be respectful of the "Occupied" sign on the door, even if unlocked. When you need a moment of calm, to sit quietly without studying or teaching, without talking or listening, remember the Belfry.

## COMMON AREAS

Common areas, especially Yates Common Room, Chase Community Center, and Hoff Lounge, often serve as venues for law school events. If an event needs to be set up, please be prepared to leave quickly. Do not rearrange furniture, as it may have been set up in advance of a future event, and do not eat food that has been set up in advance of an event. You may study without interruption in the Cornell Library. The following common areas are used for a variety of purposes, including socializing, studying, and special events.

- **The Café** is located adjacent to the Chase Center and is primarily a place to eat and socialize. Please refrain from studying there from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.
- **Chase Community Center** is a comfortable place to visit, study, or eat lunch.
- **Chase Loft** is a popular place to study or socialize. Student organizations often meet there. The Freedom of Speech bulletin board was made by the National Lawyer's Guild (NLG) in 2002 out of used wine corks.
- **Hoff Lounge** is located on the main level of Oakes Hall. It is often used for formal lunches, special events, and student group meetings.
- **The Yates Common Room** is located on the first floor of Debevoise Hall. It is often used for special events and formal dinners.
- **Dearing House 1st Floor** serves as a student lounge for students to eat lunch and relax. It also houses the SBA Office. Students must use their Student IDs to enter the building.

The VLS campus is private property. Please note that all campus facilities are primarily for the use of our faculty, staff, and students. The law school reserves the right to ask people who are not members of the VLS community to leave.

Under the VLS Code of Conduct, students may be asked to present their student ID. Failure to present your ID may result in your being asked to leave. Other campus visitors may be asked to identify themselves and provide ID. If you see someone using our facilities whose actions cause concern, please notify Dean Jefferson at 802-831-1333, Betsy Erwin, 802-831-1225 or Buildings and Grounds' Jeff Knudsen, 802-831-1260.

## HOUSING CURTIS HOUSE, 1ST FLOOR

Although VLS does not offer on-campus housing, we maintain a searchable database of rental properties. The housing website is provided as a courtesy to students; the properties are not inspected by VLS, nor does VLS intervene in matters between landlords and student tenants. For questions about your rights as a tenant, call Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) at 802-864-0099, or view their handbook, *The Definitive Guide to Renting in Vermont* [cvoeo.org/fileLibrary/file\\_212.pdf](https://cvoeo.org/fileLibrary/file_212.pdf). Additional information can be found at: [vermontlaw.edu/resources/housing-resources1](https://vermontlaw.edu/resources/housing-resources1).

## LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found service is maintained at the Cornell Library Circulation Desk.

## MEDIATION PROJECT

By appointment [mrobinbarone@aol.com](mailto:mrobinbarone@aol.com)

If you are having a landlord-tenant, roommate, neighbor, or consumer dispute, the Campus Mediation Project could help resolve the problem. Mediation is a confidential process in which a neutral person—the mediator—listens to the parties discuss their conflict, while assisting in clarifying issues and explaining the legal and non-legal aspects of the conflict. All mediators are second- and third-year students with mediation training and experience, working under the supervision of Professor M. Robin Barone. Regardless of training, the mediator’s job is not to offer legal advice or render an opinion. The parties themselves negotiate their own mutually acceptable solution. If the parties cannot resolve their differences through mediation, they alone decide what step to take beyond mediation. All mediations are subject to strict confidentiality, and neither the parties nor the mediators may be subpoenaed to discuss the content of the mediation in any legal proceeding. Overall, the Campus Mediation Project provides a valuable service for all members of the community. Please note that Professor Barone cannot give legal advice. For more information, contact the Office for Student Affairs and Diversity, Professor M. Robin Barone at [mrobinbarone@aol.com](mailto:mrobinbarone@aol.com) or a VLS Student Ambassador.

## NOTARY PUBLIC

The following faculty and staff are notaries who provide services to students completing bar applications and for general purposes.

- Monica Collins, Career Services
- Donald Hayes JD’10, South Royalton Legal Clinic
- Erin Jacobsen JD’11, South Royalton Legal Clinic
- Theresa Johnson, Deans Office, Debevoise Hall
- Dean Cynthia Lewis, Deans Office, Debevoise Hall
- Sharon Mee, South Royalton Legal Clinic
- Katrina Munyon, Academic Success Program, Old Schoolhouse

## STUDENT CENTER DEARING HOUSE, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR

The Dearing House 1<sup>st</sup> Floor serves as a student lounge for students to play pool, watch TV, eat lunch, and relax. It also houses the SBA Office. Students must use their IDs to enter the building.

## STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE ABBOTT HOUSE

Any student enrolled in residential credits for more than one semester is required to be covered by a health insurance policy, whether it is a policy offered by Vermont Law School (through Gallagher Student Insurance) or a comparable policy provided by another vendor. Online students and students taking fewer than five credits do not qualify for Vermont Law School student health insurance. International exchange students on campus for only one semester are not obligated to show proof of coverage. VLS encourages international exchange students to seek a short term health insurance plan that will fit their needs during their time in the United States.

## COVERAGE SCHEDULE AND ENROLLMENT PERIODS:

TERM	Fall*	Spring*	Summer**
ENROLLMENT PERIOD	8/1 - 8/31	2/1 - 2/18	5/1 - 5/31
COVERAGE PERIOD	9/1 - 2/28	3/1 - 8/31	6/1 - 8/31
DUE DATE	Two weeks prior to term start	Two weeks prior to term start	Two weeks prior to term start

All coverage periods begin and end at 12:01 a.m. local time, at the policyholder’s address.

\*Health insurance for residential students (fall start JD/AJD and Master’s students) is billed twice a year; once in the Fall semester (coverage period of September 1 - February 28) and once in the Spring semester (coverage period of March 1 - August 31).

\*\*Health Insurance for residential students (summer start AJD and Master’s students) is billed 3 times a year; once (prorated) in the Summer semester (coverage period of June 1 - August 31), once in the Fall semester (coverage period of September 1 - February 28), and once in the Spring semester (coverage period of March 1 - August 31).



Students who experience a qualifying event (turn 26, loss of previous insurance, etc.) are eligible to enroll in the Gallagher Student Insurance (Gallagher) plan. In order to do so, students should log into the Gallagher portal and submit a Petition to Add form and include any supporting documents required (termination letter if previous insurance was terminated). They must also let the Student Accounts Office (studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu) know so that all records can be updated accordingly.

#### **WAIVERS:**

Vermont Law School will exempt students from purchasing a plan through Gallagher if they have a policy that is comparable to the VLS plan and complies with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Students wishing to waive Gallagher coverage must complete a Petition to Waive form and submit it through the Gallagher Student Insurance portal [gallagherstudent.com/Vermontlaw](https://gallagherstudent.com/Vermontlaw). Waiver requests should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the start of the coverage period and must be renewed each academic year. Students who do not submit their waiver requests by the published deadline will be automatically enrolled and billed for the student insurance plan through Vermont Law School. Students who wish to obtain insurance outside of Vermont Law School, must do so prior to the start of the next coverage period. Please notify the Student Accounts Office if you intend to waive or your coverage will not be terminated.

#### **REFUNDS:**

A refund of insurance premium will only be issued if the student has terminated the insurance policy prior to the start of the coverage period. Students have the option to terminate the insurance plan at any point; however no pro-rated refund will be issued.

#### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:**

Exchange students on campus for longer than one semester are required to meet the same standard as all other residential students. Because they are not ACA-compliant, ISO plans will not be accepted as comparable plans for students who are enrolled at Vermont Law School for more than one semester. Plans originating in other countries will be accepted as long as they are compliant with ACA mandates. To determine whether a foreign plan meets the ACA mandates, please contact the Emily Parker at [eparker@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:eparker@vermontlaw.edu)

Students in J-1 and J-2 status are required by regulation to have health insurance that covers at minimum sickness and accidents during the duration of the program, as listed on the DS-2019. It is your responsibility to select, obtain and maintain health insurance coverage for yourself and any of your dependents. A willful failure to carry insurance is considered to be a violation of the Exchange Visitor Program regulations. Department of State treats willful failure to carry insurance as a serious infraction for which neither correction of the record nor reinstatement are available as remedies. It is extremely important to have health insurance due to the high cost of health care in the U.S. Bear in mind that health insurance often does not cover pre-existing conditions, including pregnancy. It is also important to note that you and any accompanying family member(s) may be subject to the requirements of the Affordable Care Act [22 CFR 62.14(a)].

#### **CONTACT:**

Questions regarding the billing/payment of insurance premiums or enrollment/waiver of coverage should be directed to Emily Parker, Student Accounts, [studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu) or 802-831-1233.

Questions regarding waiver of coverage for international exchange students, should be directed to Emily Parker, Student Insurance Administrator, [eparker@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:eparker@vermontlaw.edu)

Questions regarding plan/coverage specifics should be directed to Gallagher Student Health at 1-844-333-1459  
Residential credits include on-campus, online, semesters in practice, and externships.

### **STUDENT MAILBOXES CHASE CENTER BREEZEWAY**

VLS provides students, faculty, and staff mailboxes for the distribution of official law school notices, announcements, publications, and interschool correspondence. Mass stuffing of mailboxes is against school policy except with special permission from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. Mailboxes are also provided to authorized individuals and organizations, including those recognized or funded by Vermont Law School or the Student Bar Association. Mailboxes for student mail are located in the hallway outside of the Chase Community Center. The content of each mailbox is the property of the box holder. Unauthorized removal of the contents violates school policy and is subject to disciplinary sanctions. Use of mailboxes for distribution of unauthorized, intimidating, or harassing material is also prohibited and subject to Code of Conduct disciplinary sanctions. Please be sure to check your mailbox daily. Questions regarding mailboxes should be directed to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. Vermont Law School does not distribute U.S. mail except in emergencies. Materials generated outside the law school will not be distributed in individual student mailboxes.

## FEDERAL WORK STUDY PAYROLL SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2020 TO AUGUST 2021

PAY PERIOD BEGINS	PAY PERIOD ENDS	TIMESHEETS DUE	PAY DAY
SATURDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	FRIDAY
		<b>By 9 a.m.</b>	
8/8/20	8/21/20	8/24/20	8/28/20
8/22/20	9/4/20	9/7/20	9/11/20
9/5/20	9/18/20	9/21/20	9/25/20
9/19/20	10/2/20	10/5/20	10/9/20
10/3/20	10/16/20	10/19/20	10/23/20
10/17/20	10/30/20	11/2/20	11/6/20
10/31/20	11/13/20	11/16/20	11/20/20
11/14/20	11/27/20	11/30/20	12/4/20
11/28/20	12/11/20	12/14/20	12/18/20
12/12/20	1/8/21	1/11/21	1/15/21
12/26/20	1/22/21	1/25/21	1/29/21
1/9/21	1/22/21	1/25/21	1/29/21
1/23/21	2/5/21	2/8/21	2/12/21
2/6/21	2/19/21	2/22/21	2/26/21
2/20/21	3/5/21	3/8/21	3/12/21
3/6/21	3/19/21	3/22/21	3/26/21
3/20/21	4/2/21	4/5/21	4/9/21
4/3/21	4/16/21	4/19/21	4/23/21
4/17/21	4/30/21	5/3/21	5/7/21
5/1/21	5/14/21	5/17/21	5/21/21
5/15/21	5/28/21	5/31/21	6/4/21
5/29/21	6/11/21	6/14/21	6/18/21
6/12/21	6/25/21	6/28/21	7/2/21
6/26/21	7/9/21	7/12/21	7/16/21
7/10/21	7/23/21	7/26/21	7/30/21
7/24/21	8/6/21	8/9/21	8/13/21
8/7/21	8/20/21	8/23/21	8/27/21



# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

## STUDENT GROUP AND ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

Vermont Law School student organizations are provided access to an array of campus services, facilities, and systems. To avail themselves of such resources, students must complete procedures necessary to be recognized as an official Vermont Law School organization. Organizations may be officially recognized by Vermont Law School under the criteria as described below. Only officially recognized groups and organizations are entitled to the privileges listed in Section III.

### I. STUDENT ORGANIZATION CATEGORIES

- A. An organization that represents the interests of all students in all matters pertaining to life at Vermont Law School must be recognized by the President and Dean or the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. The Student Bar Association is currently the only recognized group in this category. Its recognition is based on its Bylaws and Standing Rules as adopted and must be reviewed in the event of substantial change..
- B. Academic Moot Court Organizations and other academic organizations are generally recognized by the Vice Dean for Students and must designate a full-time instructional officer.
- C. Student Organizations, other than those covered in §I.A and I.B must be recognized by the Student Bar Association (SBA) in accordance with the criteria outlined in the SBA Bylaws below and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity

Section 4.5 of the Student Bar Association Bylaws for Recognized Student Groups States that:

Student Groups may be approved as a Recognized Student Group. Once approved as a Recognized Student Group, that group must seek approval as a Funds Eligible Student Group in order to receive SBA funding. Groups must hold executive board elections before the first week of April. Groups receiving academic credit from Vermont Law School, including but not limited to Academic Moot Courts, Vermont Law Review and the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law, shall be exempt from governance by these rules.

#### A. Recognized Student Groups

1. A Recognized Student Group may:
  - a. Use the name "Vermont Law School" in its title;
  - b. Be assigned space in Vermont Law School buildings and on Vermont Law School grounds for meetings and other sponsored events; and
  - c. Address the Senate as an organization and seek its assistance in all matters relevant to the SBA.
2. A group may seek to become a Recognized Student Group:
  - a. The group shall give proper notice to the SBA Secretary that they seek Recognized Student Group Status at the next Regularly Scheduled Senate Meeting.
  - b. The group shall submit to the SBA Secretary its proposed bylaws and a mission statement identifying a full-time instructional or administrative officer as its advisor, its purpose(s) and goal(s), a list of officers, and a short statement detailing how the group intends to further the mission of the SBA.
  - c. The SBA Secretary shall present the proposal to the Senate.
  - d. A majority vote of the Senate shall be required for recognition.

#### B. Funds Eligible Student Groups

1. Only a Recognized Student Group that has existed for sixteen weeks, excluding the summer term, may become Funds Eligible.
2. A Recognized Student Group may seek to become a Funds Eligible Student Group
  - a. The group shall give proper notice to the SBA Secretary that they seek Funds Eligible Student Group Status at the next Regularly Scheduled Senate Meeting.
  - b. The SBA Secretary shall present the proposal to the Senate.
  - c. A majority vote of the Senate shall be required for Funds Eligible status.
3. To remain Funds Eligible, a group shall send one member to the monthly Student Group Leader meetings hosted by the Office of Diversity and Student Affairs, and shall submit the following to the SBA Secretary prior to each Fall Semester's budget application due date, and again in January at the beginning of the Spring Term:
  - a. A current list of officers;
  - b. An electronic copy of their bylaws; and
  - c. A printed copy of their bylaws if amended since the previous submission.
  - d. List of members who attended the Waste Diversion Training.
  - e. Each Funds-Eligible Group shall compile the above information in their Group binder.

4. Groups shall keep on file and open to examination accurate records of the groups' finances.
5. Groups shall attend finance meetings as stipulated in the Standing Rules.
6. Groups may maintain a webpage on the Vermont Law School site.
7. Groups shall comply with the recommendations of the Waste Diversion Training. The SBA Executive Committee shall schedule the Waste Diversion Training session before the Second SBA meeting of the Fall Term. That training session must occur before October of that academic year.
8. Groups that are primarily athletically oriented for the exercise of physical activity for the contest of team members are exempt from the requirements under §§ 4.5(B)(3)(d), 4.5(B)(5)-(7) to remain funds eligible. The term "sports team" means its plain meaning, limited only to the conventional understandings of sport and team.

**C. Loss of Status**

1. Groups failing to comply with any duly distributed requirement from the Vermont Law School Dean of Student Affairs and Diversity shall lose Funds Eligible status. To regain Funds Eligible status, groups shall reapply pursuant to §4.5(B).
2. The Finance Committee shall receive all required materials from student groups and shall refer any group not in compliance to the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee will consider student groups annually by the first Regular Meeting of the Senate and decide groups to lose Funds Eligible status.
4. The Secretary shall inform the groups of their loss of status within seven (7) days of the Executive Committee's decision.
5. A group may contest the loss of status under the following procedures:
  - a. The Group shall submit a petition with supporting evidence to the Senate within seven (7) days of the Secretary's notification to the group.
  - b. A Super Majority Yes Vote of the Senate is required to vacate the decision of the Executive Committee.

**PUBLICITY PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC EVENTS**

VLS's Communications Office can help publicize VLS events that are open to the general public. Publicity tasks the Communications Office performs include:

- Provide publicity guidance to event planners, as requested.
- Approve all event communications and materials aimed beyond the VLS community and use of the VLS logo or seal.
- Determine when a press release is appropriate, write and distribute a press release to local media, and/or assist with coordination of interviews or press coverage. All VLS press releases must come from the Communications Office.
- Event planners are responsible for all invitations (whether in print, emails, or phone calls), and printing and distribution of publicity materials.
- Event planners must meet early (8-12 weeks in advance) in the event-planning process with the VLS Event Scheduler to review procedures, including publicity, and should plan and delegate publicity tasks early in the event planning process.

For more information, call the Communications Office at 802-831-1246 or e-mail Karen Henderson, khenderson@vermontlaw.edu.

**STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION (SBA)**

The purpose of the Student Bar Association is to support and encourage academic excellence and professional growth among students; ensure the attainment and preservation of the rights of the individual student to acquire a quality legal education in a just and reasonable manner; and serve as the vehicle for interaction and communication between the students and the faculty, administration, alumni, and the community. All students of Vermont Law School who are enrolled as degree candidates are regular members of the SBA. Such members are entitled to the full benefits of membership and to attend all meetings of the Senate.

Student groups may be approved as a Recognized Student Group by the SBA. Once approved and after a period of proven activity, that group may seek approval as a Funds Eligible Student Group to receive SBA funding.

**President**  
**Vice President of Student Affairs and Operations**  
**Vice President of Student Activities**  
**Treasurer**  
**Secretary**

Heather Francis JD'22  
 Nicole Adelman JD'22  
 Ricardo "Rico" Edwards JD'22  
 James Mulhall JD'22  
 Serena White JD'22



**Town Liaison**  
**Student Trustees**  
**ABA Representatives**  
**Honor Code Committee**

**Code of Conduct**

**Curriculum Committee**  
**Faculty Hiring Committee**  
**Shareholder's Advocates**

**JD 2021 Senators**

**AJD 2021 Senator**  
**JD 2022 Senators**

**JD 2023 Senators**  
**Master's Senator**  
**LLM Senator**

To be elected in Fall 2020  
Erika Gerstenberger JD'22, Arielle King JD'21  
To be elected in Fall 2020  
Brian Pattison JD'22, Christian Salt JD'21,  
Gabriella Wood, JD'21  
Jordan Van Cleave JD'22, Kristina  
Caliendo JD'21, Beth Bowles JD'21  
Vanessa Romero JD'21, Lorentz Hansen JD'22  
To be elected in Fall 2020  
To be elected in Fall 2020

Connor Gilgallon, Jordan Hitch,  
Peter Lucas Joseph, Jordan Stone  
Lauren Rosenberg  
Michelle Amidzich, Jay Dahlstrom,  
Tyler Doan, Madison Hertzog, Serena White  
To be elected in Fall 2020  
To be elected in Fall 2020  
To be elected in Fall 2020



## **SBA RECOGNIZED GROUPS**

Alliance  
Animal Law Society  
Asian Pacific Law Students Association  
Black Law Students Association (BLSA)  
Christian Law Fellowship  
Criminal Law Society  
Energy Law Society  
Environmental Justice Law Society  
Environmental Law Society  
Federalist Society  
Food and Agriculture Law Society  
If/When/How  
International Law Society (ILS)  
Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA)  
Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)  
Mental Health Committee (MHC)  
Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)  
Phi Alpha Delta  
Student Community Outreach for Education (SCORE)  
Space Law Society  
Specific Performance  
Women's Law Society (WLS)

## **OTHER STUDENT GROUPS**

Alternative Spring Break  
Barrister's Book Shop Board of Directors  
Campus Greening Committee  
Emory School of Law Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition  
Equal Justice Foundation  
Hearsay  
Moot Court Advisory Board (National, Civil Rights, and Environmental teams)  
National Lawyers Guild (NLG)  
National Moot Court Team  
Native American Law Students Association Moot Court Team  
Pace Environmental Law Moot Court Team  
SPEAK  
Student Ambassadors  
Texas Young Lawyer's Association Regional Competition  
The Forum  
Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition  
Trial Advocacy Moot Court Team  
Trivia Quizmasters  
Tulane Sports Law Arbitration Competition  
Vermont Journal of Environmental Law  
Vermont Law Review  
Veteran Law Students Association

## **VLS TEAMS**

Basketball  
Bike Club  
Ice Hockey Club  
Men's Rugby  
Outdoor Club (and The Gear Shed)  
Tabletop Society  
Ultimate Justice (Ultimate Frisbee)  
VLS Futbol Club (Soccer)  
Women's Rugby



# ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Revisions to the Academic Regulations may be made only by vote of the faculty.

The official version of the Academic Regulations is included in the student handbook and course catalog and posted on the Vermont Law School website. Those documents will be revised at the beginning of each academic year. Vermont Law School reserves the right to make revisions to these Academic Regulations without prior notice except as provided in Regulation I.C.2. Any revisions made during the year will be posted on the Vermont Law School website.

# ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Adopted April 14, 2016; revised May 4, 2018, August 2019, and August 2020.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. GENERAL

These regulations apply to all persons taking courses at, or through, Vermont Law School. They apply to students who are candidates for degrees, to students taking courses for credit, and to students auditing courses. All students taking courses at, or through, Vermont Law School are deemed to have notice of these regulations.

### B. NOTICE

The official version of the academic regulations is included in the student handbook and the course catalog and posted on the Vermont Law School website. Those documents will be revised at the beginning of each academic year. Any revisions made during the year will be posted on the Vermont Law School website.

### C. AMENDMENT

#### 1. GENERAL

Vermont Law School reserves the right to make amendments to these academic regulations without prior notice except as provided in regulation I.C.2.

#### 2. FACULTY VOTE

Except as provided in regulation I.C.3., amendments to these regulations may be made by a majority of the voting faculty at a regular or special faculty meeting provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to each individual member of the voting faculty at least seven calendar days before the meeting.

#### 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

The Registrar, in consultation with the Committee on Standards, may amend these regulations without faculty approval whenever necessary to conform these regulations to the addition or deletion of courses from the curriculum, to changes in course names, and to changes in title and position of faculty, staff, or administration. The Registrar may also amend these regulations without faculty approval to correct punctuation, grammar, spelling, typographical errors, and inconsistencies between approved amendments and existing regulations.

## II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The regulations in this section apply to all students enrolled in courses at Vermont Law School. See regulation XII for provisions of the Vermont Law School Honor Code. The Code of Conduct is also published in the Student Handbook.

### A. ATTENDANCE

#### 1. REGULAR ATTENDANCE

- a. Students are required to attend all classes except where religious observance, serious illness, personal emergency, or a reason that is adequate in the judgment of the professor prevents attendance. Students are also required to complete all required hours for clinical and externship work. Clinics and externships will establish appropriate policies governing absence due to religious observance, serious illness, and personal emergency and notify students in writing of those policies.

- b. If a student is absent from twenty (20%) percent of the regularly scheduled classes without adequate excuse during the fall or spring semester, the student shall be automatically withdrawn from the course with a grade of F-Wd. If a student is absent from a clinic or externship in violation of the clinic or externship attendance policy, the student shall be automatically withdrawn from the clinic or externship with a grade of F-Wd. Such withdrawal shall not be effective unless the student has been personally warned by the instructor. Personal notice shall include, but is not limited to, notice placed in the Student's Vermont Law School mailbox or notice sent to the student's Vermont Law School e-mail address.
- c. During the summer term, a student will be automatically withdrawn from the course with a grade of F-Wd if the student is absent without adequate excuse from any class if the class meets for fewer than four days; from two classes if the class meets for between four and twelve days; and from three classes if the class meets for more than twelve days.
- d. Individual faculty may adopt a more stringent attendance policy than specified in paragraphs b and c, provided that students are given written notice of that policy.
- e. If a course instructor does not arrive within ten minutes of the scheduled beginning of class, and if no contrary notice has been given, students may disperse, and the class will not meet.

## 2. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Requests for leaves of absence should be directed to the Registrar. Except as noted below, leaves may be granted for up to one year. Ordinarily, no leave will be granted before the completion of the first semester of the first year.

A student in the Accelerated JD program must apply to the Committee on Standards for any leave of absence. Petitions must be submitted by March 15 for summer term, by August 15 for fall term, and by November 15 for spring term. See also regulation III.A.7.

Requests for leaves of absence beyond one year must be addressed to the Committee on Standards. Requests for medical leaves of absence must be directed to the Vice Dean for Students. See also regulation III.A.6.b.(2).

## 3. STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT CANDIDATES FOR A VERMONT LAW SCHOOL DEGREE

- a. Except for visiting and exchange students, this regulation applies only to students who are taking courses for credit at Vermont Law School who are not candidates for a degree from Vermont Law School. This includes students who are candidates for degrees at other academic institutions as well as students who are not candidates for degrees at any academic institution. Regulations II.B.6. and 7. apply to students who are auditing courses.
- b. An individual who is not a candidate for a degree or Professional Certificate at Vermont Law School may enroll in courses for up to six credits only with permission. Permission to take a particular class rests in the Vice Dean for Faculty or the Vice Dean's designee. Application procedures are available on the Vermont Law School website at: [vermontlaw.edu/admissions/apply-now/courses-for-credit-for-non-degree-students](http://vermontlaw.edu/admissions/apply-now/courses-for-credit-for-non-degree-students).
- c. Students who are not candidates for a Vermont Law School degree are required to fulfill the same course requirements as degree candidates. They will be graded and receive Vermont Law School credit upon completion of the course. Such students are subject to the same rules and regulations as degree candidates, and they have access to the Vermont Law School library and other Vermont Law School facilities.
- d. Transfer of Credits
  - (1) Transfer of credit to an academic institution other than Vermont Law School is governed by the regulations of the other academic institution.
  - (2) Courses taken for credit by a student who has not matriculated into the Vermont Law School JD program or the JD program of another ABA approved law school may not be transferred into the Vermont Law School JD program for credit and do not satisfy the residence requirement of



regulation III.A.6. Vermont Law School does not grant credit toward the JD degree for courses completed prior to the student's matriculation as a candidate for the JD degree at an ABA-accredited law school. See regulation III.A.9. for provisions governing the transfer of credit into the JD program.

- (3) Courses taken for credit by a student who has not matriculated in to the Vermont Law School LLM program or the LLM program of another ABA approved law school may not be transferred into the Vermont Law School LLM program. See regulation IX.A.4. for provisions regarding the transfer of credit into the LLM program.
  - (4) Courses taken for credit may be transferred into the Vermont Law School Master's degree programs at the discretion of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee. See regulation IV.A.4. for provisions governing the transfer of credit into the Master's program.
- e. Non-degree students are required to pay tuition on a per credit basis.

## **B. COURSE ENROLLMENT**

### **1. COURSE LOAD IN THE JURIS DOCTOR (JD) DEGREE**

- a. Fall and Spring Semesters  
Except for students in the Accelerated Juris Doctor (AJD) program<sup>1</sup> the minimum course load is 10 credits per semester, and the maximum course load is 17 credits per semester.<sup>2</sup>

For students in the AJD program, the minimum course load is 15 credits, and the maximum course load is 17 credits.

- b. Summer Session  
Except for students in the AJD program, the maximum course load is 11 credits.

For students in the AJD program, the minimum course load for the first AJD summer is 12 credits and the maximum course load is 14 credits. The minimum course load in the second AJD summer is 10 credits, and the maximum course load is 13 credits.

### **2. COURSE LOAD IN THE MASTER'S DEGREES AND MASTER OF LAW (LLM) DEGREES**

- a. Except as provided in subsection IX.H.2. with respect to the LLM in American Legal Studies, the following paragraphs apply to all master's degrees and all master of law degrees.
- b. For students taking residential classes, the minimum course load for full-time students is six credits per semester. The maximum course load for full-time students is 14 credits per semester. The maximum course load for summer session is 11 credits. No exceptions are allowed other than with the prior written approval of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee.
- c. For students taking online learning classes, the recommended course load is three credits per term. The online learning program offers six terms per academic year.
- d. For students enrolled full-time in the Master of Law in American Legal Studies degree, the minimum course load is 10 credits, and the maximum course load is 16 credits in the fall and 17 credits in the spring.

### **3. CHANGES AND WITHDRAWALS: FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS RESIDENTIAL COURSES**

- a. Courses may not be added after the sixth class day of the semester without the written permission of the professor.
- b. A student may drop an elective course no later than the end of the sixth day of classes.
- c. A student who is added to a class from the waitlist on the sixth day of classes shall be permitted to drop any other course until the end of the seventh day of classes.

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<sup>1</sup> See Regulation III A.7.

<sup>2</sup> The maximum course load of 17 credits is mandated by the American Bar Association and may not be waived.

- d. A student may not withdraw from a required course without the written permission of the Vice Dean for Students.
- e. A JD student may not voluntarily withdraw from a course without the written permission of the Vice Dean for Students if doing so reduces the student's course load to less than 10 credit hours.<sup>3</sup>
- f. A MELP, MERL, MFALP, MARJ or LLM student may not voluntarily withdraw from a course if doing so reduces the student's course load to less than the minimum required to remain in the program.
- g. A student may not withdraw from any course or seminar in the student's final semester.
- h. A student may not withdraw from an externship, a clinical offering, or General Practice Program course.
- i. Acceptance of an invitation to be a member of the Vermont Law Review or the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law is a commitment to serve until graduation. A student may not withdraw from the Law Review or Journal during any semester. A student who chooses not to enroll in any semester will receive a "Wd" on his or her transcript for that semester.
- j. No student may drop or add the South Royalton Legal Clinic, the Environmental Advocacy Clinic, the Environmental Justice Clinic, the Energy Clinic, or the Food and Agriculture Clinic after the first day of classes. However, if the program is determined by the Clinic Director to be under enrolled, a student may add the course, with the Director's permission, within the first calendar week of classes.
- k. No student may drop or add the Legislative Clinic after the last day of classes of the fall semester.
- l. A student may withdraw from a limited enrollment course or seminar only with the written permission of the professor no later than the last day of classes for the semester. If the course or seminar is scheduled to end before the last week of the semester, a student may withdraw no later than the last day of classes for that course or seminar.
- m. A student may withdraw from other elective courses no later than the last day of classes for the semester. If the course or seminar is scheduled to end before the last week of the semester, a student may withdraw no later than the last day of classes for that course or seminar.
- n. A student may not withdraw from any course or seminar after the instructor has submitted a grade, including a grade of F.Wd, to the Registrar.
- o. If a student withdraws after the time limitations in subsections b. and c. (above) the course will appear on the student's transcript with the notation "Wd." A student who has received a "Wd" for a particular course may not take that course for credit without first obtaining the written permission of the instructor giving the course for credit.
- p. For any addition, drop, or voluntary withdrawal to be effective, written notice must be received by the Registrar before the close of office hours on the day indicated above.
- q. A student who has registered for a course and who has not withdrawn from the course under the above regulations is expected to complete all requirements of the course. Failure to complete all course requirements will result in a grade of F or F-Wd.

#### **4. CHANGES AND WITHDRAWALS: SUMMER SESSION RESIDENTIAL COURSES**

- a. Students are not permitted to add or drop a summer course after the start of the second class period.
- b. A student may not withdraw from a required course or an externship.
- c. A student may withdraw from a limited enrollment course or seminar only with the written permission of the instructor no later than the last day of class of that course

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<sup>3</sup> Audited courses do not count toward this total.

- or seminar.
- d. A student may withdraw from other elective courses no later than the last day of class of that course.
  - e. A student may not withdraw from an elective course after the instructor has submitted a grade, including a grade of F-Wd, to the Registrar.
  - f. If a student withdraws after the time limitation in subsection a., the course will appear on the student's transcript with the notation "Wd." A student who has received a "Wd" for a particular course may not take that course for credit without first obtaining the written permission of the instructor giving the course for credit.
  - g. A student who has registered for a course and who has not withdrawn from the course under the above regulations is expected to complete all requirements of the course. Failure to complete all course requirements will result in a grade of F or F-Wd.
  - h. For an addition, drop, or voluntary withdrawal to be effective, written notice must be received by the Registrar before the close of office hours on the day indicated above.

#### **5. CHANGES AND WITHDRAWALS: ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM**

For students taking online learning courses, the deadline to add a class is Friday at 12 p.m. Noon Eastern Standard Time (EST) of the week prior to the first day of classes. The Drop period will end on Friday at 11:59 p.m. EST of the first week of classes. Individual courses dropped during the Drop period do not appear on the student's transcript. A course dropped after the end of Drop period becomes a Withdrawal and will result in a "Wd" on the student's transcript for each course.

Students should inform Vermont Law School immediately of a decision to withdraw from a course, program, or to take a leave of absence. After the term or semester starts, a student withdrawing from a course, program, or taking a leave of absence must complete an Official Withdrawal Form. Withdrawing from one or more courses after the add/drop period will result in a "Wd" on the student's transcript for each such course.

#### **6. AUDITING: FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS**

- a. A regularly enrolled student may audit free of tuition a maximum of two courses, other than an online course, each semester provided (1) the student is in good academic standing; (2) the student is taking for credit the minimum load of 10 semester hours if enrolled in the JD program or six semester hours if enrolled in any other degree program; (3) the instructor consents; and (4) there is a seat available according to the Registrar's records. If the student is enrolled in the JD program, the student must have satisfactorily completed at least 28 credits. The instructor may require specific conditions, such as attendance, class participation, or the like. The student must register as an auditor within the add/drop period.

The fact that a student has audited a course will be noted on the student's record. A student who has audited for more than three weeks shall not be permitted to take the course for credit in a subsequent semester or summer term without first obtaining the permission of the instructor giving the course for credit. Should a student decide to discontinue an audited course or the instructor determines the student has not satisfied the requirements to maintain audit status, the course will be removed from the student's registration.

- b. Auditing by non-Vermont Law School students is allowed with the consent of the Vice Dean for Students and the instructor, under terms prescribed by them and upon payment of the required fee. Any certification of auditing of this type shall state that Vermont Law School makes no representation as to the individual's (1) qualifications, (2) attendance, or (3) comprehension of the materials.

#### **7. AUDITING: SUMMER SESSION**

- a. A regularly enrolled student may audit free of tuition one course, other than an online course, during the summer session provided (1) the instructor consents, and (2) there is a seat available according to the Registrar's records. If the student is enrolled in the JD program, the student must have satisfactorily completed at least 28 credits. The instructor may require specific conditions, such as attendance, class participation, or the like. The student must register as an auditor within the add/drop period.

The fact that a student has audited a course will be noted on the student's record. A

student who has audited for more than two class periods shall not be permitted to take the course for credit in a subsequent summer term or semester without first obtaining the permission of the instructor giving the course for credit. Should a student decide to discontinue an audited course or the instructor determines the student has not satisfied the requirements to maintain audit status, the course will be removed from the student's registration.

- b. Auditing of summer session courses by students not enrolled in a Vermont Law School degree program is allowed with the consent of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee and the instructor under terms prescribed by them and upon payment of the required fee.

**8. REPETITION OF FAILED COURSES**

Students who are in good academic standing or who are on academic probation are permitted to repeat for credit a course in which they earned a final grade of F or F-Wd. A course may only be repeated once. When a course is repeated, the original course and grade will remain on the student's transcript; the original course grade and the grade for the repeated course will be used in the computation of the student's grade-point average. The course instructor has the option to refuse permission for a student to retake their class unless it is a required course. Class ranking will not be retroactively adjusted. Once a degree has been awarded, a course cannot be repeated. Federal financial aid or scholarship awards may not be available for repeating courses so students are advised to check with the Financial Aid Office before repeating a course.

**9. ENROLLMENT PREFERENCES**

Preferences for assignments to oversubscribed, limited enrollment courses, and seminars are determined by the Registrar under rules promulgated by the Vice Dean for Students.

**C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

**1. GRADING SYSTEM**

Each student's academic standing is determined at the end of each semester and at the end of the academic year in accordance with the following grading system:

A	4.000 <sup>4</sup>
A-	3.666
B+	3.333
B	3.000
B-	2.666
C+	2.333
C	2.000
C-	1.666
D+	1.333
D	1.000
F	0.000

Pass-Honors (no effect on average)	P-H
Pass (no effect on average)	P
Low-Pass (no effect on average)	L-P
Unexcused failure to complete course requirements including attendance, examinations, papers, etc.	F-Wd
Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course	Wd
Year-long course	Y
Administrative Delay	AD

The passing grade in an individual course is D (1.000)

**2. DESIGNATIONS**

Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement	I
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<sup>4</sup> These are the course grades; grade point averages are truncated to two decimal places.

A designation of I will only be given for extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control. The professor giving an I should provide written notice to the Registrar by the last day of the semester (or term) of (a) the reason for the designation of I, and (b) the date by which the student is expected to complete the course requirements. The student must complete the required work no later than the end of the spring semester in the case of a fall semester course, no later than the beginning of the fall semester in the case of a spring semester course, or no later than the end of the fall semester in the case of a summer session course or an additional grade of F-Wd will be entered. A professor may require that work be completed earlier.

### **3. THE FOLLOWING COURSES ARE GRADED PASS-HONORS/PASS/LOW-PASS/FAIL:**

- Bar Examination Skills and Tactics
- Deans Fellows
- Energy Clinic
- Environmental Advocacy Clinic
- Food and Agriculture Clinic
- JD Part-Time Externship
- Judicial Externship
- Judicial Externship Seminar
- Legal Analysis and Writing I
- Legal and Policy Writing
- Semester in Practice (SIP)
- Semester in Practice Class
- South Royalton Legal Clinic

### **4. THE FOLLOWING COURSES ARE GRADED PASS/FAIL:**

- Law Review
- Legal Methods
- Legislative Clinic
- LLM Externships
- MARJ Externships
- MELP Externships
- MERL Externships
- MFALP Externships;
- Practicum Trial Practice
- Vermont Journal of Environmental Law

### **5. PASS/FAIL OPTION**

A student who experiences the death of a spouse, life partner, child, parent, brother, or sister any time after the beginning of the semester may elect to complete any or all of the particular semester's course requirements on a pass/fail basis. The student must provide the Registrar's Office with written notice prior to the administration of each examination or the due date of other required work for which this option is selected.

### **6. GRADING PROCEDURE**

- a. The recommended average grade for all first-year courses, other than Legal Writing, and for all other courses with an enrollment of 40 or greater is a B. For purposes of this regulation, a B is equivalent to a numerical score of 2.84 to 3.17.
- b. Once grades have been turned in to the Registrar, no grade change may be made without the approval of the Committee on Standards and ordinarily only if the instructor certifies that the change is necessary because of mathematical error.
- c. The Committee on Standards may also undertake to review the substance of the work product of a course, or cause other members of the faculty or outside experts to undertake a review of the work product of a course, if, but only if, a student who complains about a grade:
  - (1) Receives a grade below a C for the course; and
  - (2) Alleges that the grade was based in whole or in part on factors other than the merits of the student's performance in the course; and
  - (3) Produces clear and convincing evidence extrinsic to the work product that the grade was based in whole or in part on factors other than the merits of the student's performance in the course.
  - (4) "Work product" includes, but is not limited to, an examination, take-home



- examination, research paper, empirical study, brief, memorandum of law, or oral exercise which has been electronically recorded.
- (5) “Factors other than the merits of the student’s performance in the course” are limited to prejudice against the student based upon the student’s race, color, religious belief, national origin, political belief, sex or sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or personal animosity toward the student, or upon the personal, political, religious, moral, or ethical views of the faculty member.
  - (6) A petition to review the work product of a course must be submitted no later than 90 days after the due date for grades for the semester (or term) in which the work was completed.
  - (7) If, and only if, the student satisfies the requirements of (1), (2), (3), and (6) of this section, the Committee shall review, or cause the review of, the work product on its merits and make a determination as to whether the grade for the work product was justified. The standard shall be whether any reasonable faculty member teaching in the subject area would have given the grade complained of. If the Committee finds that a reasonable faculty member could have given the grade, the grade shall stand; if the Committee finds that no reasonable faculty member could have given the grade, the grade shall be removed from the student’s transcript and shall be replaced by a grade of pass.
- d. It is explicitly recognized that, subject to the limitations described in this section, members of the faculty have very broad discretion to set academic standards and award grades and nothing herein shall be construed to otherwise limit that discretion.

## 7. DEGREES AND HONORS

- a. Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and winter and at the commencement held annually at the end of the spring semester. Students successfully completing degree requirements at other times may request a certificate of completion prior to the receipt of a diploma.
- b. Vermont Law School grants the JD degree with the Latin honors cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude, based on the following cumulative GPAs:<sup>5</sup>

Cum laude	3.50
Magna cum laude	3.65
Summa cum laude	3.80

Honors are determined at the end of either the final semester or the semester immediately preceding the final semester.<sup>6</sup> If a student achieves a grade point average sufficient for honors at the end of the semester immediately preceding the final semester, the student will receive those honors even if the student’s grade point average decreases in the final semester.

- c. Vermont Law School grants the MELP, MERL, MFALP, MARJ, LLM in Environmental Law, LLM in Energy Law, LLM in Food and Agriculture Law, and LLM in American Legal Studies degrees with distinction for those students who achieve a GPA of 3.50 or higher upon completion of the program.
- d. Faculty members may designate on their faculty grading sheets the top one or two students in each class. The student(s) so designated receive the “Academic Excellence Award” for that particular class, an honor that can be included on resumes, cover letters, or job applications, etc. Faculty have discretion to refrain from designating the top student. This regulation shall not apply to students in IRPs, Directed Study, Law Review class, the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law class, or the classroom component of Externships or SIPs.

## D. EXAMINATIONS

1. Students should use the VLS assigned student identification numbers rather than their names on all examination and course papers unless requested to do otherwise.

<sup>5</sup> For students who matriculated in the JD program prior to May 1, 2015, the GPAs required for the award of a degree with Latin honors are as follows: cum laude 3.25, magna cum laude 3.50, and summa cum laude 3.75.

<sup>6</sup> In most situations, the student’s “final semester” is the sixth semester so that honors may be earned either at the end of the fifth or the sixth semester.

2. Students are required to take a regularly scheduled examination in each course; in some courses, seminars, clinical programs, and the like, papers and other assigned work may be substituted.
3. Students are permitted to have in their possession in the examination room only material authorized by the instructor. Possession of any other materials is grounds for a grade of F and for action under the Vermont Law School Honor Code.
4. Faculty members may require that students submit papers, written projects, take-home examinations, and similar work product electronically or through hard copy. Students should keep a copy of all work submitted whether electronic or in hard copy.
5. After an examination has been turned in, a faculty member may require of any student whose paper is found to be illegible that a typed copy of the examination be substituted for grading purposes. At the student's expense the student will be provided by the Registrar with a photocopy of the student's examination paper. The substitute copy of the examination, along with the typed copy, must be returned within ten days, or such shorter period designated by the faculty member. The typed copy must bear the signed certification of the student and typist that it is "an exact, true, and unedited copy of the original."
6. Take-home examinations may be given at the discretion of the instructor. Any examination extending beyond a full day (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) is considered a take-home examination. The time for a take-home examination in a first-year course is determined by the instructor and the Registrar. Take-home examinations in other courses must be distributed no later than the first day and due by the close of business on the last day of regularly scheduled exams for the fall and spring final examination periods. Take-home examinations in summer school extend for the period designated by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.
7. An unexcused failure to take such an examination will result in an automatic F-Wd. grade for the course. If a satisfactory explanation for the absence is approved by the Committee on Standards, an I (incomplete) is recorded; the regular course grade earned in a subsequent examination will be added to the permanent record when it becomes available.
8. Except as provided below, students are required to take examinations at the regularly scheduled examination time unless extraordinary circumstances exist to justify departure from this policy. Extraordinary circumstances are defined as serious personal illness or other personal emergency which will prevent the student from taking the examination at its regularly scheduled time. Personal travel plans outside of an emergency situation will not constitute extraordinary circumstances.

Requests for permission to take a make-up examination must be made to the Vice Dean for Students in advance of the regular examination. If a student is prevented by sudden illness or other cause from submitting a written request, an oral request before the examination should be made to the Vice Dean for Students or the Registrar. Requests alleging illness or other medical problems must include a physician's statement concerning the medical condition.

A request made after the regularly scheduled examination will generally not be granted, unless unforeseeable emergency circumstances prevented the student from making a pre-examination request.

9. When the Vice Dean for Students or the Committee on Standards has excused an absence from an examination, a make-up examination shall be arranged by the Registrar and the instructor. Make-up examinations will be given no later than two weeks following the regular examination period unless the Vice Dean for Students or the Committee on Standards determines that the circumstances justifying the excused absence will continue to prevent the student from taking the examination during that time period.
10. A student seeking accommodation for disability must contact the Vice Dean for Students and follow the procedures outlined in the Vermont Law School Policy and Procedures for the Provision of Services to Students with Disabilities. The Vice Dean for Students will notify the Registrar of the appropriate accommodations to be provided a student. The Registrar will notify the student of the time and place for each examination.
11. A student seeking accommodation for a temporary disability must contact the Vice Dean for Students prior to the beginning of the examination period. (If the condition arises during

the examination period, the student must contact the Vice Dean for Students or the Registrar as soon as possible within the examination period.) The Vice Dean for Students or the Registrar may require medical documentation of the temporary disability. The Registrar, in consultation with the Vice Dean for Students, will provide appropriate accommodation and notify the student of the time and place for each examination as well as the nature of the accommodation provided. Accommodation for a temporary disability will be provided only for examinations during one semester (or one summer session). A student seeking accommodation beyond one term should contact the Vice Dean for Students.

12. A student who is unable to take a regularly scheduled examination for religious reasons should contact the Registrar. The Registrar will move the examination to the first day, following the scheduled day, when that student is not taking another examination.
13. A student seeking additional time on examinations or other accommodation because English is not the student's native language must contact the Vice Dean for Students. The student must provide the Vice Dean with appropriate documentation supporting his or her request. The Vice Dean will notify the Registrar of the appropriate accommodations to be provided a student. The Registrar will notify the student of the time and place for each examination.
14. A student should not be required to take more than one examination per day or three examinations on consecutive days.
  - a. Two Examinations on the Same Day: A student with two examinations scheduled on the same day may request a rescheduling of the examination for the course with the lower enrollment to the first day, following the scheduled day, when that student is not taking another examination.
  - b. Three Examinations on Consecutive Days: A student scheduled to take three examinations on consecutive days may request that one examination (usually in the course with the lowest enrollment) be rescheduled to the next available examination date.
  - c. Requests made to reschedule examinations under this subsection must be presented in writing to the Registrar's Office, on the form available in the Registrar's Office.
15. Other Rescheduling Requests: Any request to take an examination early, or to reschedule an examination for any reason other than described in subsection 14.a. and b., above, must be submitted in writing to the Committee on Standards for approval.
16. Upon approval of a request by the Registrar or the Committee on Standards, the student will be notified of the rescheduled day and time, and of the procedure for picking up and turning in the examination.
17. A rescheduled examination may not be given on a day earlier than the regularly scheduled examination without the express consent of the faculty member. (Examinations with extended time may begin at a time earlier than the regularly scheduled examination if the examination is given on the same day as the regularly scheduled examination.)
18. The Registrar will maintain a list of rescheduled examinations showing the students and courses for which examinations have been rescheduled. The Registrar will note on the list the date each examination is administered and the date the completed examination is given to the professor.
19. A student taking a rescheduled examination must certify in writing that, at the time she/he receives the examination, he/she has not looked at the examination or discussed it with anyone.

## **E. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **1. USE OF NAME OF VERMONT LAW SCHOOL IN A REPRESENTATIVE SENSE**

Students in Vermont Law School shall not, without the consent of the President and Dean, either individually or collectively, use the name of Vermont Law School in a representative sense in any activity of any kind outside the regular work of the school. Violations of this rule are regarded as sufficient cause for dismissal.

## 2. TUTORING IN BASIC ENGLISH

Any student who has significant difficulty with basic English may be required to work in a tutorial program at the student's expense.

# III. JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE (JD)

## A. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

### 1. GENERAL

The degree of Juris Doctor (JD) is granted for regular attendance and satisfactory completion of the prescribed course of study which includes a minimum of 87 semester hours and a cumulative grade point average of 2.20.<sup>7</sup>

### 2. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- a. Of the 87 semester hours required for the degree, satisfactory completion of the following courses is required: Appellate Advocacy; Civil Procedure I and II; Constitutional Law; Contracts; Criminal Law; Legislation and Regulation; Evidence; Professional Responsibility;<sup>8</sup> Legal Analysis and Writing I; Legal Research; Legal Writing II: Theory and Practice; Property; and Torts.<sup>9</sup>

Satisfactory completion of two of the following courses is also required: Corporations, Criminal Procedure (either Constitutional Criminal Procedure or Criminal Practice and Procedure), Estates, Family Law; First Amendment Law; and Sales.

Effective for students entering after May 1, 2014, all students shall be required to take at least six (6) experiential credits, as defined below. Experiential credits shall consist of credits in courses that are (i) clinics, both on and off campus, (ii) externships, including SiP offerings, and (iii) such other courses as may be expressly approved by the Curriculum Committee as appropriate for meeting this requirement. In helping students to meet this requirement, VLS cannot guarantee any particular placement. Clinics, both on and off campus, and externships taken for master's degree credit do not satisfy this requirement.

Except as noted in subsection c of this regulation and in regulations III.G.2.b., all other courses are elective.

- b. Satisfactory completion of the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement (AWR) is also a graduation requirement. A student must submit a written project which a regular faculty member determines would receive a grade of B or better were it the sole basis of grading in a course for two or more credits. The student may submit a project:
  - (1) In satisfaction of any written requirement in any course or Independent Research Project which a regular faculty member has certified as meeting the provisions of the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement; or in completion of any project, whether or not submitted for academic credit, which a regular faculty member has certified as meeting the provisions of the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement.
  - (2) Every student must either satisfy the requirement prior to the beginning of the student's sixth semester<sup>10</sup> or file with the Registrar a statement

<sup>7</sup> Effective May 2021, students must have a grade point average of 2.30 or above to be in good standing.

<sup>8</sup> In the spring of 2014, the faculty approved a recommendation of the Curriculum Committee to also allow students to meet the Professional Responsibility requirement through courses that meet a Professional Responsibility Distributional requirement. As those courses are developed and approved by the Curriculum Committee, a list of those courses will be provided online at [vermontlaw.edu](http://vermontlaw.edu) under JD degree requirements in the academic catalog.

<sup>9</sup> For students who matriculated before April 2013, the required coursework is as follows: Appellate Advocacy; Civil Procedure I and II; Constitutional Law I and II; Contracts; Criminal Law; Evidence, Legal Profession; Legal Analysis and Writing I, Legal Research; Legal Writing II: Theory & Practice; Property; and Torts. Students who matriculated before April 2013 and did not complete Constitutional Law I and II before the end of the 2012 -2013 academic year will receive a waiver allowing them to satisfy the requirement through completion of Constitutional Law and Public Law, now known as Legislation and Regulation.

<sup>10</sup> The usual period of study to obtain the JD degree is six semesters extended over three academic years. Regulation III.A.6. For students pursuing an accelerated or extended scheduling option or for students in certain joint or dual degrees, the term "sixth semester" as used throughout these regulations means the student's final semester in the JD program at the end of which the student is awarded the JD degree. The term "fifth semester" means the semester preceding the final semester in the JD program.

- approved by a regular faculty member setting forth the particulars of the project which the student intends to complete to satisfy the requirement.
- (3) **PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement is to provide each student with an opportunity to enhance his or her writing skills on a more sophisticated project than is afforded in the first year and appellate advocacy writing programs, preferably in an area of law of his or her choosing, and with the assistance of detailed and individualized feedback from a member of the faculty. Close interaction between student and instructor is considered essential to the success of this requirement, the focus of which should include the substantive content of the student's work, the quality of his or her writing, and the process by which the student organizes and develops ideas, conducts research, and writes.
- (4) **GENERAL GUIDELINES:** The following guidelines set forth the criteria to be used generally in designing a student's project and in structuring faculty supervision of the project. Both faculty and students are urged to abide by these guidelines except where special circumstances, which allow the goal of the AWR program to be served in some other way, justify variance from them. In this connection, the fact that an AWR project is written in conjunction with a seminar does not, without more, justify departure from these guidelines.
- (a) **Genre:** A project need not culminate in any particular genre of legal writing to be satisfactory. Such diverse projects as law review articles, advanced moot court briefs, seminar papers, proposed statutes with comment, or other projects might serve as appropriate vehicles for demonstrating one's competence for Advanced Legal Writing. The determinative criteria are the project's requirements for research, analysis, and writing.
- (b) **Length:** No particular length is required, although most projects have been in the range of 20 to 30 pages. In any event, the length should be such that the student is required to demonstrate such fundamental writing skills as grammar, syntax, organization, clarity of expression, and ability to present fully the message of the project in a well-reasoned fashion.
- (c) **Drafts:** Each project should require, in addition to the final draft, at least one detailed outline and one preliminary draft, or two preliminary drafts of the final product. In addition, the student and the faculty supervisor should complete a written evaluation at the end of the term, focusing on the quality of the student's work, on improvement in the student's skills, and on the quality of the learning process. Outlines, if required, and preliminary and final drafts should be reviewed and critiqued by the certifying faculty member. The final product should reflect consideration of the comments and critiques of the faculty member.
- (d) **Collaborative Efforts:** Some projects may involve the collaborative efforts of two or more students. In such instances, the individual student must be able to identify his or her contributions to the research, analysis, and writing incorporated in the drafts and final project. The certifying instructor should take such steps as he or she deems necessary to ensure that each student within the group has demonstrated competence in research, analysis, and writing.
- (e) **Meeting:** Every faculty supervisor and student may expect each other to be available for a minimum of four face-to-face meetings during the semester to discuss the student's project.
- (f) **Supervision:** Faculty supervision should be directed at improving the student's skills in the following areas, the attention paid to each item to be a function of the student's individual needs:  
(i) fundamentals of writing (grammar, syntax, organization, and clarity of expression), (ii) legal analysis, (iii) legal research and (iv) capacity for self-reflection and self-evaluation on both the quality of the student's work and the process of learning involved in the project.

- (g) Supervision by Adjuncts: Adjunct faculty, other than individuals who are full-time employees of Vermont Law School, may not supervise an advanced legal writing project unless (1) the project is done in satisfaction of course requirements in a course taught by the adjunct that the Vice Dean for Students has approved in advance of the semester in which it is offered as appropriate for advanced legal writing credit, or (2) the Vice Dean for Students approves the specific project in advance of commencement of the project. In all such cases, the student must draft, and the adjunct faculty supervisor and the Vice Dean for Students approve, a contract for the project containing the information required for independent legal research projects.
- c. Satisfactory completion of the 1L Preliminary Bar Examination is also a graduation requirement. A student must sit for the Preliminary Bar Examination no later than the first week of the beginning of the student's second fall semester enrolled at VLS. A student shall have satisfactorily completed this requirement under either of the following:
- (1) The student earns a passing score on three of the seven sections of the Preliminary Bar Examination no later than the first week of the beginning of the student's second fall semester enrolled at VLS with at least one passing score on a multiple choice section and one on a writing section; or
  - (2) If a student does not meet the requirements of subsection (1), the student must (a) meet with the Director of the Academic Success Program or the Director's designee two times following the Preliminary Bar Examination, (b) sit for the Preliminary Bar Examination a second time during the student's second spring semester, and (c) enroll in either one additional bar course or the Bar Exam Strategies and Tactics course.

A student who transfers to VLS following the 1L year shall be deemed to have completed this requirement upon taking the Preliminary Bar Examination no later than the first week of the beginning of the student's second fall semester enrolled at VLS.

### **3. NON-LAW COURSES AND COURSES NOT APPROVED FOR JD CREDIT**

- a. Except as provided in subsection 3.b. below, JD students may enroll in only one non-law course. Credits so earned will be applied toward the 87 semester hours required for the Juris Doctor degree.
- b. JD students may enroll in non-law courses in any joint or dual degree program or exchange program as approved by the faculty or the Committee on Standards.<sup>11</sup>
- c. JD students may enroll only in courses approved for JD credit.

### **4. CREDITS TOWARD JD DEGREE FROM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS**

In accordance with ABA regulations, the total number of credits that may be applied to the JD degree from courses taken in study abroad programs shall not exceed one third of the credit required for that degree, i.e. 29 credits.

### **5. COURSE LOAD**

The following restrictions apply to all JD students. No exceptions are allowed without prior written approval of the Committee on Standards.

- a. The minimum course load is 10 hours per semester, and the maximum course load is 17 hours per semester.<sup>12</sup>
- b. Although there is no per semester "classroom hour" requirement, students must in the course of six semesters complete a minimum of 64 credits of course work requiring attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions. For purposes of calculating attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions, all work done in connec-

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<sup>11</sup> The number of credits of non-law courses may be different depending on the joint or dual degree or exchange program. Students pursuing any of these programs should consult with the Vice Dean for Faculty or the Vice Dean for Students or their designee.

<sup>12</sup> The maximum course load of 17 credits is mandated by the American Bar Association and may not be waived.



tion with enrollment in the South Royalton Legal Clinic (SRLC), the Environmental Advocacy Clinic (EAC), the Environmental Justice Clinic, the Food and Agriculture Clinic, and the Energy Clinic or advanced clinics listed above is considered to be in regular class sessions, whether in a classroom or not.

Courses taken through exchange and dual degree programs with the University of Cergy-Pontoise Faculty of Law, University of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne Faculty of Law, the University of Trento Faculty of Law, and the McGill University Faculty of Law are also counted toward satisfying the requirement of 64 credits of course work requiring attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions.

Academic credits awarded in the following do not count toward satisfying the requirement of 64 credits of course work requiring attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions:

- (1) Courses taken at academic institutions, other than A.B.A. accredited schools, including courses taken at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Science, Carnegie Mellon University, the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, the University of Vermont, and the University of Cambridge
- (2) Independent Research Projects
- (3) Directed Study
- (4) Practicum portion of an externship
- (5) Legislative Clinic
- (6) Vermont Law Review and the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law
- (7) Non-law courses and courses not approved for JD credit.

## 6. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

- a. Three years “residence” (six semesters) is required for the JD degree. To receive residence credit for a particular semester, the student must receive credit for at least 10 hours (the minimum course load).
- b. The usual period of study to obtain the JD degree is three years (six semesters).<sup>13</sup>
  - (1) A student may extend this time period to four years (eight semesters) by taking a reduced course load or pursuing an extended scheduling option.
  - (2) A student may also extend this time period by requesting a leave of absence. Except as provided in regulation III.A.7.g. with respect to students in the Accelerated JD program, the Registrar may grant leaves of absence, other than medical leaves of absence, for two semesters; all other requests for leaves of absence, other than medical leaves of absence, must be addressed to the Committee on Standards. The Vice Dean for Students may grant requests for medical leaves of absence upon submission of appropriate documentation from a health care professional. Under no circumstances will a request for a leave of absence, including a medical leave of absence, be granted that extends the period of study beyond seven years. A student who is on academic probation at the end of the first semester and who requests a leave of absence will be required to complete the second semester of first year JD courses, including Legal Methods, before taking upper division courses.
  - (3) A student pursuing the accelerated scheduling option must also complete a minimum of six residential semesters. (For purposes of this regulation, a summer session will count as one residential semester.)
  - (4) A student may not extend the period of study to obtain the JD degree beyond seven years from the date of matriculation.
- c. To obtain the degree from Vermont Law School, a student must be in residence at Vermont Law School, or at a school with which Vermont Law School has an exchange program, for the last four semesters.

A student pursuing the accelerated scheduling option must also be in residence for the last four semesters. (For purposes of this regulation, a summer session will count as one semester.)

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<sup>13</sup> For students pursuing an accelerated or extended scheduling option or for students in certain joint or dual degrees, the term “sixth semester” as used throughout these regulations means the student’s final semester in the JD program at the end of which the student is awarded the JD degree. The term “fifth semester” means the semester preceding the final semester in the JD program.

No exceptions will be made except for an unforeseeable change of circumstance of an emergency nature.

- (1) A desire to enroll in an academic program not offered at Vermont Law School (or its' exchange program) is not considered an unforeseeable change of circumstance of an emergency nature.
- (2) A desire to avoid separation from a spouse or partner will not ordinarily be considered an unforeseeable change of circumstances of an emergency nature.

No residence credit is granted for Vermont Law School's summer sessions or for attendance at another law school unless part of an exchange program as provided under 6.c. above, unless the student is pursuing the accelerated scheduling option, or the student is pursuing the extended scheduling option and has received permission from the Committee on Standards (see regulation III.A.8.c.).

## **7. ACCELERATED JD PROGRAM**

The Accelerated JD Program allows for completion of the JD course of study in six consecutive terms (four regular semesters and two summer sessions). All academic regulations pertaining to the JD apply to the AJD except where modified by regulations contained in this subsection.

- a. Eligibility: First year students are admitted into the AJD program during the admissions process to start in summer or fall terms. Transfers from the VLS JD program into the AJD are permitted only at the beginning of the spring term in the first year. Transfers from other ABA approved law schools are permitted at the beginning of the summer or fall semesters following the completion of the first year.
- b. Summer terms requirement: AJD participants may commence the program by enrolling in the first AJD summer session and then enrolling in a second summer session, or they may commence in the fall or spring semester of their first year and enroll in the next two summer sessions. Transfer students from other ABA approved law schools may commence the program in the summer session and enroll in a second summer session or may begin in the fall semester and enroll in only one summer session.
- c. First Year Program: AJD participants who start in the summer must complete the first year curriculum during the fall and spring semesters following the first AJD summer session.
- d. Course load requirements:
  - (1) The minimum course load for the first AJD summer session is 12 credits and the maximum is 14.
  - (2) The minimum course load for the second AJD summer session is 10 credits and the maximum is 13.
  - (3) The minimum AJD course load for fall and spring semesters is 15 credits and the maximum is 17, unless the AJD student has enrolled in the Semester in Practice program.
- e. Residence requirement: AJD students are subject to the residence requirement described in III.A.6. For purposes of this regulation each summer session counts as a regular semester.<sup>14</sup>
- f. GPA requirement: Students who begin the AJD program in the fall or spring semester must achieve a 3.0 GPA at the end of the fall semester in order to remain in the accelerated program. Transfer students from other ABA approved law schools must have a 3.0 GPA to be admitted to the AJD program.
- g. If a student in the AJD program seeks a leave of absence, he or she must apply to the Committee on Standards. Petitions must be submitted by March 15 for a leave of absence in the summer term, by August 15 for a leave of absence in the fall term, and by November 15 for a leave of absence in the spring term. A leave of absence will be granted only for good cause and may result in decelerating from the AJD program.

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<sup>14</sup> This regulation applies to students who are admitted to and matriculate into the AJD program after April 1, 2013.

- h. A student in the AJD program may decelerate at any time by notifying the Registrar in writing. A student will be involuntarily removed from the AJD program (“decelerated”) if
  - (1) the student registers for less than the minimum course load specified in regulation II.A.7.d. or
  - (2) it becomes impossible for a student to complete the JD requirements in six semesters. Once a student has left the AJD program, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, the student must petition the Committee on Standards for re-admission to that program. The Committee on Standards will only grant such petitions in extraordinary circumstances.

## **8. EXTENDED SCHEDULING OPTION**

Vermont Law School offers a flexible scheduling option that will allow JD students to extend the JD program over eight semesters. Such students must be in residence (as defined in regulation III.A.6.) for eight semesters.

- a. Eligibility: Interested students should apply prior to the commencement of their first year in the JD program. After that, admission will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, upon petition to the Committee on Standards.
- b. The minimum course load for participants in the extended scheduling option is 10 credits. No exceptions are allowed without prior written approval of the Committee on Standards. The maximum load is 12 credits. The maximum load restriction may be modified by the Vice Dean for Students or the Vice Dean’s designee.
- c. Extended scheduling option students must petition the Committee on Standards to have summer session count as a residence semester prior to enrollment in summer session.
- d. The extended schedule course modifies the standard schedule as follows:
  - (1) First Year: Torts; Contracts; Property; Criminal Law; Legal Analysis and Writing I; Legal Research; and Legal Writing II
  - (2) Second Year: Constitutional Law; Legislation and Regulation; Civil Procedure I and II; plus upper level courses.
- e. Tuition: students agreeing to remain enrolled in the extended scheduling option for eight semesters will be billed 80% of the standard tuition fee each semester. Students taking classes in summer sessions that have not been approved as a residence semester will be billed at the per credit rate.
- f. Impact on academic standing: students in the extended scheduling option will be ranked only after completion of the fall semester of their second year.
- g. Impact on extracurricular activities: students in the extended scheduling option will be eligible for participation in Law Review, VJEL and extramural moot court competitions only after completion of their second year.

## **9. TRANSFER OF CREDIT AND CREDIT FOR SUMMER COURSES**

- a. A student accepted for transfer to Vermont Law School may receive equivalent course and residence credit for work at another ABA-approved law school. No more than one year’s residence credit may be transferred and only courses for which the student has received a grade of C or better will transfer. Pass/Fail grades and grades for externships will not transfer. The courses taken, grades, and credit earned, other than pass/fail grades and externships grades, at the prior law school will be noted on the Vermont Law School transcript but will not be included in the student’s Vermont Law School grade point average.

If a student has not been enrolled in an ABA-approved law school within the two years preceding application to Vermont Law School, the student will not be accepted as a transfer student. Students who do not qualify as transfer students under this paragraph may apply for admission as first-year students.

- b. A student at Vermont Law School who takes courses at another ABA-approved law school or programs of such school may be granted credit provided the courses do not duplicate courses taken at Vermont Law School and meet the Vermont Law School grade and academic standards provided in these academic regulations. Only courses for which

the student has received a grade of C or better will transfer. Pass/Fail grades and grades for externships will not transfer. The courses taken, grades, and total credits earned, other than Pass/Fail and externships grades, will be recorded on the student's Vermont Law School transcript, but course grades will not be included in the student's Vermont Law School grade point average. The student must provide the Registrar with an official transcript showing the grades earned at the other institution. Students are strongly encouraged to consult the Registrar before enrolling in courses at another ABA-approved law school to ensure compliance with this regulation.

- c. A student at Vermont Law School will be granted credit for summer courses satisfactorily completed at Vermont Law School. Grades for such courses are noted on the Vermont Law School transcript and are included in the grade point average. No residence credit is granted except as provided in regulation III.A.6.
- d. A student will not be granted credit for courses completed prior to the student's matriculation as a candidate for the JD degree at an ABA-approved law school.

#### **10. EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH ABA-APPROVED LAW SCHOOLS**

- a. Vermont Law School has exchange agreements with the following ABA-approved law schools to enable students to enroll in courses that are not otherwise available at Vermont Law School:

Howard School of Law  
New York Law School  
University of California Hastings School of Law  
University of Connecticut School of Law  
University of New Hampshire School of Law  
University of Puerto Rico School of Law

- b. Students must be in the upper-half of their class at the time of application and at the time of enrollment in the program.
- c. Students must apply to the Vice Dean for Students, or the Vice Dean's designee, by the deadline set by the Vice Dean. The number of students allowed to participate in the exchange program is governed by the agreement with the exchange school. If there are insufficient slots for all interested students, the Vice Dean for Students will determine who may participate in the program. Ordinarily students will be allowed to participate in an exchange program only for one semester.
- d. Vermont Law School is the home institution and the other ABA-approved law school is the host institution. Students participating in the exchange program are subject to all the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures of both the home institution and the host institution. Students pay all fees and tuition to the home institution.
- e. Enrollment in an approved exchange program satisfies the residency requirement in regulation III.A.6.
- f. The courses taken, grades, and total credits earned will be recorded on the student's transcript and will be included in calculating the student's grade point average. Failing grades will be included. Grades for externships, pass/fail grades, and grades other than letter grades will not transfer and will not be recorded on the student's Vermont Law School transcript. A student who participates in an exchange program should consult with the Vice Dean for Students or the Registrar prior to registering for courses at the host institution.

## **B. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS**

- 1. Enrollment in a clinic or externship requires permission of the Director, or the Director's designee.
- 2. A student may participate in an externship in the fourth, fifth or sixth semester.<sup>15</sup> Ordinarily, a student with a GPA below 2.4 will not be allowed to enroll.

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<sup>15</sup> Summer school does not count as a semester unless the student is pursuing the Accelerated JD or the extended scheduling option. See, Regulations III.A.7. and III.A.8.c.

3. Students are permitted to enroll in clinical courses after satisfactory completion of 28 credits.
4. All clinics and externships are limited enrollment courses with enrollment and application procedures established for each program.
5. A student may not:
  - a. Enroll in more than one clinic or externship course in any one semester;
  - b. Enroll in a clinic or externship course that substantially repeats the experience gained in the same or another clinic or externship course;
  - c. Except for a part-time JD externship, enroll in the same experiential course more than once;<sup>16</sup>
  - d. Enroll in an externship program with the same mentor or at the same site at which the student has been placed as an extern, had an employment relationship or has worked as a volunteer unless the program will provide a qualitatively different or broader learning experience than the student has had as a volunteer or an employee;
  - e. Enroll in a clinic or externship that presents a significant possibility of a conflict of interest based on the student's enrollment in a different clinic or externship, the student's prior or current employment relationship, or the student's prior or current work as a volunteer, unless the conflict can be effectively managed by the clinic or externship;
  - f. Extern under the supervision of mentors not admitted to practice law. This requirement applies whether the mentor is working in a governmental agency, non-profit organization, private law firm, for-profit corporation, or as a judge. The only exception is in the fields of lobbying or policy work. For those externships, the mentor must have a law degree but need not be actively licensed to practice law; or
  - g. Receive compensation for work performed in an externship course for which academic credit is granted, unless the Director of JD Externships determines that compensation is not likely to diminish the educational experience.
6. Joint-degree and dual-degree students must receive prior approval from the joint-degree or dual-degree program director, or the director's designee, in addition to the full-time externship program director's approval, before enrolling in a full-time externship program.
7. The number of credits available for a part-time externship shall be determined by the externship director, or director's designee, in consultation with the mentor at the time of approval of the externship. Any number of credits from four to eight may be set, depending upon the amount of student time required by the project and upon approval of the Director or her designee and mentor, such credit to be figured at the rate of three hours of student time per week per credit.

## **C. VERMONT JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS**

1. For the purpose of this regulation, an off-campus program means any clinical, academic or experiential program offered by Vermont Law School or any other institution that requires or allows the participant to work outside of South Royalton.
2. Every VJEL editor participating in an off-campus program is required to fully carry out their assigned VJEL duties while in the off-campus program.
3. The editor in chief, the administrative editor, and the senior managing editor are not permitted to participate in an off-campus program. The senior notes editor is not permitted to participate in an off-campus program during the fall semester, and a symposium editor is not permitted to participate in an off campus program in the semester in which the symposium is held. Staff editors are not permitted to participate in an off-campus program during their first semester on VJEL.

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<sup>16</sup> This regulation does not preclude a student from enrolling in an advanced clinic because advanced clinic is a separate course offering that is distinct from the related clinic course.

4. In all other instances, VJEL editors may participate in an off-campus program with advance approval by majority vote of the Executive Board. A member of the Executive Board seeking permission to participate in an off-campus program shall not be eligible to vote on whether to grant the permission.
5. A student who accepts a position on VJEL prohibiting or restricting participation in an off-campus program who subsequently participates in an off-campus program in violation these regulations shall receive an F grade from VJEL.

## **D. VERMONT LAW REVIEW AND OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS**

1. For the purpose of this regulation, an off-campus program means any clinical, academic, or experiential program offered by Vermont Law School or any other institution that requires or allows the participant to work outside of South Royalton.
2. Every VLR editor participating in an off-campus program is required to fully carry out their assigned VLR duties while in the off-campus program.
3. The editor in chief, the business manager, the senior managing editor, and the senior notes editor are not permitted to participate in an off-campus program. A symposium editor is not permitted to participate in an off campus program in the semester in which the symposium is held. Staff editors are not permitted to participate in an off-campus program during their first semester on VLR.
4. In all other instances, VLR editors may participate in an off-campus program with advance approval by majority vote of the Senior Editorial Board. A member of the Senior Editorial Board seeking permission to participate in an off-campus program shall not be eligible to vote on whether to grant the permission.
5. A student who accepts a position on VLR prohibiting or restricting participation in an off-campus program who subsequently participates in an off-campus program in violation these regulations shall receive an F grade from VLR.

## **E. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

### **1. GOALS**

- a. To allow the participating student to engage in intensive research in an area of the law in which the participating student has a particular interest.
- b. To give the participating student experience in completing a major piece of legal writing.
- c. To encourage a faculty-student learning experience on a highly individualized basis by providing close supervision of the participating student by a faculty member in both the research and writing stages.

### **2. BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Any student may undertake an Independent Research Project in any semester during his or her second or third year of studies.
- b. In order to be eligible to undertake an Independent Research Project a student must find a faculty member willing to sponsor the student's project. The decision to sponsor a student's Independent Research Project is solely within the faculty member's discretion. In this exercise of his or her discretion, a faculty member may take into account, but is in no way limited to, the following criteria:
  - (1) The student's record in regularly structured classroom courses,
  - (2) The student's record in previously completed written work, and
  - (3) The student's total number of credits for non-classroom work in the current and prior semesters. See regulation III.A.5.b.

### **3. PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

A faculty member willing to sponsor a student's Independent Research Project is hereinafter referred to as a sponsor.

- a. In consultation with his or her sponsor, the student must prepare a contract.
- b. The contract shall be a typewritten document prepared by the student in consultation with the sponsor setting forth the obligations and expectations of each party. It



shall include, as far as possible, the following provisions:

- (1) a description of the nature of the project;
  - (2) the goals which the student seeks to achieve by undertaking this particular project;
  - (3) a brief description of the research resources necessary for this project;
  - (4) a summary of the preliminary work already undertaken;
  - (5) an estimate of the amount of time the student will spend undertaking the Independent Research Project;
  - (6) a statement of expectations regarding the amount of time and effort the sponsor will devote to aiding the student in carrying out the project;
  - (7) a timetable for completion of various stages of the project;
  - (8) a description of the estimated size and scope of the final work product;
  - (9) a statement as to the mode of evaluation of the final work product;
  - (10) a statement as to the number of credits to be received;
  - (11) a listing of the student's credits for non-classroom work in the current and prior semesters. (Non-classroom work is defined above at regulation III.A.5.b.)
- c. If the Independent Research Project includes interviewing or surveying individuals or otherwise involves human participants, the student must comply with the Vermont Law School Policies and Procedures for Research Involving Human Participants and obtain prior approval from the Vice Dean for Faculty or the Vice Dean's designee.
- d. Requirements of filing a form for the contract are as follows:
- (1) A copy of the contract, bearing the signature of the student and the faculty sponsor, shall be filed in the Registrar's Office by the student no later than the deadline for adding courses to student schedules for the semester. If a student fails to file the contract with all required signatures by this deadline, the Registrar will delete the independent research project from the student's registration.
  - (2) Contracts without a sponsor currently holding the rank of Vermont Law School assistant professor, associate professor, or professor of law must be approved in writing in advance of the commencement of the project by the Vice Dean for Students unless they are adjunct faculty who are full-time employees of Vermont Law School.
  - (3) If the sponsor determines that there is good cause, a revision of a contract may be made after the deadline for adding courses, provided that:
    - (a) the revision will not violate any other provision of the Academic Regulations, and
    - (b) a copy of the revised contract, signed by the student and the faculty sponsor is submitted to the Registrar prior to the last day of classes for the semester in which the independent study is to be completed.

#### **4. REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PAPER**

- a. A student taking part in the Independent Research Project is required to submit a paper based on the student's research.
- b. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, this paper shall in substance and form be the equivalent of a scholarly piece of legal writing.
- c. The student and faculty sponsor may agree to the submission of a different sort of final written product, provided that the substituted written work product itself clearly sets forth the underlying legal research engaged in by the student.

#### **5. EVALUATION**

- a. The mode of evaluation is to be decided by the student and the faculty sponsor and incorporated in the contract. The following modes of evaluation are acceptable:
  - (1) by the sponsor and/or one or more other members of the faculty;
  - (2) by one or more members of the faculty and a highly qualified individual in the field of research covered by the Independent Research Project.

- b. The Independent Research Project shall be graded with a letter grade unless agreed to by the sponsor and incorporated into the contract that the project be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. If graded with a letter grade, the grade shall be included in the student's grade point average. The minimum acceptable grade shall be C-.

Notwithstanding an agreement not to grade an Independent Research Project, if a student elects to satisfy the AWR with an Independent Research Project, the sponsor must still determine that the written product would receive a grade of C or better were it the sole basis of grading a course for two or more credits in order for the student to satisfy the AWR requirement. See regulation III.A.2.b.

## **6. CREDIT**

- a. The normal procedure shall be for a student to contract for a three-credit Independent Research Project. Such a project should involve at least the same amount of time in research and writing as a student would spend in class and in preparation for class in a three-credit course.
- b. If a student and a sponsor agree that a project has merit, but will in their estimation involve less than or more than the amount of work normally devoted to a three-credit course, they may contract for fewer or more than three credits.
- c. The normal procedure shall be for a student to complete an Independent Research Contract in the academic semester. The Independent Research paper shall be due no later than the end of the last week of the examination period.
- d. If the student and sponsor agree that the proposed project has merit, but that it will be difficult for the student to complete the proposed project in one semester, the student and sponsor may make special provision in the contract for a two-semester project. The student bears the responsibility of bringing this special provision to the Registrar's attention.
- e. The credits for such a two-semester project must be allocated between the two semesters and a grade submitted at the end of each semester.

## **F. DIRECTED STUDY**

### **1. GOALS**

- a. To allow the participating student to enroll in a course in an area of the law in which the participating student has a particular interest when the course is not offered in that academic year and to allow the title of that course to appear on the student's transcript.
- b. To encourage a faculty-student learning experience on a highly individualized basis by providing close supervision of the participating student by a faculty member throughout the semester.

### **2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Any student may undertake a Directed Study in any semester during his or her second or third year of studies, but only if the course is not offered during that academic year.
- b. A student may undertake a Directed Study only of a course in the VLS database.
- c. A student must find a faculty member willing to sponsor the student's Directed Study. The decision to sponsor a student's Directed Study is solely within the faculty member's discretion subject to 2.a. and 2.b. above. In this exercise of his or her discretion, a faculty member may take into account, but is in no way limited to, the following criteria:
  - (1) The student's record in regularly structured classroom courses and non-classroom work, including the number of credits for non-classroom work (see regulation III.A.5.b.) and
  - (2) The faculty member's expertise, workload, and other professional obligations.
- d. In consultation with the faculty supervisor, the student must prepare a written contract setting forth the obligations and expectations of each party. It shall include, as far as possible, the following provisions:

- (1) the title and registration number of the course;
  - (2) the goals which the student seeks to achieve by undertaking the Directed Study;
  - (3) an estimate of the amount of time the student will spend undertaking the Directed Study (the amount of time should be the same as that required for a course with the same number of credits);
  - (4) a statement of expectations regarding the amount of time and effort the faculty supervisor will devote to direct interaction with the student;
  - (5) a timetable for completion of various stages of the project;
  - (6) a statement as to the mode(s) of evaluation;
  - (7) a listing of the student's credits for non-classroom work in the current and prior semesters. (Non-classroom work is defined at regulation III.A.5.b.)
- e. Requirements of filing a form for the contract are as follows:
- (1) A copy of the contract, bearing the signature of the student and the faculty sponsor, shall be filed in the Registrar's Office by the student no later than the deadline for adding courses to student schedules for the semester. If a student fails to file the contract with all required signatures by this deadline, the Registrar will delete the Directed Research from the student's registration.
  - (2) Contracts without a sponsor currently holding the rank of Vermont Law School assistant professor, associate professor, or professor of law must be approved in writing in advance of the commencement of the Directed Study by the Vice Dean for Students unless the adjunct faculty member is a full-time employee of Vermont Law School. Such approval will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances.

### 3. CREDIT

The credits allocated to the Directed Study will be the same as those allocated to the course of the same title.

### 4. EVALUATION

- a. The mode of evaluation is to be decided by the student and the faculty sponsor and incorporated in the contract.
- b. The Directed Study shall be graded with a letter grade.

### 5. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- a. If the student and sponsor agree, the Directed Study may satisfy the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement. In this case, the method of assessment must satisfy the requirements of the AWR in regulation III.A.2.b. including the requirement that the written product would receive a grade of B or better were it the sole basis of grading a course for two or more credits.
- b. A Directed Study may not be used to satisfy any other graduation requirement including a required course, or the experiential requirement.

## G. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

See regulation II.C. for grading standards and procedures.

### 1. GOOD STANDING

To be in good academic standing, a student must have an overall average of at least 2.20<sup>17</sup>, be eligible to return for the next academic semester or term, and have no pending Honor Code, Code of Conduct, or other disciplinary proceedings.

### 2. ACADEMIC PROBATION

- a. A student will be placed on academic probation if, at the end of the first semester, the student's cumulative average is between 1.5 and 2.20,<sup>18</sup> or, at the end of any other semester or summer session (even if summer session is not a residence semester

<sup>17</sup> Effective May 2021, 2.20 will change to 2.30

<sup>18</sup> Effective May 2021, a student will be on academic probation if, at the end of the first semester, the student's cumulative average is between 1.5 and 2.3, or at the end of any other semester or summer session (even if summer session is not a residence semester for the student), between 1.90 and 2.30. All references to 2.20 will be changed to 2.30 effective then, including III.G.1; G.2.a; G.3.a(5); G.3.a(6); G.3.a(7); G.3.b; G.3.c(1) and (2); and G.5; IV.A.2; IV.E.2.b; IV.E.3; IV.E.3.c(1) and (2); IV.D.2.b; IX.D.3.a(3); IV.D.3.a(4); IX.D.3.b; IV.D.3.c; IX.H.2.3; IX.H.3.a; IX.H.3.b; and IX.H.3.c.

for the student), between 1.90 and 2.20.

- b. A student who is on academic probation at the end of the first semester is required to take Legal Methods in place of one doctrinal class in the second semester. A student who is on academic probation at the end of the first semester is also required to complete the second semester of JD courses, including Legal Methods, before enrolling in upper division courses. A student who is on academic probation at the end of the first, second or third semester is required to take the following courses to obtain the JD degree: Corporations, Criminal Procedure or Constitutional Criminal Procedure, Estates, Sales, and Bar Exam Skills and Tactics (BEST). Students shall take BEST during their last semester.
- c. Any student who is on academic probation must have their course schedule and any changes to it be approved by the Vice Dean for Students, the Director of Academic Success, or their designee.
- d. A student who is on academic probation is not permitted to run for election to, or serve on the executive board of, the Student Bar Association. A student who is on academic probation is not permitted to run for election to, or serve in a leadership position (such as an officer or chair) of, any other co-curricular or extracurricular student group. A student who is on academic probation will be assigned a Faculty Mentor and must meet with the Faculty Mentor regularly until graduation. The exact meeting schedule and requirements will be determined by the Faculty Mentor. A student who has been on academic probation may not do a full time Semester in Practice or Externship during their last semester. A student who has been on academic probation may not participate in a class which has a travel component requiring students to miss any other regularly scheduled class.

### 3. ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

- a. A student will be dismissed from the law school if:
  - (1) the student has failed a total of eight credit hours in two consecutive semesters: no more than four credit hours of F from the first year, first semester will count in the application of this rule; or
  - (2) the student's cumulative average at the end of the first semester is at or below 1.50; or
  - (3) the student's cumulative average at the end of the second, third, fourth, or fifth semesters is below 1.90; or
  - (4) the student has a semester grade point average of less than 1.67 in any two semesters; or
  - (5) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of any semester and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation;
  - (6) the student has failed a required course twice; or
  - (7) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of the student's final semester.
- b. A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 3.a.(5) will be allowed to continue for a second semester on academic probation if the student's grade point average for the first semester on academic probation, if repeated for the second semester on academic probation with a credit load of 12 credits, is sufficient to achieve the required cumulative average of 2.20 at the end of the second semester on academic probation. A student who is continued on academic probation is required to take the courses designated in regulation III.G.2.b.
- c. A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 3.a.(7) may petition the Committee on Standards to be allowed to continue on academic probation. No such petition will be granted absent clear and convincing evidence of
  - (1) extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control and unlikely to continue or recur prevented the student from maintaining a cumulative average of at least 2.20, and
  - (2) a realistic and specific academic plan to raise the cumulative average to 2.20 or above in one additional academic term.
- d. Except as provided in subsection 3.c., a student who is academically dismissed cannot petition the Committee on Standards for readmission earlier than one year after the date of academic dismissal. The Committee will grant readmission only if

it finds that the student has satisfactorily addressed the factors that contributed to the academic dismissal. If the Committee grants a petition for readmission, it may impose any conditions such as retaking some or all of the first-year courses, taking a reduced course load, or taking specific courses. This regulation may not be waived by the Committee on Standards.

**4. FOR PURPOSES OF REGULATIONS, III.G.2 AND III.G.3.,** summer session does not count as a permission to treat summer session as a residence semester. As a result, a student on academic probation is not required to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.20 unless summer is a residence semester for that student. See regulations III.A.7 and III.A.8.c.

#### **5. EARLY INTERVENTION STATUS**

A student who has a GPA at or between 2.20 and 2.60 at the end of their first or second semester, and who has not previously been on academic probation, shall go into “Early Intervention Status (EIS).” This designation shall not go on the student’s transcript. Students in EIS are subject to the following requirements.

- a. If the student is placed in EIS after the first semester, they must take Legal Methods in place of one doctrinal class in the second semester. The student must meet with the Vice Dean for Students, the Director of Academic Success, or their designee, to determine what course to omit in the second semester. A student who is placed in EIS after the first semester is required to complete the second semester of JD courses, including Legal Methods, before enrolling in upper division courses.
- b. A student in EIS is required to take the following courses to obtain the JD degree: Corporations, Criminal Procedure or Constitutional Criminal Procedure, Estates, Sales, and Bar Exam Skills and Tactics (BEST). Students shall take BEST during their last semester.
- c. A student who is in EIS will be assigned a Faculty Mentor and must meet with the Faculty Mentor regularly until graduation. The exact meeting schedule and requirements will be determined by the Faculty Mentor.
- d. A student who is in EIS is not permitted to run for election to, or serve in a leadership position (such as officer or chair) of more than one co-curricular or extracurricular student group. A student who has been in EIS may not do a full time Semester in Practice or Externship during their last semester. A student who has been on EIS may not participate in a class which has a travel component requiring students to miss any other regularly scheduled class.

#### **6. CLASS RANK**

- a. Students in the JD program will receive a class rank only after grades are submitted at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Class rank will not be calculated at any other time. Students will be ranked based on anticipated completion date, with all students whose final semester ends in May, August, or December of the same calendar year being ranked as one cohort. Completion date is the end of the semester in which the student has completed all degree requirements.
- b. With the exception of JD students in the Extended Scheduling Option, JD students will be ranked at the completion of the fall semester of their first year. Extended Schedule JD students will be ranked at the completion of the fall semester of their second year. Students will be ranked based on anticipated completion date.
- c. Class rank calculated at the end of the spring semester in the year<sup>19</sup> of completion of degree requirements is final even if the student does not complete the degree requirements until the end of summer or fall semester of that year.
- d. Class rank for a semester will not be recalculated at any time, including after completion of academic work for which the student has received a grade of I (temporarily excused from completion of a requirement), after a student has retaken a course in which the student had earned a final grade of D or lower, or after completion of all degree requirements at the end of summer or fall.

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<sup>19</sup> For purposes of this regulation, “a year” refers to a calendar year not an academic year.

## **7. DEAN'S LIST**

"Dean's List" will be noted on the transcript for each semester that a JD student achieves a semester grade point average of 3.33 for the satisfactory completion of at least 10 graded credits.

**8. THE LEARNED HAND AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** is given to the JD student with the highest cumulative grade point average at the end of the spring semester who has completed either five or six semesters.

# **IV. MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS**

## **A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The provisions in regulations IV.A., IV.B., IV.C. and IV.D. apply to the MELP, MERL, MFALP, and MARJ degrees.

### **1. GENERAL LIMITATION**

A student may only obtain one master's degree from Vermont Law School.

### **2. CREDITS AND COURSE LOAD**

The master's degree is granted for regular attendance and satisfactory completion of the prescribed course of study as indicated below. A minimum of 30 credits is required for each master's degree. These credits must be selected from courses approved for the specific master's degree program. A cumulative grade point average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of a master's degree.

#### **a. Master's-only Students:**

(1) To satisfy the 30-credit requirement, a student must take a minimum of 24 credits at Vermont Law School. A master's student may take a maximum of 36 credits selected from courses approved for the specific master's program for completion of the degree; however, if a student has reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.

(2) For students taking residential classes, the minimum course load is six credits per semester for full-time students. The maximum course load is 14 credits per semester. The maximum course load for summer session is 11 credits.

No exceptions are allowed other than with the prior written approval of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee.

(3) For students taking online learning classes, the recommended course load is three credits per term. The online learning program offers six terms per academic year.

#### **b. Joint-Degree Students** See Regulation V below.

#### **c. Dual Degree Students** See regulations VI, VII, and VIII below.

### **3. DURATION OF PROGRAM**

- a. To obtain a master's degree, a student must complete the degree requirements within a period of five years from matriculation.
- b. Students may usually enter the master's program in the summer or fall semesters only. The appropriate Program Director shall have the discretion to allow students to enter the master's program in the spring semester.
- c. Online Learning Students may enter the master's program in any term offered throughout the academic year.

### **4. TRANSFER OF CREDITS**

A student enrolled in a master's program may be granted credit for summer or regular semester courses satisfactorily completed at an ABA-approved law school or at another accredited graduate



school. A student may transfer a maximum of six such credits to the master's program with the approval of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee. Before granting such approval, the Director or his or her designee must determine that the course is offered at the graduate level and that the course is relevant and important to the student's overall program of study. Courses eligible as transfer credit include only those courses with specific relevant substance. The Registrar must receive an official transcript showing that the course has been completed and that a grade of C or better (as defined in the Academic Regulations) has been awarded. Pass/Fail grades and grades for externships will not transfer. Transcripts from a foreign institution must be accompanied by a WES or AACRAO evaluation. Grades from transferred courses, other than pass/fail and externship grades, will be noted on the student's transcript but will not be used in computing the student's grade average. Once a student has enrolled as a degree candidate, prior approval must be obtained from the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee to obtain credit for courses taken at another institution. No transfer credit will be given for a course completed more than five years prior to matriculation into the master's program.

#### **5. COURSES TAKEN PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT**

Students wishing to take a course previously taken at a law school or college or graduate school, may register for the course with the prior approval of the appropriate Program Director or Director's designee, upon showing that the student would benefit from taking the course at Vermont Law School. Students may not take Administrative Law at Vermont Law School if they have taken it at another law school within the previous five years.

#### **6. COURSES TAKEN AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL PRIOR TO MATRICULATION**

Students who have taken courses at Vermont Law School prior to matriculation into a master's degree program or Professional Certificate may transfer a maximum of six credits into the degree program. Grades from transferred courses earned will be used in computing the student's grade average.

If a student has taken more than six credits, only the most recent six credits will transfer. The student's date of matriculation will be retroactive to the beginning of the semester in which the earliest of the transferred credits was awarded.

#### **7. ADD/DROP AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES**

See regulations II.B.3., II.B.4., and II.B.5.

## **B. EXTERNSHIPS**

### **1. OBJECTIVES**

The Master's Externship Program provides students with experience to test and develop their legal, policy, management, or science knowledge and skills as specified in each master's degree program regulations below.

### **2. THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements must be met:

- a. Students are encouraged to work primarily on site at the Master's Externship. If a student is working remotely, the student must attend teleconference meetings with their supervisor at least once a week.
- b. Externships cannot be substituted for distributional requirements or required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee.
- c. The maximum number of credits a student may earn in one or more master's externship(s) is 10 credits. For the MARJ externship, the maximum number of credits is four.
- d. The minimum number of credits a student may earn in a master's externship is four credits.

### **3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Students in good academic standing may elect to enroll in a master's externship.
- b. Students may not earn JD credit through a master's externship.
- c. Students will not be allowed to enroll in an externship where they have previously

worked as a volunteer or an employee unless the externship will provide a qualitatively different or more in depth learning experience.

- d. Without prior approval from the Director of the Master's Externship Program, students enrolled for six or more credits in a master's or JD externship during a given semester may not subsequently continue in that placement and receive credit toward a master's externship as a consequence of that extended placement. Students seeking to extend such long-term experiences shall petition the Director of the Master's Externship Program in writing with supporting materials that demonstrate the following:

The student's experience during the subsequent master's externship will be substantially different from the experience as a consequence of additional (and more difficult) responsibilities, new subject areas, or new skills to be developed.

#### **4. PROCEDURES FOR ENROLLING IN A MASTER'S EXTERNSHIP**

- a. Fill out the application in its entirety, including all signatures. The application is available on the VLS website.
- b. Submit the fully executed contract to the Director of the Master's Externship Program for approval of the externship opportunity.
- c. All fully executed contracts must be submitted to the Director of the Master's Externship Program by the first day of classes of the semester in which the student will be doing her or his externship.
  - (1) The contract, once submitted to the Director of the Master's Externship Program, will be copied and distributed to the Mentor and the Faculty Supervisor.
  - (2) Students who do not submit final, signed contracts by this deadline will not be enrolled in the master's externship and will not receive credit for their work.
- d. The Director of the Master's Externship Program may decline any master's externship contract or opportunity described therein that does not conform to these regulations.

#### **5. GRADES**

- a. All master's externships are pass/fail.
- b. Faculty Supervisors assign the grade based on the student's journals, the Mentor's letter of evaluation, and other information such as work product, emails, telephone conversations and/or meetings and site visits with the student and Mentor.

### **C. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

- a. Students who elect to undertake independent research projects shall follow the guidelines set forth in regulation III.E.
- b. Independent research projects cannot be substituted for distributional requirements or required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee.

### **D. DIRECTED STUDY**

- a. Students who elect to undertake directed study shall follow the guidelines set forth in regulation III.F.
- b. Directed study cannot be substituted for distributional requirements or required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee.

### **E. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

See Regulation II.C. for grading standards and procedures.

#### **1. GOOD STANDING**

To be in good academic standing, a student must not be on academic probation, be eligible to return for the next academic semester or term, and have no pending Honor Code, Code of Conduct, or other disciplinary proceedings.

#### **2.ACADEMIC PROBATION<sup>20</sup>**

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<sup>20</sup> For purposes of regulations E.2. and E.3., "completion" includes grades of F. and F.Wd. but not Wd.

- a. A student will be placed on academic probation if, after the completion of six credits and before completion of 12 credits, the student's cumulative average is between 1.00 and 1.90.
- b. A student will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of 12 or more credits, the student's cumulative average is between 1.90 and 2.20.
- c. A student who is on academic probation may not enroll in more than nine credits or audit any course except with the written permission of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee.
- d. A student who is on academic probation is not permitted to run for election to, or serve on the executive board of, the Student Bar Association. A student who is on academic probation is not permitted to run for election to, or serve in a leadership position (such as an officer or chair) of, any other co-curricular or extra-curricular student group.

### 3. ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

- a. A student will be dismissed if:
  - (1) the student has a cumulative average of 1.0 or below at the completion of six credits; or
  - (2) the student's cumulative average is below 1.90 at any time after the completion of 12 credits; or
  - (3) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at any time after the completion of 15 credits and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or
  - (4) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at the completion of the program.
- b. A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 3.a.(3) will be allowed to continue for a second semester<sup>21</sup> on academic probation if the student's grade point average for the first semester on academic probation, if repeated for the second semester on academic probation with a credit load of 12 credits, is sufficient to achieve the required cumulative average of 2.20 at the end of the second semester on academic probation.
- c. A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 3.a.(4) may petition the Committee on Standards to be allowed to continue on academic probation. No such petition will be granted absent clear and convincing evidence of
  - (1) extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control and unlikely to continue or recur prevented the student from maintaining a cumulative average of at least 2.20; and
  - (2) a realistic and specific academic plan to raise the cumulative average to 2.20 or above in one additional academic term.
- d. Except as provided in subsection 3.c., a student who is academically dismissed cannot petition the Committee on Standards for readmission earlier than one year after the date of academic dismissal. The Committee will grant readmission only if it finds that the student has satisfactorily addressed the factors that contributed to the academic dismissal. If the Committee grants a petition for readmission, it may impose any conditions it deems appropriate. This regulation may not be waived by the Committee on Standards.

## F. MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY DEGREE (MELP)

### 1. REQUIRED CURRICULUM<sup>22</sup>

- a. MELP students must satisfy the following requirements<sup>23</sup>:

<sup>21</sup> For purposes of this regulation, the summer session shall be considered as a "semester."

<sup>22</sup> Students enrolled in the online learning program are required to satisfy the same degree requirements, but the availability of elective courses is limited. Students should consult the Program Planning Guide lines for the online learning program to ensure that all graduation requirements are met.

<sup>23</sup> Students who matriculated in the MELP program prior to May 2013 must satisfy the following requirements: Environmental Law, Administrative Law, Science for Environmental Law, an Environmental Ethics/Philosophy distributional requirement, and a Dispute Resolution distributional requirement. Students who matriculated in the MELP program prior to August 2012 may satisfy the Science for Environmental Law requirement with any of the following courses: ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law, ENV5430 Ecology, or ENV5110 Ecology of Food and Agriculture.

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
Legislation and Regulation Survey	REQ7186 Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)
Environmental Law	ENV5115 Environmental Law (3)
Communication, Advocacy and Leadership	ENV5122 Communication, Advocacy and Leadership (3)

- b. In addition to the above, each student must satisfactorily complete at least three of the following five core courses:

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Natural Resources Law</b>	ENV5235 Natural Resources Law (3)
<b>Environmental Science</b>	ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law (3) ENV5430 Ecology (3)
<b>Environmental Economics</b>	ENV5220 Environmental Economics and Markets (3) ENV5229 Environmental Issues in Business Transactions (2) ENV5235 Environmental Governance and the Private Sector
<b>Environmental Ethics</b>	<b>(minimum of 2 credits)</b>
DIV7628	Indian Tribes as Governmental Stewards of the Environment (2)
ENV5305	Environmental Ethics Seminar (2)
ENV5310	Environmental Health Law (2)
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5383	Food Justice and Sustainability (2)
ENV5385	Global Food Security (2)
ENV5406	Animal Rights Jurisprudence (2)
ENV5408	The Law of Animals in Agriculture (3)
ENV5422	Animal Welfare Law (2)
ENV5446	Environmental Justice (2)
ENV5478	Global Food Security and Social Justice (3)
ENV552	Earth Law (2)
JUR7330	Moral Philosophy for Professionals (2)
JUR7333	Animal Law and Ethics (3)
<b>Dispute Resolution</b>	<b>(minimum of 2 credits)</b>
ADR6410	Alternative Dispute Resolution (3)
ADR6415	Environmental Dispute Resolution (3)
ADR6405	Arbitration (2)
ADR6412	Mediation (2)
ADR6413	Mediation Advocacy (2)
ADR6420	Negotiation (2)
ADR6450	Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar (2)
INT7450	International Investment Arbitration (2)

Any MELP student having completed a JD degree or enrolled in a JD degree program may have the Legislation/Regulation Survey and the Legal and Policy Writing Seminar requirements waived. Although the requirement may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

- c. Any remaining electives must be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the following list of approved courses.

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
DIV7628	Indian Tribes as Governmental Stewards of the Environment (2)
ENV5235	Environmental Governance and the Private Sector
ENV5305	Environmental Ethics Seminar (2)
ENV5310	Environmental Health Law (2)
ENV 5361	Forest Policy and Law
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5383	Food Justice and Sustainability (2)
ENV5385	Global Food Security (2)
ENV5406	Animal Rights Jurisprudence (2)
ENV5408	The Law of Animals in Agriculture (3)
ENV5422	Animal Welfare Law (2)
ENV5425	Clean Transportation Law and Policy
ENV5446	Environmental Justice (2)
ENV5478	Global Food Security and Social Justice (3)
ENV5122	Communication, Advocacy and Leadership (3)
ENV5521	Earth Law (2)
ENV5550	Renewable Energy Project, Finance, and Development (2)
JUR7330	Moral Philosophy for Professionals (2)
JUR7333	Animal Law and Ethics (3)
WRI7301	Advanced Writing Seminar (3)
<b>Dispute Resolution</b>	<b>(minimum of 2 credits)</b>
ADR6410	Alternative Dispute Resolution (3)
ADR6415	Environmental Dispute Resolution (3)
ADR6405	Arbitration (2)
ADR6412	Mediation (2)
ADR6413	Mediation Advocacy (2)
ADR6420	Negotiation (2)
ADR6450	Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar (2)
INT7450	International Investment Arbitration (2)

Any MELP student having completed a JD degree or enrolled in a JD degree program may have the Legislation/Regulation Survey and the Legal and Policy Writing Seminar requirements waived. Although the requirement may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

- c. Any remaining electives must be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the following list of approved courses.

ADR6405	Arbitration (2)
ADR6410	Alternative Dispute Resolution (3)
ADR6412	Mediation (2)
ADR6415	Environmental Dispute Resolution (3)
ADR6420	Negotiation (2)
ADR6425	Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation (JD students only) (3)
ADR6450	Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar (2)

BUS6262	Social Enterprise Law (2)
BUS6305	Nonprofit Organizations (3)
BUS6350	Nonprofit Management (2)
CLI9302	Environmental Advocacy Clinic (JD or LLM students only) (6)
CLI9326	Environmental Advocacy Clinic (JD or LLM only) (6)
CLI9405	Advanced Dispute Resolution Clinic (4)
CLI9427	Energy Clinic (3)
CLI9428	Food and Agriculture Clinic (6)
CLI9429	CAFS Clinic Seminar (2)
CLI9437	Advanced Energy Clinic (6)
DIV7620	Native Americans and the Law (3)
DIV7628	Indian Tribes as Governmental Stewards of the Environment (2)
ENV5105	Administrative Law (3)
ENV5108	Introduction to Agriculture and Food Law and Policy (3)
ENV5112	Science for Environmental Law (3)
ENV5115	Environmental Law (3)
ENV5125	Land Use Regulation (3)
ENV5205	Air Pollution (3)
ENV5209	The Law of Toxics and Hazardous Substances (3)
ENV5210	CERCLA Liability and Cleanup (2)
ENV5212	Climate Change and the Law (3)
ENV5214	Climate Change Mitigation (3)
ENV5218	International Climate Change Law (COP) (3)
ENV5220	Environmental Economics and Markets (3)
ENV5223	Environmental Governance in the Developing World (2)
ENV5226	Energy Law and Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World (3)
ENV5228	Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy (2)
ENV5235	Natural Resources Law (3)
ENV5239	Land Transactions and Finance (3)
ENV5245	Water Resources Management (3)
ENV5246	Water Quality (3)
ENV5250	Watershed Management (3)
ENV5303	Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2)
ENV5304	Comparative Environmental Law Research (2)
ENV5305	Environmental Ethics (2)
ENV5310	Environmental Health Law (2)
ENV5335	Extinction and Climate Change (2)
ENV5336	Climate Change, Extinction and Adaptation (3)
ENV5342	Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts (2)
ENV5343	Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems (3)
ENV5344	Alternative Fuels and Renewable Energy (3)
ENV5346	New Frontiers in Environmental Policy (2)
ENV5349	Regulating the Marine Environment (2)
ENV5350	Risk Assessment (3)



ENV5356	Scientific Controversies (2)
ENV5365	Climate Change: the Power of Taxes (2)
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5380	Food Regulation and Policy (3)
ENV5381	Local Farm and Food Law in Practice (3)
ENV5383	Food Justice and Sustainability (2)
ENV5401	Agriculture and the Environment (3)
ENV5405	Ecosystem Conservation Strategies (2)
ENV5406	Animal Rights Jurisprudence (2)
ENV5408	Law of Animals in Agriculture (3)
ENV5410	The Farm Bill (2)
ENV5411	Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture (3)
ENV5362	Representing Farmers and Food Producers (3)
ENV5422	Animal Welfare Law (2)
ENV5423	Ocean and Coastal Law (3)
ENV5430	Ecology (3)
ENV5446	Environmental Justice (2)
ENV5449	Environmental Litigation Workshop (2)
ENV5462	Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study (3)
ENV5468	Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
ENV5469	Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3)
ENV5474	Land Conservation Law (2)
ENV5478	Global Food Security and Social Justice (3)
ENV5479	Law and Policy of Local Food Systems (3)
ENV5497	End Use Energy Efficiency (2)
ENV5500	Environmental Aspects of Business Transactions (2)
ENV5510	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (1)
ENV5521	Earth Law (2)
ENV5540	Public Health and Food and Agriculture Policy (2)
ENV5561	Environmental Enforcement and Compliance (2)
ENV5564	Peace, War and the Environment (2)
GPP7819	Environmental Issues in Business Transactions (JD students only) (2)
INT7412	Law of the European Union (2)
INT7413	European Union Law Trento (3)
INT7421	International Environmental Law (3)
INT7440	Comparative U.S.-China Environmental Law (2)
INT7446	International Trade and the Environment (2)
INT7450	International Investment Arbitration and the Environment (2)
JUR7307	Culture and the Environment (2)
JUR7330	Moral Philosophy for Professionals (2)
JUR7333	Animal Law and Ethics (3)
PUB7510	Legislation (3)
PUB7525	Legislative Clinic (6)
PUB7585	State and Local Governance and Finance (3)
WRI7380	Advanced Environmental Legal Research (1)

**2. EXTERNSHIPS**

The Master’s Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their environmental law, policy, management, and/or science knowledge and skills. MELP externships are by definition environmental in their subject focus, so students must assure that their work on-site relates to environmental issues. See regulation IV.B. for externship requirements and procedures.

**G. MASTER OF ENERGY REGULATION AND LAW DEGREE (MERL)**

**1. REQUIRED CURRICULUM<sup>24</sup>**

a. MERL students must satisfy the following requirements:

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
Energy Law and Policy	ENV5226 Energy Law and Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World (3)
Energy Regulation	ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets, and the Environment (3)
Environmental Economics	ENV5220 Environmental Economics and Markets (3)
Legislation and Regulation Survey	REQ7186 Regulation and Legislation Survey (3)
<b>Project/Writing Requirement</b>	CLI9427 Energy Clinic (3-6) CLI9437 Advanced Energy Clinic (3-6) ENV5303 Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2) WRI7301 Advanced Writing Seminar Independent Research Project or AWR on an energy topic MERL Externship (4–10) Participation in the Institute for Energy and the Environment research associate program
<b>Energy Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 6 credits)</b>
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy (2)
ENV5344	Alternative Fuels and Renewable Energy (3)
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5425	Clean Transportation Law and Policy
ENV5468	Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
ENV5469	Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3)
ENV5497	End Use Energy Efficiency (2)
ENV5550	Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development (2)
ENV5510	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Engineering (1)
ENV5511	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Business (1)
ENV5512	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Legal (1)

- b. Any remaining electives must be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the list of approved courses in regulation IV.F.1.c.
- c. The Director of the Environmental Law Center or Director’s designee has the authority to waive any of these course requirements provided the student has had comparable experience or course work. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

**2. EXTERNSHIPS**

<sup>24</sup> Students enrolled in the online learning program are required to satisfy the same degree requirements, but the availability of elective courses is limited. Students should consult the Program Planning Guidelines for the distance learning program to ensure that all graduation requirements are met.

The MERL Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their energy law and policy knowledge and skills. MERL externships are by definition energy-related, so students must assure that their work on-site relates to energy issues. See regulation IV.B. for externship requirements and procedures.

## H. MASTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW AND POLICY DEGREE (MFALP)

### 1. REQUIRED CURRICULUM<sup>25</sup>

a. MFALP students must satisfy the following requirements

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Required Courses</b>	
ENV5180	Introduction to Agriculture and Food Law Policy (3)
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)
ENV5122	Communications, Advocacy and Leadership (3)
<b>Food and Agriculture Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 9 credits)</b>
ENV5401	Agriculture and the Environment (3)
ENV5381	Local Farm and Food Law in Practice (3)
ENV5362	Representing Farmers and Food Producers (2)
ENV5380	Food Regulation and Policy (3)
ENV5383	Food Justice and Sustainability (2)
ENV5385	Global Food Security (2)
ENV5478	Global Food Security and Social Justice (3)
ENV5408	Law of Animals and Agriculture (3)
ENV5410	The Farm Bill (2)
ENV5411	Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture (3)
ENV5479	Law and Policy of Local Food Systems (3)
ENV5540	Public Health and Food and Agriculture Policy (2)
ENV5307	Animals and the Law (3)
ENV5246	Water Quality (3)
ENV5902	Forestry Policy and the Law (2)
INT7446	International Trade and the Environment (2)
ENV5245	Water Resources Law (3)
ENV5238	Global Sustainability Field Study (1)
<b>General Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 3 credits)</b>
ENV5105	Administrative Law (3)
ENV5115	Environmental Law (3)
ENV5125	Land Use Regulation (3)
ENV5212	Climate Change and the Law (3)
ENV5235	Natural Resources Law (3)
ENV5349	Regulating the Marine Environment (2)
ENV7380	Advanced Environmental Legal Research (1)
ENV5239	Land Transactions and Finance (3)
ENV5446	Environmental Justice (2)
ENV5474	Land Conservation Law (2)

<sup>25</sup> Students enrolled in the online learning program are required to satisfy the same degree requirements, but the availability of elective courses is limited. Students should consult the Program Planning Guidelines for the online learning program to ensure that all graduation requirements are met.

ENV5310	Environmental Health Law (2)
ENV5423	Ocean and Coastal Law (3)
<b>Experiential/Writing Requirement</b>	<b>(at least one of the following; zero credit minimum)</b> Independent Research Project or AWR on a food/agriculture topic (1-6) Master's externship in food/agriculture law and policy (4-10) Semester in Practice in food/agriculture law and policy (13) Center for Agriculture and Food Systems research associate program
CLI9428	Food and Agriculture Clinic (4)
ENV 5301	Advanced Food Writing Seminar (2)
WRI7301	Advanced Writing Seminar (3)

- b. Any remaining electives may be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the list of approved courses in regulation IV.F.1.c.
- c. The Director of the Environmental Law Center or Director's designee has the authority to waive any of these course requirements provided the student has had comparable experience or course work. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

## 2. EXTERNSHIPS

The Master's Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their food and agriculture law and policy knowledge and skills. MFALP externships are by definition food and agriculture-related, so students must assure that their work on-site relates to food and agriculture issues. See regulation IV.B. for externship requirements and procedures.

## I. MASTER OF ARTS IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (MARJ)

### 1. REQUIRED CURRICULUM

- a. MARJ students must satisfy the following requirements:

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THAT REQUIREMENT
<b>Required Courses</b>	
RSJ7115	Principles of Restorative Justice (3) or
RSJ7110	Restorative Justice Theory and Practice (2) or
RSJ7120	Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice (3)
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation (3) or
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)
<b>Writing Requirement</b>	<b>(minimum of 3 credits) (see c. below)</b>
RSJ7215	Narrative Writing Seminar (3)
WRI7301	Advanced Writing Seminar (3)
RSJ5122/ENV5122	Communications, Advocacy and Leadership (3)
<b>Core Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 9 additional credits)</b>
RSJ7330	Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions (3)
REQ7140	Criminal Law (3)t
CRI7305	Advanced Criminal Law Seminar: Alternative Programs (2)

RSJ7350	Ethics and Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7210	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization (3)
ADR6420	Negotiation (2)
RSJ7320	New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence (3)
RSJ7250	Global Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3)
RSJ7270	Clemency, Pardon, and Expungement (3)
CRI7333	Juvenile Justice and Law (3)
RSJ7325	Advanced Restorative Practices (2)
RSJ7360	Advanced Victim Rights Seminar (3)
RSJ7140	Applied Criminal Justice (3)
RSJ7315	Peacemaking Courts (3)t
RSJ7340	Race, Crimes, and Restorative Justice (3)
CRI7380	Pleas, Sentencing and Accountability (3)
CLI9446	RJ Externship (4)
<b>Elective Courses</b>	<b>(remaining general elective courses may be chosen from the following approved courses)</b>
INT7424	International Human Rights (3)
DIV7610	Race and the Law Seminar (2)
ADR6415	Environmental Dispute Resolution (2)
ENV5446	Environmental Justice (2)
DIV7615	Sexual Orientation and the Law (2)
GPP7827	Improv for Advocates (1)
CLI9405	Dispute Resolution Clinic (2)
GPP7817	GPP: Criminal Procedure – Bail to Jail (2)
CRI7313	Capital Punishment Seminar (2)
JUR7350	Women and the Law Seminar (2)
WRI7900	Independent Research Project (3)
DIV7620	Native Americans and the Law (3)
ENV5105	Administrative Law (3)
ENV5113	Legal and Policy Writing (1)
ENV5902	Environmental Crimes (2)

- b. The Director of the Center for Justice Reform or Director's designee has the authority to waive any of these course requirements provided the student has had comparable experience or course work. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.
- c. JD students who pursue a joint degree will waive out of the MARJ writing requirement upon passing Legal Writing I and completing Legal Writing II with a GPA of 2.66 or higher.
- d. Any course not selected as a required course may be taken as a core elective.

## **2. EXTERNSHIPS**

The Master's Externship Program provides students with a field experience to develop their Restorative Justice knowledge and skills. See regulation IV.B. for externship requirements and procedures.

## **V. JOINT DEGREES**

### **A. JOINT JD/MASTER'S DEGREES**

Vermont Law School awards joint JD/MELP, joint JD/MERL, joint JD/MFALP and joint JD/MARJ degrees. The requirements in regulation V.A.1. apply to all four joint degrees.

#### **1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JOINT DEGREE**

- a. The joint JD and Master's degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the specific Master's program. The regulations in sections III and IV above apply to joint degree students.
- b. A joint-degree student may share credits between the two degree programs. A joint-degree student must take a minimum of 21 non-shared Master's degree credits at Vermont Law School. A joint-degree student may take a maximum of 36 Master's degree credits for completion of the joint degree; however, if a student has reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded. All credits must be selected from the list of courses approved for the specific Master's degree program.
- c. A joint-degree student's course load may not exceed a total of 18 credits during the fall and spring semesters.
- d. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee.

#### **2. JOINT JD/MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY (MELP) DEGREE**

The joint JD and MELP degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the MELP program.<sup>26</sup>

#### **3. JOINT JD/MASTER OF ENERGY REGULATION AND LAW (MERL) DEGREE**

The joint JD and MERL degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the MERL program.

#### **4. JOINT JD/MASTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW AND POLICY (MFALP) DEGREE**

The JD and MFALP degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the MFALP program.

#### **5. JOINT JD/MASTER OF ARTS IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (MARJ) DEGREE**

The JD and MARJ degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the MARJ program.

### **B. JOINT JD/LLM DEGREE**

Vermont Law School awards joint JD/LLM in Environmental Law, joint JD/LLM in Energy Law, and joint JD/LLM in Food and Agriculture Law degrees. The requirements in regulation V.B.1. apply to all three joint degrees.

#### **1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

- a. The joint JD and LLM degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the LLM program. The regulations in sections III and IX apply to joint degree students.

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<sup>26</sup> Students who matriculated in the MELP program prior to May 2013 must satisfy the following requirements: Environmental Law, Administrative Law, Science for Environmental Law, an Environmental Ethics/Philosophy distributional requirement, and a Dispute Resolution distributional requirement. Students who matriculated in the MELP program prior to August 2012 may satisfy the Science for Environmental Law requirement with any of the following courses: ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law, ENV5430 Ecology, or ENV5110 Ecology of Food and Agriculture.



- b. Joint JD/LLM students must finish all requirements for the JD degree before beginning the LLM degree.
- c. A joint JD/LLM student may transfer up to nine credits from the Vermont Law School JD program to the LLM program. A JD/LLM student must take a minimum of 21 LLM credits at Vermont Law School. All credits must be selected from the list of courses approved for the LLM program. All credits to be transferred must be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.
- d. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

## **2. JOINT JD/LLM IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW DEGREE**

Joint JD/LLM in Environmental Law degree students must satisfy all the requirements in section B.1.

## **3. JOINT JD/LLM IN ENERGY LAW DEGREE**

Joint JD/LLM in Energy Law degree students must satisfy all the requirements in section B.1.

The Energy Electives and General Electives requirements shall not be waived for courses completed prior to matriculation in the LLM program. All LLM candidates must take four credits of Energy Electives and nine credits of General Electives from the above list provided they do not duplicate prior course work. If an LLM candidate is unable to fulfill this requirement without duplicating prior coursework, the candidate must submit an alternative coursework plan to be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

The Project requirement shall not be waived because of prior completion of one of the listed options. LLM candidates who have completed one of the listed projects as part of a prior program must choose a different project to meet the LLM requirement.

## **4. JOINT JD/LLM IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW DEGREE**

Joint JD/LLM in Food and Agriculture Law degree students must satisfy all the requirements in section B.1.

The Food and Agriculture Electives and General Electives requirements shall not be waived for courses completed prior to matriculation in the LLM program. All LLM candidates must take four credits of Food and Agriculture Electives and nine credits of General Electives from the above list provided they do not duplicate prior course work. If an LLM candidate is unable to fulfill this requirement without duplicating prior coursework, the candidate must submit an alternative coursework plan to be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

The Project requirement shall not be waived because of prior completion of one of the listed options. LLM candidates who have completed one of the listed projects as part of a prior program must choose a different project to meet the LLM requirement.

# **VI. DUAL DEGREES – JD PROGRAM**

Vermont Law School, in conjunction with other institutions, offers the following dual degree options for JD students: JD/MEM (Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies), JD/Master I/II (Université de Cergy-Pontoise (Cergy)), JD/LLM in French and European Law (Université de Cergy-Pontoise (Cergy)), and JD/MPhil (University of Cambridge).

Students are required to satisfy the graduation requirements of both institutions. The JD degree requirements, as described in regulation III. above, govern except as modified by this regulation.

## **A. ADMISSION**

Each program has different criteria for admission. See Program Requirements, below.

The first school that the applicant applies to will be termed the "domicile" of the student, and the original admissions documents will be filed at that school. The other school will be termed the "secondary school" for that student. Vermont Law School and its partner institutions have agreed to share supporting documentation, such as transcripts, L.S.A.T. and G.R.E. reports, letters of recommendation, writing samples, personal statements, and the like. Photocopies of

those documents, certified by the Registrar of the institution holding the original documents, will be deemed adequate for admissions purposes.

## **B. REGISTRATION AND RECORDS**

The Registrar of each school will register dual degree candidates for courses taken at that school according to the academic schedule of each school. Each Registrar will also certify completion of courses and the assignment of credit. Transcripts of students in the program will bear a notation that the student is enrolled in the dual degree program. Students are entitled to attend graduation at both schools. Students will receive separate diplomas.

## **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

Students are required to satisfy the graduation requirements of both institutions. The Vermont Law School JD degree requirements govern except as modified by each program's specific regulation. See below.

## **D. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT**

Regulation III.A.6. requires that a student must be in residence at Vermont Law School for the last four semesters of the JD degree. For purposes of this regulation, one semester at the partner institution will count towards satisfaction of this residence requirement. Students enrolled in the dual degree programs with the University of Cergy-Pontoise may apply two semesters towards satisfaction of this requirement.

## **E. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT**

A candidate for a dual degree is expected to comply fully with all academic and other applicable requirements of both Vermont Law School and the partner institution, even if they are different. Issues concerning academic performance or student conduct will be subject to the regulations and procedures of the school where the matter arose.

Students must be in good academic standing at both schools to remain in the program.

## **F. WITHDRAWAL FROM A DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM**

Except as provided by regulations VI.G.2.c. and VI.G.3.c., if a student leaves a dual program or fails to complete the program requirements for the degree at the partner institution, the student will no longer be considered a dual degree student. As a result, the student will be required to meet the residence requirements of regulation III.A.6. Credits earned at the partner institution will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript.

## **G. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. DUAL JD/MEM**

Vermont Law School and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies offers a dual JD/MEM program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a four-year period.

#### **A. ADMISSION**

A candidate for the dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by, both Vermont Law School and the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Management (Yale). Information on application requirements and procedures for admission to the Yale School of Forestry & Management are available from Yale. Each school will admit students according to its own criteria for admission. Joint applications may be discussed and coordinated by admissions officials at both schools.

#### **B. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

- (1) The JD requires 87 credits. A candidate for the dual JD/MEM degree must satisfactorily complete all the requirements for the JD degree as described in regulation III. above. A dual degree candidate may share a total of 12 (twelve) credits between the JD and MEM programs. This means that a Vermont Law School candidate for a dual JD/MEM degree may apply the equivalent of 12 (twelve) Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Yale to the JD degree, thereby reducing to 75 the number of JD credits taken at Vermont Law School required for the JD degree.

- (2) A dual-degree candidate may not satisfy the experiential requirement with courses taken at Yale without the prior permission of the Vice Dean for Students.
- (3) With the permission of the Committee on Standards, a dual-degree candidate may receive residency credit for classes taken during one summer session.
- (4) No credit toward the JD degree will be given for courses taken at Yale prior to the student's matriculation into the JD program at Vermont Law School.

## 2. DUAL JD/MASTER I AND JD/MASTER II DEGREE

Vermont Law School and l'Université de Cergy-Pontoise (Cergy) offer to students from both institutions a dual JD/Master I and JD/Master II degree program in three areas of concentration: the law of business organizations (DJCE); the law of business ethics (DEA); and the law of international and European economic relations (DREIE). The program enables students to earn the JD/Master I concurrently over a three-year period and the JD/Master I and JD/Master II over a four-year period. Graduates of the program will be able to sit for the bar examination in the United States and France, according to each country's requirements.

### A. ADMISSION/ELIGIBILITY

- (1) Vermont Law School students must begin the dual degree program at Vermont Law School.
- (2) Vermont Law School applicants must be in the top half of their class at the end of the semester preceding their application to the program and continue to be in the top half of their class through the completion of the semester prior to taking courses at Cergy.
- (3) Students must have a sufficient mastery of French to take courses and examinations in French. Level of competence in French will be determined by oral and written examination to the satisfaction of the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs.
- (4) A maximum of four Vermont Law School students will be admitted to either program during any one academic year.

### B. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

- (1) The JD requires 87 credits. A candidate for a dual JD/MI or JD/MII degree may apply to the JD degree up to the equivalent of one third or 29 Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Cergy, thereby reducing to 58 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School. The total credits that may be applied to the JD degree from study abroad is governed by regulation III.A.4.
- (2) Program participants beginning their studies at Vermont Law School must satisfactorily complete the following courses at Vermont Law School before beginning course work in France:
  - (a) Corporations;
  - (b) Income Taxation; and
  - (c) At least one course in each of the following categories:
    - (i) Corporate Finance or Securities Regulation;
    - (ii) Bankruptcy, Business Planning, Commercial Arbitration, Employment Law, Environmental Issues in Business Transactions, International Business Transactions, International Intellectual Property, International Trade and the Environment, International Regulation of Trade, Sales, Secured Transactions;
- (3) Program participants beginning their studies at Vermont Law School must also satisfactorily complete courses that include the following subjects before matriculating in France:
  - (a) A course in Introduction to the French Legal System, the French Civil Code, or French Legal Method
  - (b) French Corporate Law

Courses satisfying these requirements may be offered at Vermont Law School or at Cergy. These requirements may, with the prior permission of the Vice Dean for Faculty, Vice Dean for Students, or their designee, also be satisfied by summer study at another ABA-approved law school.

Other appropriate courses may be substituted for the courses listed in subpart

(2) and (3) of this regulation with the prior permission of the Vice Dean for Faculty.

- (4) Program participants beginning their studies at Cergy will be admitted to the Vermont Law School JD degree program with advanced standing. Advanced standing and credit hours granted for foreign study may not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total credits required by Vermont Law School for its JD degree (i.e., 29 credits). Courses that qualify for application to the JD degree for these students shall be determined by the Vice Dean for Students at Vermont Law School in consultation with the Vice Dean for Faculty.

Program participants beginning their studies at Cergy will ordinarily be required to complete the required first-year JD curriculum at Vermont Law School. Exceptions will be granted by the Vice Dean for Students at Vermont Law School in consultation with the Vice Dean for Faculty.

### C. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

If a student leaves the program or fails to complete the program requirements for either the Vermont Law School JD degree or the Cergy Master I or Master II degree, the student will no longer be considered a dual-degree student. As a result, the student will be required to meet the residence requirements of regulation II.A.6. above. Credits earned at Cergy will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript unless the student has earned a Cergy Master I or unless the credits may be transferred according to the usual rules applicable to transfer of foreign credits earned by participation in Vermont Law School study abroad programs. In advance of withdrawal, Vermont Law School students should consult with the Vermont Law School Office of Financial Aid to determine the impact of withdrawal on financial aid awards.

## 3. DUAL JD/LLM IN FRENCH AND EUROPEAN UNION LAW

Vermont Law School and the Université de Cergy-Pontoise (Cergy) offer this dual degree program which enables VLS students to earn both a JD and LLM degree in French and European Law.

### A. ADMISSION/ELIGIBILITY

- (1) Vermont Law School students must begin the dual degree program at Vermont Law School.
- (2) Vermont Law School applicants must be in the top half of their class at the end of the semester preceding their application to the program and continue to be in the top half of their class through the completion of the semester prior to taking courses at Cergy.
- (3) Vermont Law School students must apply for admission to this program through Vermont Law School.

### B. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

- (1) The JD requires 87 credits. In accordance with ABA regulations, students may apply to the JD degree the equivalent of one third, or 29 Vermont Law School credits, from course work successfully completed at foreign law institutions, thereby reducing to 58 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School.
- (2) Program participants must satisfactorily complete the following course work at Vermont Law School before beginning course work at Cergy: Comparative Law: Comparative Legal Systems; or both French Legal Method and French Corporate Law.

Other appropriate courses may be substituted for the courses listed above with the prior permission of the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs.

### C. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

If a student leaves the program or fails to complete the program requirements for either the Vermont Law School JD degree or the Cergy LLM degree, the student will no longer be considered a dual-degree student. As a result, the student will be required to meet the residence requirements of regulation III.A.6. Credits earned at Cergy will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript unless the credits may be transferred according to the usual rules applicable to transfer of foreign credits earned by participation in Vermont Law

School study abroad programs. In advance of withdrawal, Vermont Law School students should consult with the Vermont Law School Office of Financial Aid to determine the impact of withdrawal on financial aid awards.

#### **4. DUAL JD/M.Phil.**

Vermont Law School and the University of Cambridge offer this dual degree program which enables VLS students to earn both a JD and a Master's degree in one of the following fields: Real Estate Finance; Environmental Policy; and Planning, Growth and Regeneration.

##### **A. ADMISSION/ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) Vermont Law School students must begin the dual degree program at Vermont Law School. A Vermont Law School candidate wishing to enroll in the program must apply in writing to the Director of the Environmental Law Center during the fall semester of the candidate's second year of law school.
- (2) Vermont Law School applicants must be in the top half of their class at the end of the semester preceding their application to the program and continue to be in the top half of their class through the completion of the semester prior to taking courses at Cambridge.
- (3) Students will be notified of acceptance before the conclusion of the fall semester in which they apply. A maximum of two Vermont Law School students will be admitted to the program during any one academic year. Applications may be discussed and coordinated by admissions officials at both schools.

##### **B. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

- (1) The JD requires 87 credits. A candidate for the dual JD/Master's degree may apply to the JD degree the equivalent of 14 Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Cambridge, thereby reducing to 73 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School. The total number of credits that may be applied to the JD degree from study abroad is governed by regulation III.A.4.
- (2) With the permission of the Committee on Standards, a dual-degree candidate may receive residency credit for classes taken during one summer session.
- (3) No credit toward the JD degree will be given for courses taken at the University of Cambridge prior to the student's matriculation into the JD program at Vermont Law School.

## **VII. DUAL DEGREES – MELP PROGRAM**

### **A. ADMISSION**

A candidate for a dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by, both Vermont Law School and the school conferring the second degree. Students may apply for admission to these dual degree programs at any time prior to the awarding of the degrees.

Each school will admit students according to its own criteria for admission. Joint applications may be discussed and coordinated by admissions officials at both schools.

The first school that the applicant applies to will be termed the "domicile" of the student, and the original admissions documents will be filed at that school. The other school will be termed the "secondary school" for that student. Vermont Law School and its partner institutions have agreed to share supporting documentation, such as transcripts and G.R.E. reports, letters of recommendation, writing samples, personal statements, and the like. Photocopies of those documents, certified by the Registrar of the institution holding the original documents, will be deemed adequate for admissions purposes.

### **B. REGISTRATION AND RECORDS**

The Registrar of each school will register dual degree candidates for courses taken at that school, according to the academic schedule of each school. Each Registrar will also certify completion of courses and the assignments of credit. Transcripts of students in the program will bear a notation that the student is enrolled in the dual degree program.

Credits and grades for courses taken at the secondary school will appear on the Vermont Law School transcript; however, grades will not be included in the computation of the Vermont Law School grade point average.

Students are entitled to attend graduation at both schools. Students will receive separate diplomas.

## **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

Students are required to satisfy the graduation requirements of both institutions. The Vermont Law School MELP degree requirements govern except as modified by each program's specific regulations. See below.

## **D. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT**

A candidate for a dual degree is expected to comply fully with all academic and other applicable requirements of both Vermont Law School and the partner institution, even if they are different. Issues concerning academic performance or student conduct will be subject to the regulations and procedures of the school where the matter arose.

Students must be in good academic standing at both schools to remain in the program.

## **E. WITHDRAWAL FROM A DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM**

If a student leaves a dual program or fails to complete the program requirements for the degree at the partner institution, the student will no longer be considered a dual degree student. Credits earned at the partner institution will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript, except as allowed by regulation IV.A.4.

## **F. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. DUAL MELP/MBA (TUCK SCHOOL OF BUSINESS)**

Vermont Law School and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College offer a dual MELP/MBA degree program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently.

The MELP is a 30 credit degree. A dual degree candidate may share a total of nine credits between the MELP and MBA programs. This means that a Vermont Law School candidate for a dual MELP/MBA degree may apply the equivalent of nine Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Tuck to the MELP degree, thereby reducing to 21 the number of credits required for the MELP degree.

Tuck courses that are relevant and important to the MELP candidate's overall course of study may be applied to the MELP degree. Courses that qualify for application to the MELP degree shall be determined by the Director of the Environmental Law Center, in consultation with the Dean of the Tuck School. A list of approved courses is available from the Environmental Law Center. A MELP candidate may request approval of a Tuck course that is not on the list by demonstrating how the course will enhance the candidate's course of study.

### **2. DUAL MELP/MS (NATURAL RESOURCES)**

Vermont Law School and the University of Vermont School of Natural Resources offer a dual MELP/MS degree program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently.

The MELP is a 30-credit degree. A dual degree candidate may share a total of nine credits between the MELP and MS (Natural Resources) programs. This means that a Vermont Law School candidate for a dual MELP/MS (Natural Resources) degree may apply nine credits of course work successfully completed at the University of Vermont School of Natural Resources, thereby reducing to 21 the number of MELP credits required for the MELP degree.

University of Vermont courses that are relevant and important to the MELP candidate's overall course of study may be applied to the MELP degree. Courses that qualify for application to the MELP degree shall be determined by the Director of the Environmental Law Center, in consultation with the program coordinator at the University of Vermont School of Natural Resources. A list of approved courses is available from the Environmental Law Center. Upon petition to the Director of the Environmental Law Center, or the Director's designee, a MELP candidate may seek approval of a University of Vermont course that is not on the list by demonstrating how that course will significantly enhance the candidate's course of study.



## **VIII. DUAL JD/MELP DEGREE PROGRAMS WITH OTHER LAW SCHOOLS**

### **A. ADMISSION**

A candidate for a dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by, both Vermont Law School and the school conferring the second degree.

### **B. REGISTRATION AND RECORDS**

Registration for dual degree students at either school is according to the academic schedule of each school.

An official transcript from each school must be provided to the Registrar of the other school. Credits and grades for courses taken at the other school will appear on the Vermont Law School transcript; however, grades will not be included in the computation of the Vermont Law School grade point average.

Students are entitled to attend commencement at both schools. Students will receive separate diplomas.

### **C. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

Students are required to satisfy the graduation requirements of both institutions. The Vermont Law School MELP degree requirements govern except as modified by each program's specific regulations.

### **D. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT**

A candidate for a dual degree is expected to comply fully with all academic and other applicable requirements of both Vermont Law School and the partner institution, even if they are different. Issues concerning academic performance or student conduct will be subject to the regulations and procedures of the school where the matter arose.

Students must be in good academic standing at both schools to remain in the program.

### **E. WITHDRAWAL FROM A DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM**

If a student leaves a dual program or fails to complete the program requirements for the degree at the partner institution, the student will no longer be considered a dual degree student. Credits earned at the partner institution will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript, except as allowed by regulation IV.A.4. above.

### **F. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Vermont Law School offers a dual JD/MELP with the following law schools:

The University of South Carolina School of Law  
The University of South Dakota School of Law  
Northeastern University School of Law  
Quinnipiac University School of Law  
Elon University School of Law  
Boston College Law School

Except as noted below in this subsection, the requirements in subsection F.1. apply to all dual JD/MELP programs.

#### **1. REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Students are required to begin the dual degree program at the law school conferring the JD degree.
- b. A candidate for the dual JD/MELP degree must satisfactorily complete all the requirements for the MELP degree as described in regulation IV above. A dual degree candidate may transfer a total of nine credits from his/her JD program to the MELP program.

- c. Vermont Law School will accept nine credits of course work completed in the JD program at the law school conferring the JD degree. Courses taken at the law school that are to be applied toward the MELP degree must be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee. Courses taken at law school will not be applied toward the MELP degree if they substantially duplicate a course taken at Vermont Law School.
- d. The total maximum number of credits a student enrolled in this dual degree may earn toward a MELP Externship is 10 credits.
- e. The courses taken, the grades awarded, and the credits earned for courses transferred from the law school conferring the JD degree will be noted on the Vermont Law School transcript, but the course grades will not be included in the student's Vermont Law School grade average. All passing grades (i.e., a grade of C or better) will be accepted.

## **2. DUAL JD/MELP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Vermont Law School and the University of South Carolina School of Law offer a dual JD/MELP degree program that enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a three-year period.

## **3. DUAL JD/MELP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

Vermont Law School and the University of South Dakota School of Law offer a dual JD/MELP degree program that enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a three-year period.

## **4. DUAL JD/MELP WITH NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**

Through a combination of transfer credits and an environmental law co-op work placement that provides internship credit, Northeastern University School of Law (Northeastern) and Vermont Law School will allow students who meet degree requirements at both schools to receive a dual degree of Juris Doctor and Master of Environmental Law and Policy within the three year term of the JD degree.

Northeastern will accept 12 credits toward the completion of the JD.

MELP Externships and Co-op Work Quarters: Students may use one of Northeastern co-op experience as an MELP externship. Students must follow both Northeastern co-op and VLS Externship guidelines and application deadlines.

## **5. DUAL JD/MELP WITH QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY**

Vermont Law School and Quinnipiac University School of Law offer a dual JD/MELP degree program that enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a three-year period.

## **6. DUAL JD/MELP WITH ELON UNIVERSITY**

Vermont Law School and Elon University School of Law offer a dual JD/MELP degree program that enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a three-year period.

## **7. DUAL JD/MELP WITH BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL**

Vermont Law School and Boston College Law School offer a dual JD/MELP degree program that enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a three-year period.

# **IX. MASTER OF LAWS (LLM) DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Except for the Master of Laws in American Legal Studies in regulation IX.H., the requirements in subsections A, B, C, and D of this regulation apply to all Master of Laws degrees.

## **A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. GENERAL LIMITATION**

A student may only obtain one master of laws degree from Vermont Law School.

## **2. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

The degree of Master of Laws is granted for regular attendance and satisfactory completion of the prescribed course of study. A minimum of 30 credits is required for the LLM degree. These credits must be selected from courses approved for the LLM program. A cumulative grade point average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the LLM degree.

## **3. CREDITS AND COURSE LOAD**

- a. A minimum of 30 credits is required for the LLM degree. An LLM candidate may take a maximum of 36 credits from courses approved for the LLM degree; however, if a student has reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.
- b. For students taking residential classes, the minimum course load for full-time LLM students is six credits per semester. The maximum course load in the fall or spring semester is 14 credits per semester. The maximum course load in the summer program is 11 credits. No exceptions are allowed other than with the prior approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.
- c. For students taking online learning classes, the recommended course load is three credits per term. The online learning program offers six terms per academic year.

## **4. TRANSFER OF CREDITS - NON-VERMONT LAW SCHOOL JD GRADUATES**

A student enrolled in the LLM program may be granted credit for courses satisfactorily completed in an LLM program at an ABA-approved law school. A student may transfer a maximum of six such credits to the LLM program with the approval of the Director or the Director's designee. Before granting such approval, the Director of the Environmental Law Center or his or her designee must determine that the course is relevant and important to the student's overall program of study. Only courses with environmental content are eligible for transfer credit. The Registrar must receive an official transcript showing that the course has been completed and that a grade of C or better has been awarded. Pass/Fail grades and grades for externships will not transfer. Transcripts from a foreign institution must be accompanied by a WES or AACRAO evaluation. Grades earned from transferred courses will be noted on the student's transcript, other than pass/fail and externships grades, but will not be used in computing the student's grade average. Once a student has enrolled as an LLM candidate, prior approval must be obtained from the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee to obtain credit for courses taken at another institution. No transfer credit will be given for a course completed more than five years prior to matriculation into the LLM program.

## **5. DURATION OF PROGRAM**

- a. To obtain the LLM degree, a student must complete the degree requirements within a period of five years from matriculation.
- b. Residential students may enter the LLM program in either summer or fall semester.
- c. Online Learning Students may enter the LLM degree program in any term offered throughout the academic year.

## **6. ADD/DROP AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES**

See regulations II.B.3., II.B.4., and II.B.5.

# **B. EXTERNSHIPS**

## **1. THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS FOR AN LLM EXTERNSHIP**

The following requirements must be met:

- a. Students are encouraged to work primarily on site at the LLM externship. If a student is working remotely, the student must attend teleconference meetings with their supervisor at least once a week.
- b. Externships cannot be substituted for distributional requirements or required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

- c. LLM externships must be supervised by an attorney.
- d. The maximum number of credits a student may earn in one or more LLM externships is ten credits.
- d. The minimum number of credits a student may earn in an LLM externship is four credits.<sup>27</sup>

## **2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The eligibility requirements for an LLM externship are the same as for a Master's externship. See regulation IV.B.

## **3. PROCEDURES FOR ENROLLING IN AN LLM EXTERNSHIP**

The procedures for enrolling in an LLM Externship are the same as for a Master's externship. See regulation IV.B.

## **4. GRADES**

- a. All LLM externships are pass/fail.
- b. Faculty Supervisors assign the grade based on the student's journals, the Mentor's letter of evaluation, and other information such as work product, emails, telephone conversations and/or meetings and site visits with the student and Mentor.

## **C. DIRECTED STUDY**

- a. Students who elect to undertake directed study shall follow the guidelines set forth in regulation III.D.
- b. Directed study cannot be substituted for distributional requirements or required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

## **D. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

See Regulation II.C. for grading standards and procedures.

### **1. GOOD STANDING**

To be in good academic standing, a student must not be on academic probation, be eligible to return for the next academic semester or term, and have no pending Honor Code, Code of Conduct, or other disciplinary proceedings.

### **2. ACADEMIC PROBATION<sup>28</sup>**

- a. A student will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of six credits and before completion of 12 credits, the student's cumulative average is between 1.00 and 1.90.
- b. A student will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of 12 or more credits, the student's cumulative average is between 1.90 and 2.20.
- c. A student who is on academic probation may not enroll in more than nine credits or audit any course except with the written permission of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.
- d. A student who is on academic probation is not permitted to run for election to, or serve on the executive board of, the Student Bar Association. A student who is on academic probation is not permitted to run for election to, or serve in a leadership position (such as an officer or chair) of, any other co-curricular or extra-curricular student group.

<sup>27</sup> Students who matriculated into the LLM program prior to May 2012 may earn a minimum of two and a maximum of nine LLM externship credits.

<sup>28</sup> For the purposes of regulations D.2. and D.3., "completion" includes grades of F. and F.Wd. but not Wd.

### 3. ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

- a. A student will be dismissed if:
  - (1) the student has a cumulative average of 1.0 or below at the completion of six credits; or
  - (2) the student's cumulative average is below 1.90 at any time after the completion of 12 credits; or
  - (3) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at any time after the completion of 15 credits and if at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or
  - (4) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at the completion of the program.
- b. A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 3.a(3) will be allowed to continue for a second semester<sup>29</sup> on academic probation if the student's grade point average for the first semester on academic probation, if repeated for the second semester on academic probation with a credit load of 12 credits, is sufficient to achieve the required cumulative average of 2.20 at the end of the second semester on academic probation.
- c. A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 3.a(4) may petition the Committee on Standards to be allowed to continue on academic probation. No such petition will be granted absent clear and convincing evidence of (1) extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control and unlikely to continue or recur prevented the student from maintaining a cumulative average of at least 2.20 and (2) a realistic and specific academic plan to raise the cumulative average to 2.20 or above in one additional academic term.
- d. Except as provided in subsection 3.c., a student who is academically dismissed cannot petition the Committee on Standards for readmission earlier than one year after the date of academic dismissal. The Committee will grant readmission only if it finds that the student has satisfactorily addressed the factors that contributed to the academic dismissal. If the Committee grants a petition for readmission, it may impose any conditions it deems appropriate. This regulation may not be waived by the Committee on Standards.

## E. MASTER OF LAWS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW DEGREE (LLM)

### 1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE<sup>30</sup>

Each student must satisfy the following requirements for the LLM degree

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
Graduate Seminar	ENV9606 LLM Graduate Seminar (3)
Environmental Law	ENV5115 Environmental Law (3)
Administrative Law	ENV5105 Administrative Law (3)

- b. With the approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee, an LLM candidate may waive Environmental Law or Administrative Law if the Candidate has successfully completed equivalent course work in a JD program at an ABA accredited law school or comparable international academic institution. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.
- c. Any remaining electives may be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the list of approved courses in regulation IV.F.1.c.

<sup>29</sup> For purposes of this regulation, the summer session shall be considered as a "semester."

<sup>30</sup> Students enrolled in the online learning program are required to satisfy the same degree requirements, but the availability of elective courses is limited. Students should consult the Program Planning Guidelines for the online learning program to ensure that all graduation requirements are met.

## 2. OPTIONAL LLM THESIS OR PROJECT

### A. THESIS

An LLM candidate may choose to write a thesis. Six credits will be given for the satisfactory completion of an LLM thesis. The thesis must be a substantial piece of written work of publishable quality. A 10-15 page thesis proposal must be approved by the LLM candidate's faculty supervisor and the Director of the Environmental Law Center before the thesis is begun.

A student will have three terms to complete the thesis. A student will register in the term in which the thesis project is begun. A student who writes a thesis must make an oral presentation to the Vermont Law School community of the thesis work and must deposit a copy of the thesis in the Vermont Law School Library. The grade will be entered on the transcript in the semester the thesis is completed. Ordinarily, an LLM student will begin the thesis in the spring semester. If a student extends the thesis project beyond three terms, regulation II.C.2. "Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement," applies.

### B. TEACHING PROJECT

An LLM candidate may choose to undertake a teaching project. A minimum of four and a maximum of six credits will be given for a teaching project. To receive credit for teaching, a candidate must satisfactorily complete a teaching practicum under the guidance of a faculty supervisor and the appropriate number of hours of actual teaching in the classroom. A five-page teaching project proposal must be approved by the LLM candidate's faculty supervisor and the Director of the Environmental Law Center before the project is begun.

C. AN LLM CANDIDATE who is a Fellow of the Environmental Advocacy Clinic (EAC) may elect to undertake a second teaching project with the approval of the EAC Director. Each teaching project will be for a minimum of four credits and a maximum of six credits. The second teaching project must provide a qualitatively different experience from the first. The EAC Fellow must satisfactorily complete all aspects of each teaching project in accordance with the teaching project plan, subject to the EAC Director's approval.

### D. RESEARCH PROJECT

An LLM candidate may choose to undertake a research project, either alone or as part of a joint effort with other LLM candidates. A minimum of two and a maximum of six credits will be given for a research project. An LLM project must be a substantial undertaking, involving significant legal and policy research. A five-page research project proposal must be approved by the LLM candidate's faculty supervisor and the Director of the Environmental Law Center before the project may be commenced. Students engaged in a joint project will be graded on their individual contribution to the project and on their teamwork skills.

A student will have two terms to complete the research project. A student will register in the term in which the project is begun. The grade will be entered on the transcript in the semester the project is completed. If a student extends the research project beyond two terms, regulation II.C.2. "Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement," applies.

## 3. EXTERNSHIPS

The LLM in Environmental Law Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their environmental law, policy, management, and/or science knowledge and skills. LLM externships are by definition environmental in their subject focus, so students must assure that their work on site relates to environmental issues.

## F. MASTER OF LAWS IN ENERGY LAW DEGREE (LLM)

### 1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Students enrolled in the online learning program are required to satisfy the same degree requirements, but the availability of elective courses is limited. Students should consult the Program Planning Guidelines for the online learning program to ensure that all graduation requirements are met.



- a. Each student must satisfactorily complete the following requirements as part of the requirements for the LLM degree:

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Energy Law and Policy</b>	ENV5226 Energy Law and Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World (3)
<b>Energy Regulation</b>	ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
<b>Administrative Law</b>	ENV5105 Administrative Law (3)
<b>Graduate Seminar</b>	LLM9606 LLM Graduate Seminar (3)
<b>Project/Writing Requirement</b>	
CLI9427	Energy Clinic (3-6)
CLI9437	Advanced Energy Clinic (3-6)
ENV5303	Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2)
	LLM thesis or research project on an energy topic (4-6)
	LLM externship in energy law (4-10)
	Participation in the Institute for Energy and the Environment's research associate program
<b>Energy Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 4 credits)</b>
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy (2)
ENV5344	Alternative Fuels and Renewable Energy (3)
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5468	Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
ENV5469	Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3)
ENV5497	End Use Energy Efficiency (2)
ENV5550	Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development (2)
ENV5510	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Engineering (1)
ENV5511	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Business (1)
ENV5512	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Legal (1)

- b. Any remaining electives may be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the list of approved courses in regulation IV.F.1.c.
- c. With the approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee, an LLM candidate may waive any of the required courses if the candidate has successfully completed equivalent course work in a JD program at an ABA accredited law school or comparable international academic institution. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

The Energy Electives requirement shall not be waived for courses completed prior to matriculation in the LLM program. All LLM candidates must take four credits of Energy Electives from the above list provided they do not duplicate prior course work. If an LLM candidate is unable to fulfill this requirement without duplicating prior coursework, the candidate must submit an alternative coursework plan to be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

The Project requirement shall not be waived because of prior completion of one of the listed options. LLM candidates who have completed one of the listed projects as part of a prior program must choose a different project to meet the LLM requirement.

## 2. LLM THESIS OR PROJECT

### A. THESIS

The provisions of regulation IX.E.2.a. apply

## B. RESEARCH PROJECT

The provisions of regulation IX.E.2.d. apply.

### 3. EXTERNSHIPS

The LLM Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their energy law and policy knowledge and skills. LLM externships are by definition focused on energy issues, so students must assure that their work on-site relates to energy issues.

## G. MASTER OF LAWS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW DEGREE (LLM)

### 1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE<sup>32</sup>

Each student must satisfactorily complete the following requirements as part of the requirements for the LLM degree:

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Required Courses</b>	
ENV5105	Administrative Law (3)
ENV5180	Introduction to Agriculture and Food Law and Policy (3)
LLM9606	LLM Graduate Seminar (3)
<b>Food and Agriculture Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 6 credits)</b>
ENV5362	Representing Farmers and Food Producers (2)
ENV5380	Food Regulation and Policy (3)
ENV5381	Local Farm and Food Law in Practice (3)
ENV5383	Food Justice and Sustainability (2)
ENV5385	Global Food Security (2)
ENV5401	Agriculture and The Environment (3)
ENV5408	Law of Animals and Agriculture (3)
ENV5410	The Farm Bill (2)
ENV5411	Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture (3)
<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT</b>
<b>Required Courses</b>	
ENV5105	Administrative Law (3)
ENV5180	Introduction to Agriculture and Food Law and Policy (3)
LLM9606	LLM Graduate Seminar (3)
Food and Agriculture Electives	(minimum of 6 credits)
ENV5362	Representing Farmers and Food Producers (2)
ENV5380	Food Regulation and Policy (3)
ENV5381	Local Farm and Food Law in Practice (3)
ENV5383	Food Justice and Sustainability (2)
ENV5385	Global Food Security (2)
ENV5401	Agriculture and The Environment (3)
ENV5408	Law of Animals and Agriculture (3)
ENV5410	The Farm Bill (2)
ENV5411	Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture (3)

<sup>32</sup> Students enrolled in the online learning program are required to satisfy the same degree requirements, but the availability of elective courses is limited. Students should consult the Program Planning Guidelines for the online learning program to ensure that all graduation requirements are met.

- b. Any remaining electives may be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the list of approved courses in regulation IV.F.1.c.
- c. With the approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee, an LLM candidate may waive any of the required courses if the candidate has successfully completed equivalent course work in a JD program at an ABA accredited law school or comparable international academic institution. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

The Food and Agriculture Electives and General Electives requirements shall not be waived for courses completed prior to matriculation in the LLM program. All LLM candidates must take four credits of Food and Agriculture Electives and nine credits of General Electives from the above list provided they do not duplicate prior course work. If an LLM candidate is unable to fulfill this requirement without duplicating prior coursework, the candidate must submit an alternative coursework plan to be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

The Project requirement shall not be waived because of prior completion of one of the listed options. LLM candidates who have completed one of the listed projects as part of a prior program must choose a different project to meet the LLM requirement.

## **2. LLM THESIS OR PROJECT**

### **A. THESIS**

The provisions of regulation IX.E.2.a. apply.

### **B. RESEARCH PROJECT**

The provisions of regulation IX.E.2.d. apply.

## **3. EXTERNSHIPS**

The LLM Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their food and agriculture law and policy knowledge and skills. LLM externships are by definition focused on food and agriculture issues, so students must assure that their work on-site relates to food and agriculture issues.

# **H. MASTER OF LAWS IN AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES (LLM)**

## **1. ELIGIBILITY**

The Master of Laws in American Legal Studies is specifically designed for students who hold a law degree from an institution outside of the United States.

## **2. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

- a. A minimum of 28 credits is required for the LLM degree. An LLM candidate may take a maximum of 33 credits.
- b. Course load: The minimum course load for full-time LLM students is 10 credits. The maximum course load is 16 credits in the fall and 17 credits in the spring semester.
- c. Each LLM candidate must satisfactorily complete the following courses: Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure I and II, Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, Property, Legal Analysis and Writing I, Professional Responsibility and Legal Research. With the approval of the Vice Dean for Students, an LLM candidate may substitute a different course for Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, or Property if the candidate has successfully completed a comparable course at another law school. Although course requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.
- d. LLM candidates have the option of enrolling in additional courses during their second semester, with prior approval of the Vice Dean for Students.
- e. A cumulative average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the LLM degree.

- f. **Residence requirement:** To obtain this degree, students must be in residence at Vermont Law School for two semesters.

### **3. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

See regulation II.C. for grading standards and procedures.

- a. **Good Standing**

To be in good academic standing, a student must have an overall average of at least 2.20, be eligible to return for the next academic semester or term, and have no pending Honor Code, Code of Conduct, or other disciplinary proceedings.

- b. **Academic Probation**

A student will be placed on academic probation if, at the end of the first semester, the student's cumulative average is between 1.5 and 2.20.

- c. **Academic Dismissal**

A student will be dismissed from the law school if:

- (1) the student has failed a total of eight credit hours; or
- (2) the student's cumulative average at the end of the first semester is at or below 1.50; or
- (3) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of any semester and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or
- (4) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at the completion of the LLM program.

## **X. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

Vermont Law School awards Professional Certificates as described below. Professional Certificates differ from the certificates earned by JD students as part of their JD concentrated field of study.

### **A. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

#### **1. GENERAL**

The Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice provides working professionals and students with the Restorative Justice skills and substantive knowledge valuable to their field.

#### **2. REQUIREMENTS**

- A. The Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice requires a minimum of 9 credits and a maximum of 12 credits. The Professional Certificate course credits may be transferred to the MARJ degree program. JD students who want to pursue the Professional Certificate need to earn the certificate credits independently of and in addition to any other courses they take.
- B. A student who matriculates into the Professional Certificate program must complete the program requirements in no longer than two years from the date of matriculation. A matriculated student enrolled in the Professional Certificate program who decides to pursue the Master of Arts in Restorative Justice will have five (5) years from the date of original matriculation to complete the Master's degree.
- C. Students pursuing the Professional Certificate may elect their courses in either a residential or online format or both from the following list of approved courses. The Director of the Center for Justice Reform or Director's designee has the authority to waive the required course provided the student has had comparable experience or course work. Although the course requirement may be waived, the total number of credits required for certificate completion remains unchanged.

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THAT REQUIREMENT
<b>Required Courses</b>	
RSJ7115	Principles of Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7110	Restorative Justice Theory and Practice (2)
RSJ7120	Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice (3)
<b>Elective Courses</b>	
RSJ7330	Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions (3)
REQ7140	Criminal Law (3)
CRI7305	Advanced Criminal Law Seminar: Alternative Programs (2)
RSJ7350	Ethics and Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7210	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization (3)
ADR6420	Negotiation (2)
RSJ7320	New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence (3)
RSJ7250	Global Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3)
RSJ7270	Clemency, Pardon, and Expungement (3)
CRI7333	Juvenile Justice and Law (3)
RSJ7325	Advanced Restorative Practices (2)
RSJ7360	Advanced Victim Rights Seminar (3)
WRI7301	Advanced Writing Seminar (3)
RSJ7140	Applied Criminal Justice (3)
RSJ7315	Peacemaking Courts (3)
RSJ7340	Race, Crimes, and Restorative Justice (3)
CRI7380	Pleas, Sentencing and Accountability (3)
RSJ5122/ENV5122	Communications, Advocacy and Leadership (3)
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation or
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)

## XI. CONCENTRATION PROGRAMS

All concentrations for JD students must be declared by the end of their fourth semester. For all other residential students, the declaration must be made by the end of their first semester or after 12 credits for online students. Please see [vermontlaw.edu/academics/concentrations](http://vermontlaw.edu/academics/concentrations) for more information.

### A. GENERAL

1. A student may only obtain one concentration.<sup>33</sup>
2. All concentrations require a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 in all courses that count toward the concentration.
3. Students must declare their intention to pursue a concentration by filing a written declaration with the Registrar. The declaration must be signed by the student and by the director of the concentration program.

All certificates for JD students must be declared by the end of their fourth semester.

<sup>33</sup> This regulation is effective for students matriculating after May 1, 2016.

All concentrations for other residential students must be declared by the end of the second semester or after 12 credits for online students.

4. Prior to filing the concentration declaration, the student must meet with and obtain the permission of the director of the concentration program or the director's designee.
5. Completion of the concentration requirements will be noted on the student's transcript.

## B. GENERAL PRACTICE PROGRAM CONCENTRATION

### 1. GENERAL

The General Practice Program Concentration is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the legal fields of study traditionally associated with solo or small firm practice.

### 2. REQUIREMENTS

The General Practice Concentration requires 16 approved credits during a student's second and third years. At least eight credits of the 16-credit requirement **must** come from GPP courses (see below), including at least four credits from GPP Practice Labs. Students are also encouraged to participate in an externship, internship, a Semester in Practice (SiP), or a Legal Clinic, approved by the director; these experiences fulfill up to six credits of the 16-credit requirement. Concentration courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MERL, MFALP, MARJ, and LLM degree programs. At the discretion of the director, there may be additional non-curricular or professional requirements that students must meet in order to receive the concentration.

### 3. DIRECTOR DISCRETION

The director has discretion to alter the distribution of required GPP course credits between GPP Practice Labs and other GPP courses, taking into account the availability of GPP Practice Labs during any particular time-frame. The list below includes the Practice Labs and GPP courses as well as other courses in the VLS curriculum, which may have substantial simulation content and may be used to complete the requirements.

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMEN
<b>GPP Course Options</b>	<b>*(must complete eight credits)</b>
FAM7717	Family Law Practice Lab (1)
GPP7823	Bankruptcy Law Practice Lab (1)
GPP7810	Commercial Transactions (2)
GPP7816	Employment Law (2)
BUS6246	Employment Law Practice Lab (1)
ENV5381	Representing Farmers and Food Producers (2)
GPP7821	Estate Planning Practice Lab (1)
GPP7815	Municipal Law (2)
GPP7830	Legal Activism: Lawyering for Social Change (2 of 3)*
GPP7827	Improv for Advocates(1)
GPP7828	Writing for Practice (1)
REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Non-GPP Course Options</b>	<b>*(can count for up to eight credits)</b>
ADR6425	Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation (2 of 3)
ADR6424	Interviewing and Counseling (2)
ADR6412	Mediation (2)
ADR6413	Mediation Advocacy (2)
ADR6420	Negotiation (2)
CRI7307	Criminal Practice and Procedure (2 of 4)



CRI7331	Impaired Driving (2 of 3)
FAM7715	Family Law (2 of 4)
LIT7220	Trial Practice (2)
BUS6372	Hactivist Boot Camp (2 of 3)
BUS6361	E-Lawyering, E-Discovery and Big Data (2 of 3)
BUS6362	E-Lawyering-Practice Management (2)
WRI7350	Advanced Skills for Practice (1)

Enrollment in a VLS clinic or participation in an Externship/SiP involving live client representation and approved by GPP Director (up to 6).

## C. INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW CONCENTRATION

### 1. GENERAL

The International and Comparative Law (ICL) Concentration formally acknowledges a student's academic concentration in international and comparative law.

### 2. REQUIREMENTS

To earn the International and Comparative Law Concentration, each student must satisfactorily complete the following requirements in addition to those noted in regulation XI.A:

- a. Minimum of 18 credits in international, foreign and comparative law courses.

In the minimum 18 credits of courses, the following courses are required:

- (1) International Law;
- (2) a Comparative or Foreign Law course, from the list of approved courses designated in the table below in subsection C.7. as meeting this requirement; and
- (3) a Study Abroad course, from the list of courses designated in the table below in subsection C.7. as meeting this requirement.

The remainder of the 18 credits may be taken from a list of international and comparative law courses approved for this purpose by the Vice Dean for Faculty, Vice Dean for Students, or their designee.

- b. Grade of B or above in both International Law and in the course that is used to meet the Comparative or Foreign Law course requirement of the concentration.

**3. PASS/FAIL CREDITS:** No more than 10 credits taken on a pass/fail basis may be used to satisfy the Concentration's credit requirement.

4. No more than 10 credits from a qualifying Semester-in-Practice may be used to satisfy the Concentration's credit requirement.
5. Courses taken at an ABA-approved summer study-abroad program must have the prior approval of the Vice Dean for Faculty or her designee for the course to be used to satisfy the study-abroad requirement, and prior approval of the Registrar to determine that VLS will accept the credits.
6. Number of credits for courses taken at foreign institutions: Many foreign law schools determine the number of credits differently than U.S. law schools. The number of credits earned for courses taken at a foreign institution will be determined in accordance with the ABA regulation for determining course credits.
7. List of courses meeting the concentration requirements:

<b>REQUIRED COURSE INT7425</b>	<b>(must earn B or above in this course) International Law (3)</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL ELECTIVES</b>	
INT7424	International Human Rights (3)
INT7415	Immigration Law (3)
INT7421	International Environmental Law and Policy (3)
INT7428	Trade Law and Policy (3)
ENV5423	Ocean and Coastal Law (3)
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy (2)
INT7446	International Trade and the Environment (2)
ENV5564	Peace, War, and the Environment (2)
ENV5385	Global Food Security (2)
<b>Take at least one course from each of the following two categories:</b>	
<b>COMPARATIVE OR FOREIGN LAW COURSE (must earn B or above)</b>	<b>COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT</b>
INT7440	Law of the European Union (2)
INT7440	Comparative U.S. China Environmental Law (2)
ENV5223	Environmental Governance in the Developing World (2)
<b>STUDY ABROAD ELECTIVE (minimum 1 course)</b>	
INT7414	European Union Law – Trento (1)
INT7441	China Field Study (1)
	Semester Study at McGill University <sup>34</sup>
	Semester Study at University of Trento
	Semester Study at the University of Cergy-Pontoise
	Semester Study at Paris 1
	ABA-approved Summer Course <sup>35</sup>
	An independent research project (IRP) conducted abroad, if based upon international work experience during law school, including summers, as long as prior approval of the project for this purpose is obtained from the Vice Dean for Students, the Vice Dean for Faculty, or their designee.
	Other such courses approved by the Vice Dean for Students, the Vice Dean for Faculty, or their designee

8. Official transcripts and translations or foreign evaluations as required must be submitted prior to the credits being accepted and noted on the transcript.

## D. CONCENTRATION IN CLIMATE LAW

### 1. GENERAL

The Concentration in Climate Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of climate law.

<sup>34</sup> Number of credits for courses taken at foreign institutions: The number of credits earned for courses taken at a foreign institution will be determined in accordance with the ABA regulation for determining course credits

<sup>35</sup> Courses taken at an ABA-approved summer study-abroad program must have the prior approval of the Vice Dean for Faculty for the course to be used to satisfy the study-abroad requirement, and of the Registrar to determine that VLS will accept the credits.

## 2. REQUIREMENTS

The Concentration in Climate Law requires 14 credits. Concentration courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MERL, MFALP, and LLM degree programs.

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>(minimum of 6 credits)</b>
ENV5212	Climate Change and the Law (3)
ENV5226	Energy Law and Policy in Carbon-Constrained World (3)
<b>Climate Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 4 credits)</b>
ENV5205	Air Pollution Law and Policy (3)
ENV5214	Climate Change Mitigation (3)
ENV5218	International Climate Change Law (3)
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy (2)
ENV5335	Extinction and Climate Change (2)
ENV5342	Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts (2)
ENV5336	Climate Change, Extinction and Adaptation (3)
ENV5343	Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems (3)
ENV5365	Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)
<b>General Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 3 credits)</b>
ENV5112	Science for Environmental Law (3)
ENV5228	Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
ENV5346	New Frontiers in Environmental Policy (3)
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5468	Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
ENV5469	Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3)
ENV5510	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (3)
ENV5550	Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development (2)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (minimum of 1 credit)	Advanced Writing Requirement on a climate topic Independent Research Project on a climate topic LLM thesis or research project on a climate topic Master's or JD externship on a climate topic

## E. CONCENTRATION IN ENERGY LAW

### 1. GENERAL

The Concentration in Energy Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of energy law.

Students in the Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) and LLM in Energy Law degree programs may not pursue the Concentration in Energy Law.

### 2. REQUIREMENTS

The Concentration in Energy Law requires 14 credits. Concentration courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MFALP, LLM in Environmental Law, and LLM in Food and Agriculture Law degree programs.

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>(minimum of 6 credits)</b>
ENV5212	Climate Change and the Law (3)
ENV5226	Energy Law and Policy in Carbon-Constrained World (3)
<b>Climate Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 4 credits)</b>
ENV5205	Air Pollution Law and Policy (3)
ENV5214	Climate Change Mitigation (3)
ENV5218	International Climate Change Law (3)
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy (2)
ENV5335	Extinction and Climate Change (2)
ENV5342	Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts (2)
ENV5336	Climate Change, Extinction and Adaptation (3)
ENV5343	Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems (3)
ENV5365	Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)
<b>General Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 3 credits)</b>
ENV5112	Science for Environmental Law (3)
ENV5228	Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
ENV5346	New Frontiers in Environmental Policy (3)
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5468	Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
ENV5469	Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3)
ENV5510	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (3)
ENV5550	Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development (2)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (minimum of 1 credit)	Advanced Writing Requirement on a climate topic Independent Research Project on a climate topic LLM thesis or research project on a climate topic Master's or JD externship on a climate topic

## F. CONCENTRATION IN LAND USE LAW

### 1. GENERAL

The Concentration in Land Use Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of land use law.

### 2. REQUIREMENTS

The Concentration in Land Use Law requires 14 credits. Concentration courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MERL, MFALP, and LLM degree programs.

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>(minimum of 6 credits)</b>
ENV5212	Climate Change and the Law (3)
ENV5226	Energy Law and Policy in Carbon-Constrained World (3)
<b>Climate Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 4 credits)</b>
ENV5205	Air Pollution Law and Policy (3)
ENV5214	Climate Change Mitigation (3)

ENV5218	International Climate Change Law (3)
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy (2)
ENV5335	Extinction and Climate Change (2)
ENV5342	Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts (2)
ENV5336	Climate Change, Extinction and Adaptation (3)
ENV5343	Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems (3)
ENV5365	Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)
<b>General Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 3 credits)</b>
ENV5112	Science for Environmental Law (3)
ENV5228	Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
ENV5346	New Frontiers in Environmental Policy (3)
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5468	Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
ENV5469	Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3)
ENV5510	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (3)
ENV5550	Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development (2)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (minimum of 1 credit)	Advanced Writing Requirement on a climate topic Independent Research Project on a climate topic LLM thesis or research project on a climate topic Master's or JD externship on a climate topic

## G. CONCENTRATION IN WATER RESOURCES LAW

### 1. GENERAL

The Concentration in Water Resources Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of water resources law.

### 2. REQUIREMENTS

The Concentration in Water Resources Law requires 14 credits. Concentration courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MERL, MFALP, and LLM degree programs.

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>(minimum of 6 credits)</b>
ENV5212	Climate Change and the Law (3)
ENV5226	Energy Law and Policy in Carbon-Constrained World (3)
Climate Electives	<b>(minimum of 4 credits)</b>
ENV5205	Air Pollution Law and Policy (3)
ENV5214	Climate Change Mitigation (3)
ENV5218	International Climate Change Law (3)
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy (2)
ENV5335	Extinction and Climate Change (2)
ENV5342	Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts (2)
ENV5336	Climate Change, Extinction and Adaptation (3)
ENV5343	Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems (3)
ENV5365	Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)

<b>General Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 3 credits)</b>
ENV5112	Science for Environmental Law (3)
ENV5228	Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
ENV5346	New Frontiers in Environmental Policy (3)
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5468	Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
ENV5469	Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3)
ENV5510	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (3)
ENV5550	Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development (2)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (minimum of 1 credit)	Advanced Writing Requirement on a climate topic
	Independent Research Project on a climate topic
	LLM thesis or research project on a climate topic
	Master's or JD externship on a climate topic

## H. CONCENTRATION IN CRIMINAL LAW

### 1. GENERAL

The Concentration in Criminal Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of criminal law.

### 2. REQUIREMENTS

The Concentration in Criminal Law requires 18 credits.

<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT</b>
<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>(minimum of 6 credits)</b>
ENV5212	Climate Change and the Law (3)
ENV5226	Energy Law and Policy in Carbon-Constrained World (3)
<b>Climate Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 4 credits)</b>
ENV5205	Air Pollution Law and Policy (3)
ENV5214	Climate Change Mitigation (3)
ENV5218	International Climate Change Law (3)
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy (2)
ENV5335	Extinction and Climate Change (2)
ENV5342	Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts (2)
ENV5336	Climate Change, Extinction and Adaptation (3)
ENV5343	Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems (3)
ENV5365	Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)
<b>General Electives</b>	<b>(minimum of 3 credits)</b>
ENV5112	Science for Environmental Law (3)
ENV5228	Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
ENV5346	New Frontiers in Environmental Policy (3)
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice (2)
ENV5468	Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
ENV5469	Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3)
ENV5510	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (3)

ENV5550	Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development (2)
<b>Experiential/Writing Requirement (minimum of 1 credit)</b>	Advanced Writing Requirement on a climate topic Independent Research Project on a climate topic LLM thesis or research project on a climate topic Master's or JD externship on a climate topic

## I. CONCENTRATION IN BUSINESS LAW

### 1. GENERAL

The Concentration in Business Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of business law.

### 2. REQUIREMENTS

The Concentration in Business Law requires 15 credits.

REQUIREMENT (15 CREDITS)	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Required TAKE BOTH</b>	<b>(7 credits)</b>
BUS6235	Corporations (4)
BUS6290	Securities Regulation (3)
<b>General Electives TAKE SEVEN CREDITS FROM THIS LIST</b>	<b>(7 credits) Refer to <a href="http://vermontlaw.edu/registrar">vermontlaw.edu/registrar</a> for current list</b>
ADR6410.A	Alternative Dispute Resolution (3)
ADR6405.A	Arbitration (2)
ADR6412	Mediation (2)
ADR6420.A	Negotiation (2)
BUS6280.A	Sales (2)
BUS6285.A	Secured Transactions (3)
BUS6262.A	Social Enterprise Law (2)
BUS6255.A	Income Taxation (4)
BUS6260.A	Intellectual Property (2)
BUS6305.A	Non-Profit Organizations (3)
BUS6238	Digital Drafting (3)
BUS6245.A	Employment Law (3)
BUS6210	Bankruptcy (3)
CRI7318	White Collar Crime (3)
ENV5365	Climate Change and the Power of Taxes (2)
ENV5239	Land Transactions and Finance (3)
ENV5220.A	Environmental Economics and Markets (3)
FAM7710.A	Estates (4)
INT7411.A	French Corporate Law (1)
INT7416.A	International Business Transactions (3)
BUS7819.A	Environmental Issues in Business Transactions (2)
GPP7814.A	International Intellectual Property (XAD) (2)
GPP7823.A	Bankruptcy/Landlord-Tenant (XAD) (2)
GPP7810.A	Commercial Transactions (XAD) (2)
GPP7816	Employment Law/Pretrial Litigation (XAD) (2)



GPP7812	Real Estate Transactions (XAD) (2)
GPP7818	Representing Entrepreneurial Business (XAD) (2)
	Students must complete a business law-related IRP or AWR

## J. CONCENTRATION IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW

### 1. GENERAL

The Concentration in Food and Agriculture Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of food and agriculture law.

### 2. REQUIREMENTS

The Concentration in Food and Agriculture Law requires 14 credits. Concentration courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MERL, and LLM in Environmental Law, and LLM in Energy Law degree programs.

REQUIREMENT (15 credits)	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
<b>Required TAKE BOTH</b>	<b>(7 credits)</b>
BUS6235	Corporations (4)
BUS6290	Securities Regulation (3)
<b>General Electives TAKE SEVEN CREDITS FROM THIS LIST</b>	<b>(7 credits) Refer to <a href="http://vermontlaw.edu/registrar">vermontlaw.edu/registrar</a> for current list</b>
ADR6410.A	Alternative Dispute Resolution (3)
ADR6405.A	Arbitration (2)
ADR6412	Mediation (2)
ADR6420.A	Negotiation (2)
BUS6280.A	Sales (2)
BUS6285.A	Secured Transactions (3)
BUS6262.A	Social Enterprise Law (2)
BUS6255.A	Income Taxation (4)
BUS6260.A	Intellectual Property (2)
BUS6305.A	Non-Profit Organizations (3)
BUS6238	Digital Drafting (3)
BUS6245.A	Employment Law (3)
BUS6210	Bankruptcy (3)
CRI7318	White Collar Crime (3)
ENV5365	Climate Change and the Power of Taxes (2)
ENV5239	Land Transactions and Finance (3)
ENV5220.A	Environmental Economics and Markets (3)
FAM7710.A	Estates (4)
INT7411.A	French Corporate Law (1)
INT7416.A	International Business Transactions (3)
BUS7819.A	Environmental Issues in Business Transactions (2)
GPP7814.A	International Intellectual Property (XAD) (2)
GPP7823.A	Bankruptcy/Landlord-Tenant (XAD) (2)

GPP7810.A	Commercial Transactions (XAD) (2)
GPP7816	Employment Law/Pretrial Litigation (XAD) (2)
GPP7812	Real Estate Transactions (XAD) (2)
GPP7818	Representing Entrepreneurial Business (XAD) (2)
	Students must complete a business law-related IRP or AWR

## XII. VERMONT LAW SCHOOL HONOR CODE

### ARTICLE I. AN HONOR CODE FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

#### A. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Vermont Law School is a community of adults and professionals committed to the principles of academic integrity and honesty which are the underpinnings for the responsible exercise of academic freedom. As an expression of this commitment, Vermont Law School has developed this Honor Code with attendant procedures to deal with instances of academic dishonesty and misconduct which may occur in connection with any aspect of a student's work and performance in curricular (e.g. courses, experiential programs) or co-curricular (e.g. law review, moot court) endeavors. It is the duty and responsibility of all members of the Vermont Law School community to report any known or suspected violations of this Honor Code. The Honor Code seeks to preclude the following forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct<sup>36</sup>:

1. Any conduct pertaining to academic matters that evidences fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or an intent to obtain unfair advantage over other students, and
2. Any conduct that violates Vermont Law School academic regulations or written policies not inconsistent with this Honor Code, and
3. Any other conduct pertaining to academic matters that raises serious doubts about the accused student's honesty, integrity, or fitness to practice law.

#### B. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

This Honor Code recognizes two classes of violations which may attract the sanctions described in Article V below. To assist students in understanding their responsibilities under the Honor Code, the following is a list of conduct pertaining to academic matters which violates this Honor Code.

##### CLASS ONE VIOLATIONS:

The following offenses shall qualify as Class One Violations under Article V:

1. A student shall not plagiarize. Plagiarism is knowingly appropriating another's words or ideas and representing them in writing as one's own. Whenever a student submits written work, including an examination, as his or her own, the student shall not use the words of another without acknowledging the source. If the words of another are paraphrased or the ideas of another are used, there must be a clear attribution of the source.
2. A student shall not invade the security maintained for the preparation and storage of examinations.
3. While taking an examination, a student shall neither possess nor refer to any material not authorized by the instructor for use during the examination
4. In connection with an examination or an academic assignment, a student shall neither give, receive, nor obtain information or help in any form not authorized by the instructor or the person administering the examination or assignment.
5. A student who is taking or has taken an examination shall not discuss any part of that examination with another student who is taking the examination or will be taking a deferred examination when such a discussion is likely to endanger the security of the examination questions.

<sup>36</sup> Non-academic matters are governed by a separate Code of Conduct.

6. A student shall not submit any written work, or part thereof, prepared, submitted or used by him or her for any other purpose (such as work prepared for or submitted in another course, work prepared for a law journal, clinic, law firm, government agency, or other organization), or prepared by another, except upon specific disclosure of the facts and receipt of permission from the instructor to whom the work is submitted.
7. A student shall not take or copy materials of an academic nature belonging to another student without the express consent of the latter.

**CLASS TWO VIOLATIONS:**

The following offenses will qualify as Class Two Violations under Article V:

1. A student shall not make a false statement regarding an academic matter to a law school faculty member, administrator or to the Honor Committee.
2. With respect to the Law School Library, a student shall not knowingly (a) mark, mutilate or destroy library material; (b) hide, misshelve, or misfile library material; or (c) remove library material from the library without authorization.
3. A student shall not obstruct the Honor Code process.
4. A student shall not engage in any other conduct which in determination of the Vice Dean for Students and the Honor Committee evidences dishonesty or a manifest lack of fitness to practice law.

**C. STANDARD OF PROOF**

Before a student may be found to have violated this Honor Code, there must be clear and convincing evidence that the accused committed the acts constituting the violation. This burden of proof shall apply in both the informal and the formal processes.

Unless otherwise specified in the examples above, a student is guilty of a violation of the Honor Code if she or he acted purposely, knowingly or recklessly. A student acts purposely if it is the student's conscious object to engage in prohibited conduct or to cause a prohibited result. A student acts knowingly when that student knows that such conduct is prohibited or knows that his or her conduct will cause a prohibited result. A student acts recklessly when that student consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that his or her conduct will fall within prohibited conduct or cause a harmful result.

It is not a defense to charges of violating this Honor Code for a student to claim he or she has not received, read or understood this Honor Code, or is otherwise ignorant of its provisions. A student is held to have notice of this Honor Code by enrolling in a Vermont law school class.

**ARTICLE II. ADMINISTERING THE HONOR CODE**

- A. Principal responsibility for administering the policies and procedures of this Honor Code shall lie with the Vice Dean for Students and/or an Honor Committee duly constituted as described below.
- B. The Honor Committee consists of six members who shall represent the student body, the faculty and the Administration and which shall act according to procedures as set forth below in Article IV.
- C. The makeup of the Honor Committee shall be as follows: (a) the Vice Dean for Students as Ex Officio member<sup>37</sup>; (b) Four students, one elected from each of the JD classes and one from the MELP, MERL, and LLM classes combined; (c) Two faculty members appointed by the President and Dean of the Law School.

<sup>37</sup> Ex Officio in this context means the Vice Dean for Students participates, but does not vote, on matters before the Honor Committee. The Vice Dean for Students participates in hearings before the Honor Committee under the Formal Process as described in IV (C).

## ARTICLE III. TERM OF OFFICE

- A. All student members shall be elected to serve one-year terms with no bar to reelection for a subsequent term. If for any reason a student member is unable to complete his or her term or to participate in the resolution of a particular matter an alternate student member shall complete the term or participate as necessary. The alternate student member shall be appointed by the President of the Student Bar Association (SBA), or by the Vice-President of the SBA, or by the Treasurer of the SBA, or by the Secretary of the SBA, if the President already serves on the Honor Committee.
- B. All faculty members shall be appointed for one year terms. If for any reason a faculty member is unable to complete his or her term or to participate in the resolution of a particular matter, an alternate faculty member, appointed by the President and Dean of the Law School, shall complete the term or participate as necessary.
- C. Any member of the Honor Committee (including the chair) who believes that he or she may be unable to render an impartial decision in any case shall excuse himself/herself from such case; alternatively, the Honor Committee may remove any Honor Committee member from a case if a majority of the remaining Honor Committee members believes that member may be unable to render an impartial decision in the case. Because Vermont Law School is a small community, knowledge of or acquaintance with the accused student and/or witnesses in a hearing, awareness of a case, participation in campus issues related to the subject matter of a case, or participation in the disciplinary process prior to the hearing of the case shall not automatically be grounds for disqualification. Any concern an accused student may have about the ability of any Honor Committee member or alternate to render an impartial decision in his or her case must be submitted in writing to the chair. This submission must include any supporting materials and must be submitted at least 72 hours in advance of the formal hearing.

## ARTICLE IV. PROCEDURES

### A. INITIAL CHARGE

- 1. A person who wishes to make a charge of a violation of the Honor Code against a student must report the violation to the Vice Dean for Students. Such a report must be made in writing. An anonymous report of a violation will not be sufficient to initiate an investigation or hearing under this Honor Code.
- 2. As soon as practicable, but no later than 15 working days (defined as periods during which all administrative offices of the Vermont Law School are open and operating under regular business hours) after receiving the written report of the violation, the Vice Dean for Students shall notify the accused student in writing that a complaint has been filed. In addition, the Vice Dean for Students will inform the accused student of his/her rights under the Honor Code, including the appointment of an advocate for the accused student. The Vice Dean for Students will also inform the student that a preliminary investigation into the matter will be conducted by a named investigator whose report will be submitted to the Vice Dean for Students.
- 3. At the same time as the Vice Dean for Students notifies the accused student of the complaint, the Vice Dean shall notify the remaining Honor Committee members of the alleged violation and shall provide the Honor Committee with a preliminary timetable whether the matter proceeds under the formal or informal process.
- 4. The Vice Dean for Students shall appoint an investigator from among the faculty, staff administration, or students. When the investigator appointee may be a student, this appointment shall be made in consultation with the President of the SBA (unless s/he is serving on the Honor Committee, in which case the consultation may be with the Vice-President of the SBA, or the Treasurer of the SBA, or the Secretary of the SBA). The investigator may speak with the accused student, and other witnesses, and may obtain statements and any evidence or facts necessary to report to the Vice Dean for Students. The investigator shall submit a report about the matter to the Vice Dean for Students within twenty-one (21) calendar days following his/her appointment as investigator unless good cause exists to warrant a reasonable extension of time.

5. The Vice Dean for Students shall appoint an advocate for the accused student from among the faculty, staff, administration, or student body. When the advocate appointee may be a student, this appointment shall be made in consultation with the President of the SBA (unless s/he is serving on the Honor Committee, in which case the consultation may be with the Vice-President of the SBA, or Treasurer of the SBA, or Secretary of the SBA). The advocate will serve as advisor to the accused. The advocate may also speak for the accused to the Honor Committee and act on the accused's behalf at the formal hearing. The accused student may prefer to have an advocate other than the appointed person in which event, the appointed advocate shall serve as an advisor on Honor Code procedure to the advocate of choice.

## **B. INFORMAL PROCESS**

1. After receiving the investigator's report, the Vice Dean for Students may: (a) determine that even if the facts alleged are true, no violation of the Honor Code has taken place; or (b) determine that it is more probable than not that a violation has taken place and may proceed to take action as outlined in paragraph 2 below. Either determination shall be communicated to the accused student in writing within a reasonable time following the Vice Dean's receipt of the investigator's report.
2. If the Vice Dean for Students determines that it is more probable than not that a violation of the Honor Code has occurred, the Vice Dean may proceed as follows. A discussion of the charges and the formal process as outlined below in Section C shall be held with the accused student. The student will be given the option of going forward with the formal process or agreeing in writing to abide by both the decision of the Vice Dean as to whether a violation of the Honor Code occurred and the penalty assessed by the President and Dean of the Law School upon recommendation of the Vice Dean. Such an agreement by the student will constitute a waiver of any right to the formal process including the right to appeal. The accused student does not waive the right to make public the outcome of the informal process. In this informal process, the President and Dean of the Law School retains the right to accept, reject or modify any recommendation which may be made by the Vice Dean for Students. The decision of the President and Dean of the Law School is final.

## **C. FORMAL PROCESS**

1. If the Vice Dean for Students concludes that the facts warrant a finding that it is more probable than not that a violation of the Honor Code has taken place and that the case is not one which will be dealt with informally above, the Vice Dean will notify the Honor Committee in writing of the nature of the complaint and of her or his conclusions. The Vice Dean will also notify the student accused in writing that the case is being referred to the Honor Committee for further proceedings. This notice shall include the names of all members of the Honor Committee.
2. The Vice Dean for Students may request that the investigator conduct further investigation in preparation for the formal hearing.
3. The Honor Committee as described in Article II (C) shall conduct a formal hearing of this matter at a meeting scheduled not more than thirty (30) calendar days after the Vice Dean for Students has reported a probable violation of the Honor Code to the Honor Committee. The Honor Committee shall meet to elect a chair for the hearing. It shall be the chair's responsibility, prior to the formal hearing, to (1) distribute a copy of the investigator's report to each member of the Honor Committee; and (2) to ensure that each member of the Honor Committee has received from the Vice Dean for Students the written notice of the nature of the complaint and the Vice Dean's conclusions. The Vice Dean for Students is not a member of the Honor Committee when it sits in formal hearing.
4. **Formal Hearing**  
The Vice Dean for Students, along with the appointed investigator, shall present the matter to the Honor Committee. This hearing is not intended to be adversarial in nature (e.g. a prosecution and defense role). Rather, the purpose of the hearing is for the Honor Committee to gather information to enable it to make a factual determination as to whether or not a violation of the Honor Code has occurred, and if so, to recommend a penalty. To that end, the Honor Committee will call and

question witnesses and receive any relevant documents. Because this is not a trial, rules of evidence may be more relaxed in the interest of gathering all relevant information. The accused student will be entitled to have counsel present at the hearing, in addition to his/her advocate. The accused student or any such counsel or advocate will also have the right to call and question witnesses, the right of access to any and all documents offered as evidence, and the right to examine such documents. After hearing all witnesses and considering all evidence presented, the Honor Committee shall decide whether a violation of the Honor Code has occurred. A majority vote of the six Honor Committee members voting shall be necessary for a finding of violation and the imposition of any sanction. However, a recommendation of expulsion or a recommendation that an awarded degree be withdrawn shall require unanimity.

After the formal hearing is concluded, the chair of the Honor Committee shall assign one member of the Honor Committee to prepare a written report stating: (1) the essential findings of fact upon which the committee's determination of violation or no violation is based; (2) the conclusions of law which are necessary to support the determination; and (3) the recommended sanction if a determination of violation is made. Concurring and dissenting members may prepare reports explaining their positions. Copies of the report(s) shall be given to the accused student and to the President and Dean of the Law School.

The Honor Committee shall tape record the hearing in each case. The recording, documents received and the opinion of the Honor Committee shall be retained in the President and Dean's Office. This record may be referred to by the Honor Committee for any purpose and by the President and Dean of the Law School in the case of appeal, but the confidentiality of the record should otherwise be maintained. The accused student shall have the right to make public the results of the formal hearing. At any time after three years, the Honor Committee may destroy the record except for the final report/opinion of the Honor Committee and the opinion of the President and Dean of the Law School, if any.

If the accused student does not appeal the decision of the Honor Committee within seven days after receiving the written report of the Honor Committee pursuant to Article VI, the decision of the Honor Committee shall become final and binding upon all parties, and the President and Dean of the Law School shall proceed to consider implementation of the recommended penalty. In so doing, the President and Dean of the Law School shall have plenary power to accept, reject or modify the recommended penalty. The decision of the President and Dean of the Law School is final.

#### **D.RESOLUTION OF THE CASE WITHOUT A HEARING**

At any time the accused shall have the right to make a proposal for resolution of the matter to the Vice Dean for Students or to the Honor Committee. Any such proposal shall include acknowledgment by the accused student of a violation, and shall include a waiver of all rights to the formal process including the right to appeal under the Honor Code with the understanding that the President and Dean of the Law School can modify all agreed to sanctions.

#### **E.TIME LIMITATION**

No complaint may be filed more than sixty (60) days after the occurrence of the alleged violation or sixty (60) days after the day that the alleged violation and/or the identity of the accused student should have reasonably been discovered.

#### **F.THE POWER TO APPOINT ALTERNATES**

Should it become necessary at any point during the informal or formal processes, the President and Dean of the Law School shall have the power to appoint alternates to serve the role(s) of the Vice Dean(s).

#### **G.NOTICE**

Notice to the accused student shall be given through the United States mail to the local address contained in the accused student's educational file. If there is no local address, notice will be sent to the accused student's permanent address.

Notice to members of the Honor Committee required by this Honor Code can be provided either through the Vermont Law School campus mail system (the notice is thereby placed in the

individual's campus mailbox) or through the United States mail.

Notice will be considered given on the date the notice is placed in the mail.

## ARTICLE V. SANCTIONS

If through the informal or formal process it is determined that the accused student has violated one or more of the provisions of this Honor Code, the Honor Committee members or the Vice Dean for Students shall recommend a sanction<sup>38</sup> in accordance with the provisions below:

CLASS ONE SANCTIONS: If the Honor Committee members or the Vice Dean for Students conclude that the student has committed a Class One violation of the Honor Code as defined in Article III, Section B, the recommended penalty shall be suspension, expulsion or withdrawal of an awarded degree, unless the Honor Committee members or Vice Dean find substantially mitigating circumstances warrant a lesser penalty as set out in the following paragraph. A recommendation of expulsion or a recommendation that an awarded degree be withdrawn shall require unanimity.

CLASS TWO SANCTIONS: If the Honor Committee members or Vice Dean for Students conclude that the student has committed a Class Two violation of the Honor Code as defined in Article III, Section B, the Honor Committee members or Vice Dean for Students shall recommend such lesser penalty as they deem appropriate, including, but not limited to: a warning; a fine; probation; reference to counseling; or notation in the student's permanent file, unless the Honor Committee members or Vice Dean find substantially aggravating circumstances warrant a harsher penalty as set out in the preceding paragraph.

NOTATION ON OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT: The fact of a violation, whether subject to a Class One or Class Two sanction, shall in the usual case be noted on the student's official transcript. For purposes of this section, the official transcript means the official record of the student's academic history at Vermont Law School in all programs (e.g. JD, MELP, MERL, MFALP, MARJ, LLM, or joint-degree) in which the student is enrolled at the time of the violation.

## ARTICLE VI. APPEALS

- A. The accused student may appeal the decision of the Honor Committee directly to the President and Dean of the Law School. Within seven days after receiving the written report of the Honor Committee, any accused student wishing to appeal shall give written notice of such intention to the President and Dean of the Law School. The accused student shall include a statement of the basis for such an appeal with the written notice. The review shall be on the record.
- B. The President and Dean of the Law School shall notify the Honor Committee and the involved faculty member, if any, of the appeal.
- C. The Honor Committee shall make available to the President and Dean of the Law School a copy of the tape recording of the hearing and copies of any documents received by the Honor Committee.
- D. The President and Dean of the Law School shall schedule a meeting with the accused student within a reasonable time after receiving the written notice of appeal. The President and Dean of the Law School shall allow the accused student, the student's counsel or advocate, the Vice Dean for Students and/or the investigator, to present arguments at that meeting.
- E. Factual findings of the Honor Committee shall not be overturned on appeal absent a showing that the findings are not supported by relevant evidence. Deference shall be accorded determinations of credibility made by the Honor Committee. Determinations of what constitutes relevant evidence shall be overturned only for abuse of discretion. Conclusions of law, including interpretations and applications of this Honor Code,

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<sup>38</sup> Grade adjustments have been excluded from the list of sanctions. Grading is solely a faculty function. A faculty member may consider a determination that a student violated the Honor Code, for example by cheating or plagiarism, in assigning a grade. The President and Dean of the Law School cannot, however, compel the faculty member to adjust a grade based on the result of an Honor Code determination.



may be overturned upon a showing that the conclusions are erroneous.

The President and Dean of the Law School shall have the plenary power to accept, reject, or modify the recommended penalty. The decision of the President and Dean of the Law School is final.

## **ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENT OF THE HONOR CODE**

- A. This Honor Code may be amended upon the initiative of (1) a majority vote of the members of the Honor Committee; (2) a majority vote of the faculty; or (3) a petition signed by 50 or more Vermont Law School students. Any amendment must be approved both by a majority of the student members of the Honor Committee together with the members of the Student Bar Association voting as one body and by the faculty. If a student is both a member of the governing body of the Student Bar Association and the Honor Code Committee, the student shall have only one vote.
- B. to this Honor Code shall be effective upon approval by the faculty and by the student members of the Honor Committee together with the Student Bar Association.

## **XIII. COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The faculty has delegated responsibility for administration of the Academic Regulations to the Committee on Standards. Any student who seeks a discretionary decision provided for under the regulations, or the waiver of a regulation, must petition the Committee; students should not contact individual members of the Committee concerning any matter which may come before the Committee.

### **1. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

- 1. Regular meetings of the Committee are ordinarily held monthly. Special meetings are held at the discretion of the chair. The Committee may meet telephonically or electronically.
- 2. Three members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the Committee to take action upon student petitions.
- 3. The deadline for submission of petitions shall be on the Friday preceding the meeting of the Committee at which the student seeks a decision. The Committee may, in its discretion, consider late petitions or consider petitions telephonically or electronically outside a regularly scheduled meeting provided a quorum of Committee members acts on the petition(s).
- 4. The Registrar and Director of Academic Procedures or designee shall serve as Secretary to the Committee on Standards.

### **2. PETITIONS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE**

- 1. The student shall submit a typewritten petition to the Registrar via email, mail, or in person, setting forth in detail the student's request and the reasons why the Committee should make an exception to the Academic Regulations and grant the request.
- 2. In any case which may result or has resulted in suspension or dismissal from the school, the student has a right to a personal appearance before the Committee. Such personal appearance must be requested at the time of the student's original petition, and the student shall appear at the time the petition is being considered by the Committee. In any other case, the student may request a personal appearance, which shall be granted only by unanimous consent of the members of the Committee. Such requests should be made in writing and submitted to the Registrar no later than the Friday preceding the Committee meeting at which the student petition will be considered.

### **C. NOTICE OF ACTIONS**

The Committee shall notify the students of its decisions in writing by mail or email. In addition, the Committee shall notify the following parties in writing of its action when appropriate: Registrar, President and Dean, student's instructor, Business Office.

### **D. PETITIONS FOR REHEARING**

If a student's petition is denied in whole or in part, the student may request reconsideration of the petition. Such a request will ordinarily be granted only upon presentation of new information which was not available at the time of submission of the original petition. Students requesting rehearing shall make this request in writing by the Friday preceding the Committee meeting at which the student would like the petition to be reconsidered.



# CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct may be amended at any time by the President and Dean after consultation with the Student Services Committee, the Vice Dean for Students, and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. Notice of amendment shall be given by posting on the official campus bulletin board, email, and through the campus mail.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

ADOPTED 10/10/94

AMENDED 8/14/20

The effective date of this policy is 8/14/20.

## ARTICLE I. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

*"I pledge that I will uphold the highest standards of academic excellence, honesty, professionalism, and integrity. In my academic and professional life, I will treat others with dignity, respect, and courtesy. I commit myself to zealous advocacy for justice and to ethical service without prejudice."*

This oath is sworn before a Vermont Supreme Court justice by all Vermont Law School students upon their first morning of school. Vermont Law School students are citizens of an academic and social community whose members are expected to show respect for the person, property, and rights of others. Students seeking admission to the Vermont Bar, as well as most other state bars, must meet a standard of conduct set by the bar. Vermont Law School is required to certify a student's character and fitness for the bar and for clearance by the FBI and other investigators for positions with the federal government. Therefore, all students are expected to maintain the standards set in this Code of Conduct and to act with professionalism at all times. Professionalism is the strict adherence to courtesy, civility, honesty, and responsibility when interacting with other students, faculty, staff, or other individuals in the community.

## ARTICLE II. APPLICATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code governs all matters of conduct not covered by the Vermont Law School Honor Code. It applies to the conduct of all students of Vermont Law School (VLS) with regard to their actions in connection with the application and admissions process, educational activities, career services, employment, or other law school-related activities, when those actions occur on VLS property or in the use of VLS facilities (including the computer network and telephone and email systems). This Code applies to all students taking classes on campus, as well as all students taking distance learning classes and students participating in off-campus programs, such as externships or SiPs. This Code also applies when those actions occur off campus in connection with events sponsored by VLS or VLS-approved organizations, or in connection with official business undertaken for VLS, or in other circumstances where an action could have a significant impact on the educational or employment environment or the reputation or integrity of VLS or could pose a threat to the safety or other interests of VLS or members of the VLS community.

This Code of Conduct does not govern interactions between members of the Vermont Law School community that do not involve violations of its provisions. An employer-employee dispute, a contract dispute, a landlord-tenant dispute, a domestic dispute, or other civil dispute between two individuals who happen to be members of the Vermont Law School community is governed by local, state, or federal law rather than this Code except insofar as the dispute also involves actions by the parties that independently are violations of the Code.

Conduct covered by this Code may also violate local, state, and federal laws. This Code will not be used merely to duplicate the function of those laws, but where Vermont Law School's distinct interests as an academic community are involved, the Law School may pursue enforcement of its own policies whether or not legal proceedings involving the same incident are underway or anticipated. Vermont Law School may use information from third-party sources, such as law enforcement agencies and the courts, to initiate or adjudicate proceedings under this Code of Conduct. Conversely, Vermont Law School will not shield law students from the law, nor will it intervene as a party in legal proceedings against a law student. In general, this Code prohibits:

1. Any conduct that evidences fraud, deceit, dishonesty, any intent to harm or to obtain unfair advantage over another, or a gross disregard for the rights of others; and
2. any conduct that violates Vermont Law School regulations or policies contained in the Vermont Law School Student Handbook; and
3. any other conduct or activities that raise serious doubts about the student's honesty, integrity, professionalism, or fitness to practice law, regardless of whether the conduct occurred on campus or off campus, and regardless of whether classes were in session or during semester breaks.

A student violates this Code of Conduct if he or she acts purposely, knowingly, or recklessly. A student acts purposely if it is the student's conscious object to engage in prohibited conduct or to cause a prohibited

result, whether or not the student knows the conduct is prohibited. A student acts knowingly when that student knows that such conduct is prohibited or knows that his or her conduct will cause a prohibited result. A student acts recklessly when that student consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that his or her conduct will fall within prohibited conduct or cause a harmful result.

It is not a defense to charges of violating this Code of Conduct and related policies for a student to claim that she or he has not received, read or understood this Code, or is otherwise ignorant of its provisions. Students will be held accountable for policy violations that take place between the time they first arrive in South Royalton to begin their Law School career and their graduation, or the Law School's confirmation of their withdrawal. Online learning students will be held to have notice of this Code of Conduct and to be bound by its provisions upon their enrollment in a VLS course or program. The Law School may also initiate charges with respect to alleged misconduct of the sort described herein that occurs before matriculation, if it appears that such alleged misconduct may have an effect on the student's fitness to remain a part of the Law School community or fitness to practice law, or that reflects negatively on the student's honesty or integrity. Further, the Law School reserves the right to pursue withdrawal of a degree, if it is determined that the degree was in part procured through academic dishonesty, fraud, or other misconduct. Violations of the Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Alcohol policy violation
- Alteration, misuse, or forgery of documents, records, ID's, or keys
- Any and all felonies and misdemeanors, excluding minor traffic violations
- Arson
- Attempting to improperly influence the decision of the VLS Disciplinary Board
- Conduct off campus that is incongruent with the mission and goals of VLS
- Deliberate tampering with fire safety equipment on campus
- Desecration, profanation, misuse of any VLS property
- Disruptive behavior
- Drug policy violation
- Failure to present proper identification of oneself or one's guest when asked by VLS personnel or campus security; failure to comply with the directives of VLS personnel, including Aladdin staff, or knowingly furnishing false information to VLS personnel
- Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation Policy violation
- Lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct
- Lying
- Misuse of VLS fire equipment, VLS ID card, the VLS computer network, the VLS email system or telephones (including pay phones)
- Obstruction or disruption of educational activities, administrative functions, or other activities of the Law School
- Physical assault
- Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Prohibited by Title IX Policy violation.
- Sexual Exploitation as defined below
- Stalking as defined below
- Theft, attempted theft, or sale of VLS property or property belonging to others
- Unauthorized entry into any VLS sponsored event or club/organization activity
- Unauthorized entry into or use of VLS or student facilities or property
- Use or possession of firearms, explosives, knives, ammunition, or other lethal devices on campus
- Verbal abuse
- Willful damage
- Reading, copying, altering, or deleting computer files in another user's account without permission of that user; willfully modifying or disabling computer files, programs, or equipment provided by the Computer Center for general use; using VLS computing facilities for outside business purposes
- Any of the behaviors listed above and exhibited in electronic form are also prohibited.

For purposes of the Code of Conduct, the following definition applies. "Stalking" as defined by federal law means engaging in a course of conduct (a pattern of conduct composed of two or more acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose) directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to: fear for one's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

Under Vermont law, "stalking" is defined to mean engaging in a course of conduct which consists of one of the following, when such conduct serves no legitimate purpose and would cause a reasonable person to fear for one's physical safety or health or would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional distress.

- a. Following - defined as maintaining over a period of time a visual or physical proximity to another person in such a manner as would cause a reasonable person to have a fear of unlawful sexual conduct, unlawful restraint, bodily injury or death.
- b. Lying in wait for - defined as hiding or being concealed for the purpose of attacking or harming another person, or
- c. Harassing - defined as actions directed at a specific person, or a member of the person's family, which would cause a reasonable person to fear unlawful sexual conduct, unlawful restraint, bodily injury, or death, including but not limited to verbal threats, written, telephonic, or other electronically communicated threats, vandalism, or physical contact without consent.

When part of a pattern of behavior that falls within the definition of stalking described above, examples of stalking behaviors or activities may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Non-consensual communication, including face-to-face communication, telephone calls, voice messages, e-mails, text messages, written letters, gifts, or any other communications that are unwelcome.
- b. Use of online, electronic or digital technologies in connection with such communication, including but not limited to:
  - Posting of pictures or text in chat rooms or on websites;
  - Sending unwanted/unsolicited e-mail or talk requests;
  - Posting private or public messages on Internet sites, social networks, and/or school bulletin boards;
  - Installing spyware on a person's computer;
  - Using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) or similar technology to monitor a person.
- c. Pursuing, following, waiting, or showing up uninvited at or near a residence, workplace, classroom, or other places frequented by the person.
- d. Surveillance or other types of observation including staring or "peeping".
- e. Trespassing.
- f. Vandalism.
- g. Non-consensual touching.
- h. Direct verbal or physical threats.
- i. Gathering information about an individual from friends, family, or co-workers.
- j. Accessing private information through unauthorized means.
- k. Threats to harm self or others.
- l. Using a third party or parties to accomplish any of the above.

As a matter of VLS policy, VLS strictly prohibits conduct that would constitute stalking under VLS policy as defined above, and as defined by Vermont law. The Law School encourages individuals who believe that they are being or have been subjected to such conduct, and others with knowledge of such conduct, to report the conduct to the Law School through the procedures described below, and to seek the support of the Law School and/or external resources.

"Sexual Exploitation" is taking sexual advantage of another person for the benefit of anyone other than that person, without that person's consent. Examples of behavior that could rise to the level of sexual exploitation include but are not limited to: prostituting another person; recording images (e.g., video, photograph) or audio of another person's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nakedness without that person's consent; distributing images (e.g., video, photograph) or audio of another person's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nakedness if the individual distributing the images or audio knows or should have known that the person depicted in the images or audio did not consent to such disclosure and objects to such disclosure; and, viewing another person's sexual activity, intimate body parts, or nakedness in a place where that person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy, without that person's consent, re, and for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire. Sexual exploitation may occur regardless of whether sexual activity takes place. Sexual act, for purposes of the definition of sexual exploitation under this policy, is defined as: conduct between persons consisting of (A) contact between the penis and the vulva, (B) contact between the penis and the anus, (C) contact between the mouth and the penis, (D) contact between the mouth and the vulva, and/or (E) any intrusion, however slight, by any part of a person's body or any object in the genital or anal opening of another.

Each student is responsible for keeping informed of any changes in this Code. Ignorance of regulations and changes to regulations are not an excuse for violations of the VLS Code of Conduct.

## ARTICLE III. STUDENT'S DUTY TO REPORT

Vermont Law School is required to certify students' and graduates' good character and fitness to state bar examiners. Students are responsible for informing themselves on the character and fitness requirements of the bar in the state or states where they intend to practice. Students have a duty to promptly report to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity any charges, arrests or convictions of a violation of any civil or criminal law, other than a minor parking violation or parking ticket. In their application to Vermont Law School, students are required to disclose such events, as well as any prior disciplinary action by an educational institution, government, or administrative agency (including any branch of the Armed Forces). Students who failed to disclose such in their application materials must report to the Vice President for Enrollment Management. A failure to disclose events which occurred prior to or during Law School may lead to more serious consequences than the event itself. Any failure to report is a violation of the Code of Conduct.

## ARTICLE IV. PROCEDURE

### A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The procedures for investigating and resolving complaints under this Code include voluntary informal resolution, mediation, informal process and formal process. Additional specific provisions governing the handling of alleged violations of the "Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation Policy" and the "Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Prohibited by Title IX Policy" are set forth in those policies. Such specific provisions will apply to complaints that allege harassment, discrimination, retaliation, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking within the scope of those policies, to the extent that such specific provisions differ from the provisions outlined in these more general procedures. The availability of these procedures does not restrict the authority of the President and Dean to take whatever action he or she deems necessary to maintain good order within the Law School or to determine whether harassment or discrimination is occurring and ensure that any such action cease.

### B. COMPLAINT AND PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS

1. Any person may initiate a proceeding under this Code by making a complaint to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity (the Associate Dean) alleging a violation of the Code. The complaint must be in writing. Upon receiving a complaint that this Code has been violated, the Associate Dean shall meet with the complainant, outline the possible courses of action, and explain the operation of these procedures. The Associate Dean shall discuss the allegations with the complainant to determine whether all pertinent facts have been alleged. The Associate Dean may conduct a further investigation.
2. If the Associate Dean determines that the facts alleged, if true, would not establish a violation of the Code, the Associate Dean shall dismiss the complaint. When a complaint is dismissed for this reason, the Associate Dean may ask the complainant and the student complained against to meet in an effort to resolve differences between them. The fact that a complaint has been filed and dismissed will not be publicly disclosed by the Associate Dean or any party unless all parties agree.
3. If the Associate Dean determines that the facts alleged, if true, would establish a violation of the Code, he or she shall notify the student complained against of the substance of the complaint, meet with the student, outline the possible courses of action, and explain the operation of the procedures. The Associate Dean at his or her discretion may appoint advisors for the complainant and the student complained against. The appointed advisors serve as advisors only, and do not give legal advice. There is no attorney/client privilege between students and advisors. The students may retain legal counsel at their own expense. The Associate Deanshall give the student the opportunity to tell her or his side of the story. If it is appropriate in the circumstances, the Associate Dean may ask the parties to participate in voluntary informal resolution of the complaint as provided in subsection IV.C. and may take other actions designed to clarify and resolve issues for the parties and the Law School community.
4. If the Associate Dean does not request voluntary informal resolution, or that procedure does not result in resolution of the complaint, the Associate Dean shall appoint a Preliminary Investigator to conduct a preliminary investigation of the facts and submit a written report to the



Associate Dean. When conducting a preliminary investigation, the Preliminary Investigator shall make every effort to avoid disclosing sensitive information, although full confidentiality cannot be guaranteed because some information may need to be shared with witnesses and otherwise as necessary in order to complete the preliminary investigation.

5. The Preliminary Investigator shall complete the investigation and submit her or his report within 30 working days after the date of appointment unless the time is extended by the Associate Dean for reasonable cause. Upon receipt of the Preliminary Investigator's report, the Associate Dean may direct such further investigation as he or she deems necessary. The report may be given, as appropriate, to the parties, to the mediator under subsection IV.D., to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity under subsection IV.E. or to the Chair of the Disciplinary Board and the President and Dean of the Law School (President and Dean) under subsection IV.F. The report will be included in the President and Dean's confidential file under subsection IV.L., but will not otherwise be distributed or disclosed to anyone.
6. At the conclusion of the preliminary investigation, and after consulting with the complainant and the student complained against, the Associate Dean will determine whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of this Code has occurred. If there are not reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, the Associate Dean shall dismiss the complaint. If the complaint is dismissed on this ground, the Associate Dean may ask the parties to meet in an effort to resolve differences between them and may take other actions designed to clarify and resolve issues for the parties and the Law School community.
7. If the Associate Dean finds reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of this Code has occurred, he or she shall determine whether the complaint is to be resolved by mediation as provided in subsection IV.D., informal process as provided in subsection IV.E., or formal process as provided in subsection IV.F. and shall take the steps necessary to initiate the procedure selected. Pending resolution of the complaint by one of these procedures, the Associate Dean, or the President and Dean, is authorized to take whatever interim measures he or she deems necessary to maintain good order within the Law School or to ensure that any harassment or discrimination complained of ceases.
8. The Associate Dean shall issue a written statement of reasons for any decision that he or she makes under this subsection and shall provide a copy of that statement to the parties and to the President and Dean.

### **C. VOLUNTARY INFORMAL RESOLUTION**

1. With the agreement of the parties, the Associate Dean may work with them to reach an informal resolution of the complaint. Other members of the Law School community or outside individuals with appropriate experience or expertise may be asked to participate in an informal resolution process.
2. Voluntary informal resolution must be completed within 20 working days after the parties have signified their agreement to participate unless the Associate Dean extends the time for reasonable cause. If the process does not result in a resolution satisfactory to the parties and approved by the Associate Dean within the allotted time, the Associate Dean shall resume the proceeding at the point at which voluntary informal resolution was undertaken.
3. A written report of a voluntary informal resolution that reaches a result satisfactory to the parties and approved by the Associate Dean shall be provided to the President and Dean and made part of the confidential file of the complaint. The resolution reached shall not be disclosed by the Associate Dean or any party unless the parties agree.
4. An informal resolution of the complaint by the parties does not affect the power and responsibility of Vermont Law School to take whatever action may be necessary to ensure past and future compliance with all policies and regulations of the Law School.

### **D. MEDIATION**

1. If the Associate Dean determines that mediation is appropriate, then the Associate Dean, or another mediator selected by the Associate Dean, may undertake mediation with the complainant and the student complained against. Mediation shall not be undertaken unless both parties agree.
  - a. During mediation, each party may be accompanied by counsel or another person of his or her own choice and at his or her own expense.

- b. Possible resolutions through mediation include, but are not limited to, an apology (public or private); promise to cease the behavior complained about; counseling; limitations on contact; assurance of no retaliation; and/or notation in the student's personal file.
  - c. Mediation will be completed within 30 working days after the parties have signified their agreement to participate unless the Associate Dean, on the representation of the mediator that a mediated resolution is probable, extends the time.
- 2. A complaint shall be deemed resolved by mediation when both parties have signed a settlement agreement indicating their acceptance of the resolution reached in the mediation procedure, the mediator has approved and signed the agreement, and the Associate Dean has approved the agreement and dismissed the complaint with any necessary conditions.
- 3. If a complainant believes that a mediated settlement agreement has been breached, she or he shall make a complaint to the Associate Dean. If the Associate Dean decides that the mediation agreement has been breached, he or she shall undertake appropriate further proceedings or may recommend an appropriate sanction or disciplinary action to the President and Dean. The President and Dean may accept, reject, or modify the recommended sanction or disciplinary action.
- 4. Either party may withdraw from mediation at any time before resolution. If a party withdraws from mediation, the mediator will report the status of the mediation to the Associate Dean. The Associate Dean may dismiss the complaint or may reopen the preliminary investigation or may determine that the complaint should be resolved in another resolution procedure under this Code.

#### **E. INFORMAL PROCESS**

- 1. If the Associate Dean finds that mediation is not appropriate or mediation has not resulted in an approved settlement agreement and that the violation is subject only to Class Two Sanctions (as set out in Article V), he or she shall proceed as follows. The Associate Dean shall discuss the charges, the potential consequences, and the operation of the informal process with the student complained against. After discussion with the student and deliberation, the Associate Dean shall make a decision as to whether a violation has occurred and shall make a recommendation concerning sanctions to the President and Dean. In this recommendation, the Associate Dean is limited to Class Two Sanctions.
- 2. The student may appeal the decision and recommendation of the Associate Dean to the President and Dean. No other appeal is available. If the student does appeal, the President and Dean may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Associate Dean, and may accept, reject, or modify any recommended sanction that may be made by the Associate Dean, provided that only a Class Two Sanction may be imposed. The President and Dean may confer with the Associate Dean during this process. The decision of the President and Dean is final.
- 3. If the student does not appeal, the President and Dean shall approve the recommended sanction.
- 4. The complainant will be informed of the final decisions and the sanctions, if any, that have been imposed upon the student complained against, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

#### **F. FORMAL PROCESS**

- 1. If the Associate Dean finds that mediation is not appropriate or has not resulted in an approved settlement agreement and that the violation is one the sanctions for which are not limited to Class Two Sanctions (as set out in Article V), he or she shall discuss the charges, the potential consequences, and the formal process with the student complained against. The student will be given the option of going forward with the formal process or agreeing in writing to abide both by the decision of the Associate Dean as to whether a violation of this Code of Conduct has occurred and by the sanction imposed by the President and Dean upon the recommendation of the Associate Dean. Such agreement by the student will constitute a waiver of any right to the formal process. In this process, the President and Dean may accept, reject, or modify any recommendation which may be made by the Associate Dean. The President and Dean may confer with the Associate Dean during this process. The decision of the President and Dean is final. In this process, the Associate Dean and the President and Dean are not limited to Class Two Sanctions.
- 2. If the student decides to proceed with the formal process, the Associate Dean will schedule a hearing before the Vermont Law School Disciplinary Board and shall give notice to all parties and the President and Dean. The hearing shall be held within 20 working days after

notice is given unless the time is extended by the Associate Dean for reasonable cause. The notice shall include the date, time, and location of the hearing and a summary of the elements of the complaint.

3. The Vermont Law School Disciplinary Board shall be composed of the Associate Dean as a non-voting chair, three members of the Vermont Law School faculty committee on standards, administration or staff appointed by the President and Dean, and two of the five students elected by the student body during the fall elections.
4. The hearing shall not be a formal adversarial one in the sense that there will be a prosecution versus a defense. The purpose of the hearing is to gather information to enable the Disciplinary Board to make a factual determination and if necessary to recommend a sanction. To that end, the Associate Dean shall conduct the proceeding and shall have the right to call witnesses and present documents as evidence. The Associate Dean and all members of the Disciplinary Board shall have the right to question witnesses and examine documents offered as evidence. The Law School may have counsel present at the proceeding.
5. Because this is not a trial, rules of evidence may be more relaxed in the interest of gathering relevant information.
6. The student complained against will be entitled to have counsel or another person of his or her own choosing at the hearing. The student or any such counsel or person will also have the right to call and question witnesses and the right to introduce and examine documents offered as evidence. The Law School may also choose to have counsel present on its behalf to call and question witnesses and to introduce and examine documents offered as evidence.
7. After hearing all witnesses and considering all evidence presented, the Disciplinary Board shall decide whether a violation of the Code of Conduct has occurred. A majority vote shall be necessary for a finding of a violation and the recommendation of any sanction. However, a recommendation of expulsion or a recommendation that an awarded degree be withdrawn shall require unanimity. The Associate Dean shall appoint a member of the Disciplinary Board to prepare a written report stating: (1) the essential findings of fact upon which the Board's determination of violation or no violation is based; (2) the conclusions which are necessary to support the determination; and (3) the recommended sanction if a determination of violation is made. Concurring and dissenting members may prepare reports explaining their positions. Copies of the report(s) shall be given to the student complained against and to the President and Dean.
8. The Disciplinary Board shall tape record the hearing in each case. The recording, the documents received, and the opinion of the Board shall be retained in the President and Dean's Office. This record may be referred to by the Board for any purpose, but the confidentiality of the record should otherwise be maintained. At any time after three years, the Board may destroy the record except for the final report/opinion of the Board and the opinion of the President and Dean, if any, unless there is a pending request for production of the record or some other reason why, in the Board's discretion, the record should be maintained.
9. If the student complained against does not appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Board within fourteen days after receiving the written report of the Board, the decision of the Disciplinary Board on the merits shall become final and binding upon all parties, and the President and Dean shall proceed to consider implementation of the recommended penalty. In so doing, the President and Dean may confer with the Associate Dean and shall have plenary power to accept, reject, or modify the recommended penalty. The decision of the President and Dean is final.
10. The student may appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Board directly to the President and Dean. If the student appeals, the President and Dean may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Disciplinary Board and may accept, reject, or modify any recommended sanction. The President and Dean may confer with the Associate Dean during this process. The decision of the President and Dean is final.
11. The complainant will be informed of the final decisions and the sanctions, if any, that have been imposed upon the student complained against, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

## **G. CONFIDENTIALITY**

1. All proceedings under this Code are confidential from the initial complaint through the final decision of the President and Dean. The identity of the complainant and other witnesses will be disclosed to the student complained against, unless the Associate Dean decides otherwise.

2. The Law School has the right to investigate incidents or situations brought to its notice.
3. All hearings and meetings are confidential and are not open to persons not directly involved in the proceedings.
4. The President and Dean has discretion to report violations of local, state, and federal law to the appropriate authorities. The President and Dean also has discretion to report the results to the Vermont Law School community, to the extent permitted by applicable law. The Associate Dean and the Disciplinary Board may recommend public acknowledgment of wrongdoing by an accused student as a sanction. The student complained against has the right to release only the results of the proceeding.
5. These confidentiality provisions cannot be waived except as provided in this subsection.

#### **H. RETALIATION**

“Retaliation” is defined as an adverse action taken against any person for making a good faith complaint of a violation of the Code of Conduct or of having participated in an investigation of such a complaint. Retaliation includes but is not limited to ostracizing the person, pressuring the person to drop or not support the complaint, or adversely altering that person’s educational, living, or work environment. Retaliation may be unlawful and may constitute a violation of this policy depending on the circumstances, whether or not the complaint is ultimately found to have merit.

#### **I. STANDARD OF PROOF**

Before a student may be found to have violated this Code of Conduct, the Associate Dean or the Disciplinary Board must find that the student committed the acts constituting the violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

#### **J. TIME LIMITATION**

No complaint under this policy may be brought more than one hundred and eighty (180) days after the occurrence of the alleged violation or one hundred and eighty (180) days after the alleged violation should have reasonably been discovered by the Administration. If an individual has begun a proceeding under the Vermont Law School Honor Code, this time limitation shall be tolled during that proceeding.

#### **K. THE POWER TO APPOINT ALTERNATES**

Should it become necessary at any time during proceedings under this Code, the President and Dean shall have the power to appoint alternates to serve either in the role of the Associate Dean or as members of the Disciplinary Board. The President of the Student Bar Association also has the power to appoint alternate students to serve on the Disciplinary Board.

#### **L. NOTICE**

If written notice must be given to a student complained against, it shall be given by U.S. certified mail to the local address contained in the student’s educational file. If there is no local address, notice will be sent by U.S. certified mail to the student’s permanent address. Notice will be considered given on the date the notice is placed in the mail.

#### **M. RECORDS**

Records of all complaints and proceedings for their resolution shall be retained by the President and Dean in a confidential file and/or as described above.

### **ARTICLE V. SANCTIONS**

Following the determination that the student complained against has violated one or more of the provisions of this Code of Conduct, the Associate Dean or the members of the Disciplinary Board shall recommend a sanction in accordance with the provisions below:

#### **A. CLASS ONE SANCTIONS**

If the Associate Dean or the members of the Disciplinary Board conclude that the student has committed a serious violation of the Code of Conduct, the recommended sanction shall be

suspension, expulsion, or that the President and Dean recommend to the Board of Trustees withdrawal of an awarded degree, unless there are substantially mitigating circumstances that warrant a lesser penalty as set out in the following paragraph.

#### **B. CLASS TWO SANCTIONS**

If the Associate Dean or the members of the Disciplinary Board conclude that the student has committed a lesser violation of the Code of Conduct, the recommended sanction shall be such lesser penalty as is deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to a warning, a fine, restitution, community service, probation, reference to counseling, or notation in the student's permanent file, unless there are substantially aggravating circumstances that warrant a harsher penalty as set out in the preceding paragraph.

#### **C. NOTATION IN THE STUDENT'S OFFICIAL FILE**

If the student complained against receives either a Class One sanction or a Class Two sanction the fact of the violation and the sanction shall be noted in the student's official file, unless the President and Dean decides otherwise.

#### **D. NOTATION ON OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT**

If the student complained against receives a Class One sanction, the fact of the violation and the sanction shall be noted on the student's official transcript.

#### **E. STUDENT STATUS**

Ordinarily a student will not be permitted to graduate, or to withdraw with the expectation of returning to the Law School, while a disciplinary matter is pending. The disciplinary matter shall be held in abeyance until the matter is resolved. If a student withdraws with a disciplinary matter pending, the withdrawal will be considered a resignation from the Law School and the student will have given up any opportunity to return to the School. A notation to this effect will be made in the student's permanent record. The Law School reserves the right to adjudicate disciplinary matters even after a student has withdrawn with a disciplinary matter pending.

### **ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENT**

This Code of Conduct may be amended at any time by the President and Dean after consultation with the Student Services Committee, the Vice Dean for Students and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. Notice of amendments shall be given by posting on the official campus bulletin board, email, and/or through the campus mail.

#### **INVOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL OR SEPARATION**

Vermont Law School is committed to providing a safe environment for students, staff, faculty, and community members. Subject to the limitations regarding emergency removal set forth in the Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Prohibited by Title IX Policy. VLS reserves the right to involuntarily withdraw or separate a student whose conduct VLS reasonably believes, based upon a case-by-case objective assessment, poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or other members of the VLS community, or demonstrates medical or behavioral needs requiring a level of support that cannot reasonably be provided while participating in an academic program. This includes, but is not limited to:

Conduct that a student engages in, or is at significant risk of engaging in, that could reasonably be anticipated to result in physical or emotional harm to self or others;

Conduct that manifests an inability to attend to personal needs related to food, shelter, personal safety, medical and emotional care, and general well-being;

Conduct that poses a reasonable possibility of serious physical harm or property damage;

Conduct that demonstrates an abuse of alcohol or drugs on the Vermont Law School campus or at Vermont Law School sponsored events;

Conduct that interferes substantially with the regular daily activities of members of the VLS or South Royalton community;

Conduct that interferes substantially with the educational and employment environment or the orderly operation of the law school and activities conducted on its campus; or

Conduct that significantly or unreasonably burdens VLS's human and/or financial resources.

VLS also reserves the right to exclude at any time a student who poses a substantial risk to the health of others, for example, because of a contagious disease or similar condition.

A student will be involuntarily withdrawn or separated on the recommendation of two of the following administrators: the Vice Dean for Faculty, the Vice Dean for Students, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity, and the President and Dean.

A student who is involuntarily withdrawn is terminated from all VLS academic programs. A student who is involuntarily separated may return to campus at the discretion of the Vice Dean for Students. Such decision shall only be made after the Vice Dean for Students or designee receives and accepts documentation demonstrating that the student no longer poses a threat to the health or safety of the law school community. The student must also agree in writing to abide by any conditions imposed by the Vice Dean for Students.

Vermont Law School financial aid and refund policies apply to a student who is involuntarily withdrawn or terminated.

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, AND STALKING PROHIBITED BY TITLE IX POLICY

## I. ARTICLE I. POLICY OVERVIEW

This policy sets forth Vermont Law School's obligations under the 2020 Title IX Regulations.

Our Title IX Coordinator is:

Beth McCormack, Vice Dean for Students & Professor of Law  
[bmccormack@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:bmccormack@vermontlaw.edu)  
802-831-1004  
164 Chelsea Street, P.O. Box 96, South Royalton, VT, 05068

Our Deputy Title IX Coordinator is:

Betsy Erwin, Director of Human Resources  
[berwin@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:berwin@vermontlaw.edu)  
802-831-1225  
164 Chelsea Street, P.O. Box 96, South Royalton, VT 05068

Questions about Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or to the assistant secretary for civil rights through the Boston office:

Office for Civil Rights  
Boston Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
8th Floor  
5 Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109-3921  
617-289-0111  
[OCR.Boston@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Boston@ed.gov)

Any person may report conduct prohibited by this policy to the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy or to: the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity, the Vice Dean for Students, the Vice President of Finance, the Vice Dean for Faculty, or the Dean. These are the only individuals with authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of VLS under this policy.

A complaint about the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator may be made to the Vice Dean for Faculty or to the Dean and President.

## II. ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

VLS does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities, including employment and admission. Complaints of discrimination on the basis of sex will be handled under VLS's Policy Against Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Related Retaliation ("HSHDR Policy"), which applies to all employees, officers, trustees, and students. The HSHDR Policy is available in our Student Handbook.

## III. ARTICLE III. SCOPE

This policy applies to all students, faculty, and staff who experience prohibited sexual harassment in VLS's education programs or activities. This includes locations, events, or circumstances over which VLS exercised substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by VLS. VLS has other policies and procedures that may be applicable if the conduct does not meet the definition of prohibited sexual harassment under this policy or otherwise fall within the scope of this policy, including the HSHDR Policy available in the Student Handbook and the Code of Conduct.

Conduct that meets the definition of prohibited sexual harassment under this policy will be handled under this policy.

## IV. ARTICLE IV. PROHIBITED SEXUAL HARASSMENT

In accordance with its obligations under the Title IX Regulations of 2020, VLS prohibits sexual harassment, which is conduct on the basis of sex, including gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, that satisfies one or more of the following definitions:



**A. QUID PRO QUO CONDUCT.** An employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of VLS on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

**B. UNWELCOME CONDUCT.** Unwelcome conduct that is determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to VLS's education program or activity; or

**C. SEXUAL ASSAULT.** An offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense. This category of prohibited conduct includes the following:

1. **Sex Offenses**—Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Sexual act is defined as conduct between persons consisting of:
  - a. Contact between the penis and the vulva.
  - b. Contact between the penis and the anus.
  - c. Contact between the mouth and the penis.
  - d. Contact between the mouth and the vulva.
  - e. Any intrusion, however slight, by any part of a person's body or any object in the genital or anal opening of another.
2. **Non-Consensual Penetration**—Actual or attempted penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. This includes forcible penetration and/or penetration against that person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
3. **Fondling**—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their youth or because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
4. **Incest**—Nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
5. **Statutory Rape**—Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

**D. DATING VIOLENCE.** Violence committed by a person— (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) The length of the relationship. (ii) The type of relationship. (iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

**E. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.** A felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Vermont or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the state of Vermont.

Under Vermont law, it is unlawful to attempt to cause or to willfully or recklessly cause bodily injury to a family or household member, or to willfully cause a family or household member to fear imminent serious bodily injury. "Household" members are defined as those persons who, for any period of time, are living or have lived together, are sharing or have shared occupancy of a dwelling, and are engaged in or have engaged in a sexual relationship, or minors or adults who are dating or have dated.

**F. STALKING.** Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to— (A) fear for their safety or the safety of others; or (B) suffer substantial emotional distress.

## V. ARTICLE V. DEFINITIONS

- A. **CONSENT** is defined under Vermont law as “words or actions by a person indicating a voluntary agreement to engage in a sexual act.” At the foundation of this policy is the understanding that in order to engage in behavior of a sexual nature there must be clear, knowing, and voluntary consent prior to and during sexual activity. For the purposes of this policy the following is true of consent:
- Consent is informed, active, and freely given and is grounded in rational and reasonable judgment. It requires clear communication between all persons involved in the sexual encounter.
  - Consent can be communicated verbally or by action(s). Consent must be mutually understandable by all parties involved in the sexual experience, which a reasonable person would interpret as a willingness to participate in agreed-upon sexual conduct.
  - The person initiating the sexual contact is always responsible for obtaining consent from their partner(s). It is not the responsibility of one party to resist or communicate “no” to the sexual advances of another.
  - Consent is not the absence of resistance. Silence is an inactive behavior and does not constitute consent. If a partner is inactive (for example, silent or physically still) sexual activity must stop until both partners have communicated clearly with each other about what, if any, sexual activity is mutually desired.
  - Consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to another form of sexual activity. Each new sexual act requires new consent. Consent can be rescinded at any time.
  - Consent at one time and to one sexual act does not imply consent at any other time to that or any other sexual act at a later date and regardless of previous relations.
  - Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not imply consent to engage in sexual activity with another.
  - Consent cannot be given by minors, mentally disabled individuals, or by incapacitated persons. A person may be incapacitated as a result of alcohol or other drug use. A person who is unconscious, unaware, or otherwise physically helpless cannot give consent to sexual activity.
  - A person will be considered unable to give valid consent, for example, if they cannot fully understand the details of a sexual interaction (who, what, when, where, why, or how) because they lack the capacity to reasonably understand the situation. Individuals who consent to sex must be able to understand what they are doing.
  - Imbalance of power (supervisor-supervisee, faculty member-student, etc.) may lead to confusion about consent.
  - Consent cannot result from force, or threat of force, coercion, fraud, intimidation, incapacitation (due to drunkenness, for example) or imbalance of power. VLS will use an objective standard when determining incapacitation-related questions; that is, VLS will determine whether from the standpoint of a reasonable person, the Respondent knew or should have known that the Complainant could not effectively consent because the Complainant was incapacitated.
- It should be noted that ignorance of the policy noted above, or the intoxication of the Respondent will not (particularly given VLS’s objective standard) be considered an excuse for violating this policy.
- B. **COMPLAINANT** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment under this policy.
- C. **FORMAL COMPLAINT** means a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy alleging sexual harassment against a Respondent and requesting that VLS investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. At the time of filing a Formal Complaint, a Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of VLS with which the Formal Complaint is filed.
- D. **GRIEVANCE PROCESS** means the fact-finding process from the time of the filing of the Formal Complaint through the final determination of an appeal (if any).

- E. **RESPONDENT** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment under this policy.
- F. **SUPPORTIVE MEASURES** means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or the Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or where no Formal Complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to VLS's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or VLS's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures. Supportive measures may also include written notification about available services both within the institution and the community and options for available assistance as required by the Clery Act. Supportive measures are not disciplinary measures.

## VI. ARTICLE VI. REPORTING PROHIBITED SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- A. **NOTICE OF ALLEGATIONS.** VLS has notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment when such conduct is reported to the Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or any official of VLS who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of VLS. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity, the Vice Dean for Students, the Vice President of Finance, the Vice Dean for Faculty, and the Dean are the only individuals with authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of VLS under this policy.

However, all employees are encouraged to report sexual harassment, as defined and prohibited by this policy, to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator, consistent with the requests of the Complainant.

- B. **RESPONSE TO A REPORT.** With or without a Formal Complaint, upon a report of sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of Supportive Measures, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to Supportive Measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of Supportive Measures with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Complaint.
- C. **INFORMATION PACKET.** Upon a receipt of a report of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking, VLS shall provide information that contains procedures to follow if a sex offense, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking has occurred, including information in writing about—
  - a. The importance of preserving evidence as may be necessary to the proof of criminal domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or in obtaining a protection order;
  - b. How and to whom the alleged offense should be reported;
  - c. Options regarding law enforcement and campus authorities, including notification of the option to:
    - i. notify proper law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police;
    - ii. be assisted by campus authorities in voluntarily notifying law enforcement authorities; and
    - iii. decline to notify such authorities;
  - d. Where applicable, their rights and the institution's responsibilities regarding orders of protection, no contact orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by a criminal, civil, or tribal court;
  - e. Information about appropriate and available services both at the institution and in the community; and

- f. Options for, available reasonably available assistance and accommodations and how to request them.

VLS's information for victims of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking is located in our student handbook or in the student services office, or available from the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

- D. **IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPPORTIVE MEASURES.** VLS shall treat parties equitably by offering Supportive Measures to the Complainant, and by following a grievance process that complies with this policy before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not Supportive Measures as against the Respondent. VLS will maintain as confidential any Supportive Measures provided to the Complainant or Respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of VLS to provide the Supportive Measures. The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of Supportive Measures. The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy should record and retain records regarding requests and provision of Supportive Measure in accordance with the requirements set out at XIV. Record Keeping, below.
- E. **EMERGENCY REMOVAL.** Nothing in this policy precludes VLS from removing a Respondent from VLS's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that VLS undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal, and provides the Respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.
- F. **ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.** VLS reserves the right to place a non-student employee Respondent on paid or unpaid administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process.
- G. **LENIENCY.** Sometimes, individuals are reluctant to come forward to report perceived violations of this policy out of fear that they may be charged with violations of Code of Conduct standards (for example, because they engaged in illegal drug use at the time of the incident). It is of paramount importance to VLS that all perceived violations of this policy are reported so that those affected can receive the support and resources needed. Therefore, in order to facilitate reporting, VLS may choose not to charge students who report violations of this policy with violations of Code of Conduct standards.

## VII. ARTICLE VII. PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING COMPLAINTS OF PROHIBITED SEXUAL HARASSMENT

### A. INFORMAL RESOLUTION

Consistent with the requirements of this section, at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility VLS may facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication, provided that VLS

1. Provides to the parties a written notice disclosing:
  - i. The allegations,
  - ii. The requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a Formal Complaint arising from the same allegations, provided, however, that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the Formal Complaint, and
  - iii. Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.
2. Obtains the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process; and
3. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

4. Completes the informal resolution process within 60 days of receiving the Formal Complaint, unless unusual or complex circumstances exist.

VLS does not require as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, waiver of the right to an investigation and adjudication of Formal Complaints of sexual harassment under this policy. VLS shall not require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process and will not offer an informal resolution process unless a Formal Complaint is filed.

## **B. FORMAL COMPLAINT AND THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

1. **FILING A FORMAL COMPLAINT.** A Formal Complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy Title IX Coordinator above. A “document filed by a Complainant” means a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an online portal provided for this purpose by VLS) that contains the Complainant’s physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the Complainant is the person filing the Formal Complaint. Where the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy signs a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy is not a Complainant or otherwise a party. A Formal Complaint shall trigger an investigation except as specified below. The Formal Complaint should include the date(s) of the alleged incident(s), the name of the Respondent, and should describe the circumstances of the incident(s), where known.
2. **DISMISSAL OF A FORMAL COMPLAINT.** VLS shall investigate the allegations in a Formal Complaint, except as follows:
  - a. **Mandatory Dismissal.** VLS shall dismiss the Formal Complaint if the conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint
    - i. would not constitute sexual harassment as defined by this policy, even if proved,
    - ii. did not occur in VLS’s education program or activity,
    - iii. or did not occur against a person in the United States.
    - iv. This dismissal does not preclude action under another policy or procedure of VLS, including but not limited to the Code of Conduct and HSHDR Policy.
  - b. **Discretionary Dismissal.** VLS may dismiss the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation or hearing:
    - i. A Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein;
    - ii. The Respondent is no longer enrolled in or employed by VLS; or
    - iii. Specific circumstances prevent VLS from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.
    - iv. Occurred prior to August 14, 2020, in which case VLS’s Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Policy adopted May 8, 2015 shall be used.
  - c. Upon a dismissal required or permitted under this section, VLS will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties.
3. **CONSOLIDATION OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS.** VLS may consolidate Formal Complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one Respondent, or by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. Where a grievance process involves more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this section to the singular “party,” “Complainant,” or “Respondent” include the plural, as applicable.

#### 4. NOTICE OF CHARGES

- a. Initial Notice of Charges. Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint, prior to commencing the investigation, VLS shall provide the following written notice to the parties who are known. This notice shall include:
  - i. This policy (as a link or attachment).
  - ii. Notice of the allegations of sexual harassment potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in this policy, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment under this policy, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known.
  - iii. A statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
  - iv. Notification to the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney.
  - v. Notification to the parties that they may inspect and review evidence, as set forth in this policy.
  - vi. Any provision in VLS's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.
  - vii. Describes the standard of evidence that will be used.
  - viii. Lists all possible sanctions the institution may impose.
- b. Amended Notice of Charges. If, in the course of an investigation, VLS decides to investigate allegations about the Complainant or Respondent that are not included in the initial notice of charge, VLS must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

#### 5. PRINCIPLES FOR THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS

Under this grievance process, VLS shall:

- a. Ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on VLS and not on the parties provided that VLS cannot access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless VLS obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do so for a grievance process under this section (if a party is not an "eligible student," as defined in 34 CFR 99.3, then VLS must obtain the voluntary, written consent of a "parent," as defined in 34 CFR 99.3).
- b. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
- c. Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.
- d. Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and not limit the choice or presence of advisor for either the Complainant or Respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding; however, VLS may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties. For the purposes of this policy, the role of the advisor is limited to the following: the advisor may attend any interview of meeting connected with the grievance process, but may not actively participate in interviews nor provide testimony or argument on behalf of the party. The advisor may attend the live hearing and may conduct cross-examination of

the other party and any witness at the hearing; otherwise the advisor may not actively participate in the hearing.

- e. Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.
- f. Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence—including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence— and provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person’s status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.
- g. Require that any individual designated as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decisionmaker, or any person to facilitate an informal resolution process, not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual Complainant or Respondent. VLS may use internal personnel or external parties in the informal resolution process or the grievance process, provided that they meet this requirement.
- h. Include a presumption that the Respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
- i. Use the following standard of evidence to determine responsibility for allegations in a Formal Complaint of sexual harassment: the preponderance of the evidence standard. The standard of evidence shall be the same for Formal Complaints against students as for Formal Complaints against faculty and staff.
- j. Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

## 6. EXTENSIONS OF THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS

The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy may grant or deny requests from either party to temporarily delay the grievance process or may issue the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the Complainant and the Respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action.

Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party’s advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.

## 7. INVESTIGATION OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS

If not serving as the Investigator, the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy will appoint an Investigator, who may be a employee or official of VLS or may be an external investigator with appropriate experience or expertise. The parties will be provided with notice of the identity of the appointed Investigator, and will be informed that any objections to the service of the appointed Investigator on grounds of conflict of interest or a lack of impartiality should be submitted in writing to the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy within three days of notice of the appointment. The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy will decide promptly whether the appointed Investigator will or will not continue to conduct the investigation. Any materials collected or notes prepared by the Investigator during the objection period will be turned over to any replacement Investigator. The replacement Investigator will decide whether to use such materials or not.

When investigating a Formal Complaint VLS shall, through the Investigator within 60 calendar days of receiving the Formal Complaint, unless unusual or complex circumstances exist:

- a. Engage in fact-gathering of all relevant facts. Credibility resolutions and fact-finding shall be conducted in the live hearing phase of the grievance process.



- b. Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a Formal Complaint, including the evidence upon which VLS does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation.
- c. Prior to completion of the investigative report, send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least 10 days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.
- d. Make all such evidence subject to the parties' inspection and review available at any hearing to give each party equal opportunity to refer to such evidence during the hearing, including for purposes of cross-examination; and
- e. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least 10 days prior to a hearing or other time of determination regarding responsibility, the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy shall send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response. Upon finalization of the investigative report, the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy shall provide it to the decision-maker(s).

## VIII. ARTICLE VIII. LIVE HEARINGS UNDER THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS

### A. REQUIREMENT OF A LIVE HEARING FOR FACT-FINDING AND DETERMINING RESPONSIBILITY.

1. Following the investigation, within 30 days of sending the final investigative report to the parties, unless unusual or complex circumstances exist, VLS shall conduct a live hearing for the purposes of determining responsibility for allegations of sexual harassment in the Formal Complaint. The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy or the investigator(s). The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy will convene a Review Panel. This Panel will ordinarily consist of five members drawn from a pool. The pool includes five faculty members selected by the Vice Dean for Faculty, five staff members selected by the Dean and President, and five students appointed by the President of the Student Bar Association. The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy will choose five panel members from its pool to attend the hearing and make determinations. Each panel will have at least one member from each of the three groups listed and, if possible, gender diversity will be considered when selecting the panel. All pool members will receive annual training as specified by this policy. The parties each may challenge the participation of any member of the review panel for conflict of interest or other good cause. The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy will make the final decision whether to select an alternate upon a challenge from a party
2. The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy will appoint a member of the Review Panel to be Chair of the Panel.
3. The live hearing will be closed and will occur within fifteen days of completion of the investigative report. The only individuals permitted to participate in the hearing are as follows: the Complainant and Respondent, the decision-maker(s), the advisor for each party, any witnesses (only while being questioned), and any individual providing authorized accommodations or assistive services.

4. If a party does not have an advisor present at the live hearing, VLS shall provide without fee or charge to that party, an advisor of VLS's choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, to conduct cross examination on behalf of that party. VLS is obligated to ensure each party has an advisor, either of the party's or VLS's choice regardless of whether or not the party is present at the hearing. To ensure timely proceedings, a party shall alert the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy as soon as practicable if the party will need an advisor. If a party's selected advisor is unavailable for a hearing date, the live hearing date may be postponed for good cause.

Many advisors may also be licensed attorneys. It is the policy of VLS that when providing an advisor to a party under this policy, no attorney-client relationship shall be created that results solely from the designation of an advisor for a party. Further, the parties should be aware that an advisor provided by VLS is not a confidential resource. An advisor is not required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any information learned while advising a party. However, an advisor may be legally compelled to testify in external proceedings absent a legal privilege or may be required to report externally in the case of child or elder abuse or otherwise required by law.

5. Live hearings may be conducted with all parties physically present in the same geographic location or, at VLS's discretion, any or all parties, witnesses, and other participants may appear at the live hearing virtually, with technology enabling participants simultaneously to see and hear each other.
6. At the request of either party, VLS shall provide for the live hearing to occur with the parties located in separate rooms with technology enabling the decision-maker(s) and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or the witness answering questions.
7. VLS shall create an audio or audiovisual recording, or transcript, of any live hearing and make it available to the parties for inspection and review. Any other recording is prohibited and violations may result in discipline.

#### **B. QUESTIONING AT THE LIVE HEARING**

- i. At the live hearing, the Review Panel must permit each party's advisor to ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility.
- ii. The members of the Review Panel also have the right to question a party or witness.
- iii. Only relevant cross examination and other questions may be asked of a party or witness.
- iv. Cross examination at the live hearing must be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's advisor of choice and never by a party personally, notwithstanding VLS's ability to otherwise restrict the extent to which advisors may participate in the proceedings.
- v. Before the Complainant, Respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the Chair must first determine whether the question is relevant. The Chair must explain to the party or individual proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.
- vi. Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

#### **C. USE OF WITNESS STATEMENTS**

1. If a party or witness does not submit to cross examination at the live hearing, the Review Panel must not rely on any statement of that party or witness in

reaching a determination regarding responsibility but may reach a determination based on evidence that does not constitute a statement by the party.

2. The Review Panel cannot draw an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer cross examination or other questions.

#### **D. WRITTEN DETERMINATION OF THE REVIEW PANEL**

1. The Review Panel shall issue a written determination regarding responsibility, which the Chair shall have primary responsibility for drafting. To reach this determination, the Review Panel must apply the standard of evidence required by this policy (i.e. the preponderance of the evidence standard).
2. A majority of the Panel members must find that a policy violation occurred for a finding of responsibility and a majority of the Panel members must assent to the sanction(s) imposed, if any.
3. The written determination must include:
  - a. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined by this policy;
  - b. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Formal Complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
  - c. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
  - d. Conclusions regarding the application of VLS's policy to the facts;
  - e. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to VLS's education program or activity will be provided to the complainant; and
  - f. The procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant and Respondent to appeal, as set forth in this policy.
4. VLS shall provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously.
5. The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that VLS provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

### **IX. ARTICLE IX. APPEALS**

Within five days of receiving the written determination, either party may appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from VLS's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, on the following grounds:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Ground 1: | Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;  |
| Ground 2: | New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and   |
| Ground 3: | The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter. |

An appeal must be made in writing to the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy within five days of receipt of the written determination. An appeal must include the ground(s) for the appeal and describe the supporting evidence.

As to all appeals, the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy (or designee) shall:

- A. Notify the other party in writing immediately when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;
- B. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy;
- C. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal complies with the standards set forth in this policy;
- D. Give the non-appealing party an opportunity to submit a written statement in response to the appeal within five days of receiving the appeal, which shall be transmitted within 2 business days to the Appeal Officer, who may be either the President or Dean;

Within 20 days of receiving the appeal and the response, the Appeal Officer shall issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties. The Reviewing Officer may deny the appeal or, if the appeal ground(s) has or have been met, may return the case to the Review Panel for reconsideration, or convene a new Review Panel. If the Review Panel case is returned to the Review Panel, the Review Officer shall identify which aspects merit further review.

## **X. ARTICLE X. REMEDIES AND SANCTIONS**

Remedies must be designed to restore or preserve equal access to VLS's education program or activity. A student found responsible for a violation of this policy will be subject to sanction(s) regardless of whether legal proceedings involving the same incident or underway or anticipated. An employee of VLS found responsible for a violation of this policy will be subject to sanction(s) up to and including termination of employment.

Possible sanctions and remedies VLS may implement following any determination of responsibility include: expulsion, withdrawal of an awarded degree, written warning, suspension, a fine, restitution, community service, probation, reference to counseling, termination of employment, and notation in the Respondent's official student or personnel file of the fact of a violation and the sanction.

The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

## **XI. ARTICLE XI. RETALIATION PROHIBITED**

No one may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right established by this policy or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy.

Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or Formal Complaint of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right under this Policy constitutes retaliation.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this section.

Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures for sex discrimination in the HSHDR Policy available in the Student Handbook.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy does not con-

stitute retaliation prohibited under of this section, provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

## **XII. ARTICLE XII. CONFIDENTIALITY**

Consistent with the requirements of this policy, VLS shall keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a Formal Complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the FERPA statute, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 CFR part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 CFR part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder.

Confidentiality is not absolute, however. Where criminal conduct has occurred, or where the health and/or safety of others in the community may be in danger, it may be necessary for VLS to take appropriate steps to protect the safety of its students and employees, including the person who has reported the misconduct. Please do not be discouraged to come forward. Your reporting of misconduct covered by this policy may help prevent other misconduct, and information will be shared only to the extent necessary to protect our community's safety and facilitate investigations and adjudications.

Counselors and medical providers are confidential resources. This means that, in most cases, these confidential resources will not share the substance of any such communications or that such communications occurred without the Complainant's consent. Individuals who wish to talk about issues related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct confidentially, with the understanding that VLS will not take any action based on such confidential communications, are encouraged to contact one of these confidential resources.

Confidential resources may, however, have an obligation to disclose otherwise-privileged information where they perceive an immediate and/or serious threat to a person and/or property. This is a limited exception to the privileged nature of communications with confidential resources. Reports or records maintained by VLS (including Counseling Service records), and other confidential, non-privileged records may, however, be subject to subpoena if civil or criminal charges are filed in court.

In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, these confidential resources will not report Clery crimes they learn about through confidential communications for purposes of VLS's compilation of campus crime statistics. Even if a student wishes to maintain confidentiality, the confidential resources can assist the individual in receiving Supportive Measures. In addition, when appropriate and legally permissible, VLS shall conduct record-keeping on reports of dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault, such as that collected for legally required disclosures, that excludes personally-identifiable information of any Complainants.

## **XIII. ARTICLE XIII. REQUIRED TRAININGS**

The Title IX Coordinator/Deputy, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process (whether internal or external) shall receive training on the definition of sexual harassment under this policy, the scope of VLS's education program or activity, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias. These individuals shall receive annual training on the issues related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and how to conduct an investigation and hearing process that protects the safety of victims and promotes accountability.

Decision-makers shall receive training on any technology to be used at a live hearing and on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.

Investigators shall receive training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.

Any materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process, will not rely on sex stereotypes and will promote impartial investigations and adjudications of Formal Complaints of sexual harassment.

#### **XIV. ARTICLE XIV. RECORDKEEPING.**

VLS shall maintain for a period of seven years records of— (A) Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript required under this policy, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to VLS's education programs or activities; (B) Any appeal and the result therefrom; (C) Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and (D) All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decisionmakers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. VLS shall make these training materials publicly available on its website.

VLS shall create, and maintain for a period of seven years, records of any actions, including any Supportive Measures, taken in response to a report or Formal Complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, VLS will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to VLS's education program or activity. If VLS does not provide a complainant with Supportive Measures, then VLS must document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit VLS in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

#### **XV. EFFECTIVE DATE; REVISIONS.**

This policy is effective as of August 14, 2020.



# MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



## ACCIDENTS, SAFETY HAZARDS AND EMERGENCIES

Accidents occurring on the grounds of Vermont Law School should be reported to the Vice President for Finance, and a Campus Incident Report Form should be filed. Minor repairs, requests, and suspected safety hazards should be reported to Buildings and Grounds or a member of the VLS Safety Committee. Emergency information is posted on the Safety Bulletin Board in Oakes Hall and building specific emergency information is posted in each building.

The VLS campus is private property. Please note that all campus facilities are primarily for the use of our faculty, staff, and students. The law school reserves the right to ask people who are not members of the VLS community to leave. Under the VLS Code of Conduct, students may be asked to present their student identification card. Failure to present the proper ID may result in being asked to leave. Other campus visitors may be asked to identify themselves and provide identification. If you see someone using our facilities whose actions cause concern, please notify Associate Dean Shirley Jefferson at 802-831-1333, Human Resources Director Betsy Erwin at 802-831-1225 or Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Knudsen at 802-831-1260.

## ALCOHOL POLICY

Amended 4/14/2010

Amended 9/13/16

### I. INTRODUCTION

Vermont Law School's Alcohol Policy is congruent with Vermont State Law, local regulations, and the Mission of Vermont Law School, and is promulgated to assure the appropriate distribution and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the campus. The administration and interpretation of the Alcohol Policy ultimately rests with the Dean or designee, who in this instance, are the Deans.

### II. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Any student who feels he or she may have a problem with alcohol or drugs is encouraged to contact the VLS Counselor or the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity for a discussion of options. The Vermont Lawyers Assistance Program (VTLAP) provides confidential assistance to law students, lawyers, judges and their families in coping with alcoholism and other addictions, depression, or other personal or professional crisis. VTLAP is exempt from reporting professional misconduct under Rule 8.3. Information between VTLAP volunteers, and a lawyer, judge or law student who seeks assistance, is strictly confidential and will not be disclosed except upon express authority of the affected person. For more information, please see their website [lapvt.org](http://lapvt.org).

The Student Bar Association and/or the Student Ambassadors maintain a SafeRide program by request. SafeRide volunteers will pick students, staff, or faculty up from a VLS sponsored event and take them to Bethel, Randolph, Royalton, South Royalton, and Tunbridge. If there is any doubt in your mind that you have had too much to drink, please call SafeRide at 802-299-1117 or 802-299-1116. No questions will be asked or judgments made, no records will be kept, and you will be taken home safely. To request SafeRide for a VLS sponsored event, please contact Theresa Johnson, Assistant Director for Student Affairs ([tjohnson@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:tjohnson@vermontlaw.edu)).

Students are responsible for informing themselves on the character and fitness requirements of the bar in the state or states they intend to practice. Vermont Law School is required to certify a student's character and fitness for the bar. Students have a duty to promptly report to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity any charges, arrests or convictions of a violation of any civil or criminal law, other than a parking violation or parking ticket.

Students who attend classes, meetings, or any academic or professional function hosted by VLS while intoxicated will be asked to leave by the professor or event sponsor. This requirement also applies to any function hosted or funded by the Student Bar Association. If the student resists, the professor or event organizer shall call the Associate Dean for Student Affairs 802-831-1333 or after hours at 802-763-8935 or the local police at 802-763-7776 or 911. If the student is disruptive or violent, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs will take the appropriate steps, including calling law enforcement for assistance. If the student is disruptive or violent, the incident will be investigated as a violation of the Code of Conduct and sanctions may be imposed.

### III. ALCOHOL ON CAMPUS

#### A. BASIC REGULATIONS

- (1) Consumption of alcoholic beverages on Vermont Law School property is a privilege accorded under specified conditions to individuals of legal age according to Vermont Law School.
- (2) Recognizing that not all individuals may choose to consume alcoholic beverages and recognizing the social emphasis of all events, any function providing an alcoholic beverage must also provide two non-alcoholic beverages.
- (3) The sponsoring individual or organization must furnish information concerning the program, facility arrangements, food service needs, and the type and amount of beverages to be served, as directed on the Student Organization Event Form and Alcohol Planning Document located online at: [25live.collegenet.com/pro/vermontlaw#!/home/event/formx](https://25live.collegenet.com/pro/vermontlaw#!/home/event/formx).
- (4) All recognized organizations and sponsors of registered social events are prohibited from providing alcohol to minors. Consistent with, and related to this restriction, the serving of kegs, beerballs, and alcoholic punch drinks/wine may only be served by our Food Services Director, a licensed caterer.
- (5) Any event which includes alcohol as part of its program should focus as much as possible upon the social nature of the event in its promotional campaign and not over emphasize the sale or availability of alcohol beverages at social events.
- (6) The safe occupancy level of the approved space must be determined and steps taken to ensure compliance with the fire safety code of VLS and the state of Vermont.
- (7) No alcohol may be carried into or consumed in campus buildings, including outdoor areas at recreational events, (See Section I(A)(1) above) with the exception of approved designated areas, without the submission and approval of the Alcohol Event Planning Document and Student Organization Event Form.
- (8) Scheduled events must remain within the approved designated area (see Section V(C) for further requirements).
- (9) A charge of no less than \$100 will be billed to the organization/individual sponsoring an event if the facility used is not properly cleaned within eight hours after the function has ended.

### IV. ORGANIZED PRIVATE PARTIES

- A. Organized private parties, hosted off campus by a VLS student group are considered events that involve an approved number of invited guests and have alcohol being served by the sponsors within an approved area in a manner consistent with applicable laws.
- B. Alcohol may not be sold under any conditions at private parties.
- C. The events require the submission and approval of the Alcohol Planning Document six weeks prior to the event.

### V. CAMPUS-WIDE, LICENSED EVENTS

- A. The sponsoring organization/individual must complete and have approved the Student Organization Event Form and Alcohol Planning Event Document at least six weeks prior to the event. These forms are available from the Deans Office. Completion of the form indicates an understanding of the Alcohol Policy, and a responsibility to fulfill the regulations therein.
- B. The sponsoring organization or individuals must assume financial responsibility for all associated cost (i.e., security, damages, etc.)
- C. The sponsoring organization or individuals must post easily visible signs that read "No alcohol beyond this point" to ensure that no alcohol may be carried into or consumed in campus buildings, including outdoor areas at recreational events, outside of the approved designated areas (see III(A)(7), (8) above).

### VI. RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY

For any party or other event, the persons who sign the required application or registration forms are responsible for the safe conduct of the event. Staff persons involved in clearance procedures are responsible for ensuring that the event is conducted in a safe and acceptable fashion and for monitoring the event for the general safety of the participants. Situations determined to be in non-compliance with regulations of the Alcohol Policy may be immediately suspended by appropriate VLS staff. Responsibility for any adverse consequences that may occur as the result of a party or other event may implicate any person or group involved with that event, in particular, those planning and monitoring its outcome. Any violation of this policy shall be reported to the appropriate Dean.

## PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, requires that Vermont Law School implement a program for the elimination of drug and alcohol abuse. The federal law mandates that “...as a condition of receiving funds or any other form of financial assistance under any Federal program [including aid funds], an institution of higher education must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees” on the Law School property or at school-sponsored activities. At a minimum, the law specifically requires that our program include:

1. Annual distribution in writing to each employee and student of:
  - Standards of conduct that clearly prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use of, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on its property or as part of any of its activities.
  - A description of the applicable legal sanctions under local, state or federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol.
  - A description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.
  - A clear statement that the institution will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and employees (consistent with local, state and federal law), and a description of those sanctions, up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, for violations of the standards of conduct. A disciplinary sanction may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program.
2. A biennial review by the institution of its program to:
  - Determine its effectiveness and implement changes, if needed.
  - Ensure that its disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

## SANCTIONS

In compliance with federal requirements, the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students or employees on Vermont Law School property or as a part of any Vermont Law School activity is a violation of not only the law but the Law School regulations. Possession, use, or distribution of certain non-prescription drugs, including marijuana, amphetamines, heroin, cocaine, and non-prescription synthetics procurement or distribution of alcohol if one is under 21 years of age; and provision of alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age are considered serious breaches of policy. Vermont Law School will respond to violations of its drug and alcohol abuse policy with action consistent with school disciplinary and personnel policies and local, state, or federal law. Sanctions may include: substance abuse counseling; referral to or mandatory participation in an appropriate drug assistance or rehabilitation program; disciplinary action including reprimand, probation, expulsion or termination of employment; and/or possible referral for prosecution. State penalties for illicit manufacture, use, and distribution of controlled substances are outlined in [Vermont Statutes \(Title 18, Chapter 84\) Possession and Control of Regulated Drugs](https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/18/084) [legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/18/084](https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/18/084). A copy of the complete federal regulations is available from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity, who can respond to inquiries and clarify VLS policy.

## DRUG USE AND INELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it after successfully completing a rehabilitation program (as described by law), passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program, or if a conviction is reversed, set aside, or removed from the student’s record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record. In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility.

The Law School is committed to educating students and employees about the implications of substance abuse; to promoting institutional programs with those objectives; and to supporting the efforts of individuals to overcome substance abuse problems. To this end, students and employees should familiarize themselves with the possible behavioral and medical consequences of substance abuse described below. The school counselor can provide confidential counseling and referrals to appropriate drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation programs accessible in the vicinity of the Law School.

The Law School’s current policy is intended to meet minimum legal requirements and to allow for modifications and refinement as necessary. It is not meant to restrain dissent of the free and open discussion of issues surrounding drug and alcohol use and abuse or of related Federal laws and policies. As an educational institution, we encourage inquiry and dialogue. A truly workable approach to eliminating drug and alcohol abuse is based on fairness and information, not merely punishment.

## **SPECIFIC DRUGS AND THEIR EFFECTS**

**SOURCE:** Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse

### TOBACCO

The smoking of tobacco products is the chief avoidable cause of death in our society. Smokers are more likely than nonsmokers to contract heart disease—some 170,000 die each year from smoking-related coronary heart disease. Lung, larynx, esophageal, bladder, pancreatic, and kidney cancers also strike smokers at increased rates. Some 30% of cancer deaths (130,000 per year) are linked to smoking. Chronic obstructive lung diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis are 10 times more likely to occur among smokers than among nonsmokers.

Smoking during pregnancy also poses serious risk. Spontaneous abortion, preterm birth, low birth weights, and fetal and infant deaths are all more likely to occur when the pregnant woman or mother is a smoker. Cigarette smoke contains some 4,000 chemicals, several of which are known carcinogens. Other toxins and irritants found in smoke can produce eye, nose, and throat irritations. Carbon monoxide, another component of cigarette smoke, combines with hemoglobin in the blood stream to form carboxyhemoglobin, a substance that interferes with the body's ability to obtain and use oxygen.

Perhaps the most dangerous substance in tobacco smoke is nicotine. Although it is implicated in the onset of heart attacks and cancer, its most dangerous role is reinforcing and strengthening the desire to smoke. Because nicotine is highly addictive, addicts find it very difficult to stop smoking. Of 1,000 typical smokers, fewer than 20 percent succeed in stopping on the first try. Although the harmful effects of smoking cannot be questioned, people who quit can make significant strides in repairing damage done by smoking. For pack-a-day smokers, the increased risk of heart attack dissipates after 10 years. The likelihood of contracting lung cancer as a result of smoking can also be greatly reduced by quitting.

### ALCOHOL

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increases the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects just described. Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life threatening. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver. Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than other youngsters of becoming alcoholics.

### CANNABIS

All forms of cannabis have negative physical and mental effects. Several regularly observed physical effects of cannabis are a substantial increase in the heart rate, bloodshot eyes, a dry mouth and throat, and increased appetite. Use of cannabis may impair or reduce short-term memory and comprehension, alter sense of time, and reduce ability to perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination, such as driving a car. Research also shows that students do not retain knowledge when they are "high". Motivation and cognition may be altered making the acquisition of new information difficult. Marijuana can also produce paranoia and psychosis. Because users often inhale the unfiltered smoke deeply and then hold it in their lungs as long as possible, marijuana is damaging to the lungs and pulmonary system. Marijuana smoke contains more cancer-causing agents than tobacco. Long-term users of cannabis may develop psychological dependence and require more of the drug to get the same effect. The drug can become the center of their lives.

### INHALANTS

The immediate negative effects of inhalants include nausea, sneezing, coughing, nosebleeds, fatigue, lack of coordination, and loss of appetite. Solvents and aerosol sprays also decrease the heart and respiratory rates and impair judgment. Amyl and butyl nitrite cause rapid pulse, headaches, and involuntary passing of urine and feces. Long-term use may result in hepatitis or brain damage. Deeply inhaling the vapors, or using large amounts over a short time, may result in disorientation, violent behavior, unconsciousness, or death. High concentrations of inhalants can cause suffocation by displacing the oxygen in the lungs or by depressing the central nervous system to the point that breathing stops. Long-term use can cause weight loss, fatigue, electrolyte imbalance, and muscle fatigue. Repeated sniffing of concentrated vapor over time can permanently damage the nervous system.

## COCAINE

Cocaine stimulates the central nervous system. Its immediate effects include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and body temperature. Occasional use can cause a stuffy or runny nose, while chronic use can lacerate the mucous membrane of the nose. Injecting cocaine with contaminated equipment can cause AIDS, hepatitis, and other diseases. Preparation of freebase, which involves the use of volatile solvents, can result in death or injury from fire or explosion. Cocaine can produce psychological and physical dependency, a feeling that the user cannot function without the drug. In addition, tolerance develops rapidly. Crack or freebase rock is extremely addictive, and its effects are felt within 0 seconds. The physical effects include dilated pupils, increased pulse rate, elevated blood pressure, insomnia, loss of appetite, tactile hallucinations, paranoia, and seizures. The use of cocaine can cause death by cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

## OTHER STIMULANTS

Stimulants can cause increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils, and decreased appetite. In addition, users may experience sweating, headache, blurred vision, dizziness, sleeplessness, and anxiety. Extremely high doses can cause a rapid or irregular heartburn, tremors, loss of coordination, and even physical collapse. An amphetamine injection creates a sudden increase in blood pressure that can result in stroke, very high fever, or heart failure. In addition to physical effects, users report feeling restless, anxious, and moody. Higher doses intensify the effects. Persons who use large amounts of amphetamines over a long period of time can develop an amphetamine psychosis that includes hallucinations, delusions, and paranoia. These symptoms usually disappear when drug use ceases.

## DEPRESSANTS

The effects of depressants are in many ways similar to the effects of alcohol. Small amounts can produce calmness and relaxed muscles, but somewhat larger doses can cause slurred speech, staggering gait, and altered perception. Very large doses can cause respiratory depression, coma, and death. The combination of depressants and alcohol can multiply the effects of the drugs, thereby multiplying the risks. The use of depressants can cause both physical and psychological dependence. Regular use over time may result in a tolerance to the drug, leading the user to increase the quantity consumed. When regular users suddenly stop taking large doses, they may develop withdrawal symptoms ranging from restlessness, insomnia, and anxiety to convulsions and death. Babies born to mothers who abuse depressants during pregnancy may be physically dependent on the drugs and show withdrawal symptoms shortly after they are born. Birth defects and behavioral problems also may result.

## HALLUCINOGENS

Phencyclidine (PCP) interrupts the functions of the neocortex, the section of the brain that controls the intellect and keeps instinct in check. Because the drug blocks pain receptors, violent PCP episodes may result in self-inflicted injuries.

The effects of PCP vary, but users frequently report a sense of distance and estrangement. Time and body movements are slowed down. Muscular coordination worsens and senses are dulled. Speech is blocked and incoherent. Chronic users of PCP report persistent memory problems and speech difficulties. Some of these effects may last six months to a year following prolonged daily use. Mood disorders—depression, anxiety, and violent behavior—occur. In later stages of chronic use, users often exhibit paranoid and violent behavior and experience hallucinations. Large doses may produce convulsions and coma, as well as heart and lung failure. Lysergic acid (LSD), mescaline, and psilocybin cause illusions and hallucinations. The physical effects may include dilated pupils, elevated body temperature, increased heart rate and blood pressure, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, and tremors. Sensations and feelings may change rapidly. It is common to have a bad psychological reaction to LSD, mescaline, and psilocybin. The user may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, and loss of control. Delayed effects, or flashbacks, can occur even after use has ceased.

## NARCOTICS

Narcotics initially produce a feeling of euphoria that often is followed by drowsiness, nausea, and vomiting. Users also may experience constricted pupils, watery eyes, and itching. An overdose may produce slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsion, coma, and possible death. Tolerance to narcotics develops rapidly and dependence is likely. The use of contaminated syringes may result in disease such as AIDS, endocarditis, and hepatitis. Addiction in pregnant women can lead to premature, stillborn, or addicted infants who experience severe withdrawal symptoms.

## DESIGNER DRUGS

Illegal drugs are defined in terms of their chemical formulas. To circumvent these legal restrictions, underground chemists modify the molecular structure of certain illegal drugs to produce analogs known as designer drugs. These drugs can be several hundred times stronger than the drugs they are designed to imitate. Many of the so-called designer drugs are related to amphetamines and have mild stimulant properties but are mostly euphorants. They can produce severe neurochemical damage

to the brain. The narcotic analogs can cause symptoms such as those seen in Parkinson's disease: uncontrollable tremors, drooling, impaired speech, paralysis, and irreversible brain damage. Analogs of amphetamines and methamphetamines cause nausea, blurred vision, chills or sweating, and faintness. Psychological effects include anxiety, depression, and paranoia. As little as one dose can cause brain damage. The analogs of phencyclidine cause illusions, hallucinations, and impaired perception.

### ANABOLIC STEROIDS

Anabolic steroids are a group of powerful compounds closely related to the male sex hormone testosterone. Developed in 1930s, steroids are seldom prescribed by physicians today. Current legitimate medical uses are limited to certain kinds of anemia, severe burns, and some types of breast cancer. Taken in combination with a program of muscle-building exercise and diet, steroids may contribute to increase in body weight and muscular strength. Because of these properties, athletes in a variety of sports have used steroids since the 1950s, hoping to enhance performance. Today, they are being joined by increasing numbers of young people seeking to accelerate their physical development. Steroid users subject themselves to more than 70 side effects ranging in severity from liver cancer to acne and including psychological as well as physical reactions. The liver and the cardiovascular and reproductive systems are most seriously affected by steroid use. In males, use can cause withered testicles, sterility, and impotence. In females, irreversible masculine traits can develop along with breast reduction and sterility. Psychological effects in both sexes include very aggressive behavior—"roid and rage"—and depression. While some side effects appear quickly, others, such as heart attacks and strokes, may not show up for years. Signs of steroid use include weight and muscle gains (if steroids are being used in conjunction with a weight training program); behavioral changes, particularly increased aggressiveness and combativeness; jaundice; purple or red spots on the body; swelling of feet or lower legs; trembling; unexplained darkening of the skin; and persistent unpleasant breath odor. Steroids are produced in tablet or capsule form for oral ingestion, or as a liquid for intramuscular injection.

## **BUSINESS OFFICE POLICIES**

### **ACCESSING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT:**

Your tuition statement is available online through Campus Web. Transactions are posted in real time, so please check your account frequently. To access: [campusweb.vermontlaw.edu/](http://campusweb.vermontlaw.edu/).

Log in: (username)

Password:

1. Click on the Business Office in the blue ribbon along the top of the page.
2. On the Welcome page of the Business Office, click on "My Info" on the left side of the window.
3. On the My Billing Info page, please see the "course and fee statement".
4. To make a payment- please follow the instructions under "**Online Tuition Payment Info**"

All amounts listed with a (-) are credits to your account. All positive amounts are charges to your account. At the bottom of the statement, you will find a **Statement Balance and Balance Due**. If this figure has a (-) number, you have a credit balance. If this figure is positive, you currently have a balance due that must be paid immediately. If the figure is **\$0**, then your account is currently paid in full.

Vermont Law School now offers the option to pay your student account online: [campusweb.vermontlaw.edu/ICS/](http://campusweb.vermontlaw.edu/ICS/).

JD STUDENTS: are billed the bulk rate for tuition in the fall and spring semesters. JD credits taken during the Summer Session are billed on a per credit basis and do not count towards residential semester requirements.

ACCELERATED JD STUDENTS: are billed the bulk rate for tuition in the fall, spring and summer semesters.

JOINT DEGREE STUDENTS (MASTER'S ONLY CREDITS): are billed on a per credit basis at the prevailing per credit rate for 21 credits.

In addition to the 21 Master's-ONLY credits, Joint Degree students are permitted to "share" nine credits from their JD program. The sharing must occur in the spring and/or fall semester, as the cost of these shared credits is assumed to be covered by the JD tuition rate for that semester. Joint Degree students must have a thorough understanding of their degree requirements. It is essential to read academic regulations and program guidelines relating to this degree, and to regularly apprise your advisor of any changes to your program plan.



MASTER'S AND LLM PROGRAMS (EXCLUDING LLM IN AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES): Students: are billed on a per credit basis at the prevailing per credit rate for 30 completed credits\*.  
LLM IN AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES (ALS) STUDENTS: are billed on a per credit basis at the prevailing per credit rate for 29 credits.

\*Any completed credits above the 30 required credits, up to 36, will be billed to the student's account at the prevailing per credit rate. Tuition charged for these credits will be fully offset by a tuition waiver. Any credits within the 30-36 range must be applicable to the student's degree. Student's whose degrees are conferred are not eligible to take additional credits free of tuition in a subsequent term.

## TUITION AND FEES

<b>JD TUITION</b>	
Annual Tuition	\$48,254
Tuition Deposit	\$750
Per Credit Tuition	\$1,664
<b>JOINT DEGREE TUITION</b>	(JD/MELP, JD/MERL, JD/MFALP, JD/MARJ, JD/LLM-ENERGY/ENVIRONMENTAL, JD/LLM-FAL)
Annual JD Tuition	\$48,254
Master's Program Per Credit Tuition	\$1,345
<b>LLM TUITION</b>	(AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES)
Annual LLM-ALS Tuition	\$40,339
LLM-ALS per credit	\$1,391
Tuition Deposit	\$750
<b>MASTER'S PROGRAM TUITION</b>	(MELP, MERL, MFALP, MARJ, LLM-Environmental, LLM-Energy, LLM-FAL)
Annual Master's Program Tuition	\$40,350
Master's Program Per Credit Tuition	\$1,345
Tuition Deposit	\$750
<b>PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION TUITION</b>	(RESTORATIVE JUSTICE)
Per Credit Tuition	\$1,345
<b>ONLINE LEARNING</b>	(MASTER'S PROGRAM-EXCLUDING LLM-ALS)
Annual Tuition	\$40,350
Master's Program Per Credit	\$1,345
Student Admin Fee	\$200 (non-refundable, semester charge)
Online Learning Fee	\$250 (non-refundable, one-time charge)
Graduation Fee	\$110 (non-refundable, one-time charge)
<b>MISCELLANEOUS FEES</b>	
Student Bar Association Fee	\$125 (annual charge, non-refundable)
On-Campus Student Admin Fee	\$455 (non-refundable, semester charge)
Off-Campus Student Admin Fee	\$200 (non-refundable, semester charge)
Summer Student Admin Fee	\$205 (non-refundable)



Graduation Fee	\$110 (non-refundable, one-time charge)
Audit- Per Credit (all programs)	\$400
Audit- Per Credit Alumni (all programs)	\$200
Parking Fine	\$5
Transcript Fee	\$5
<b>SUMMER 2021</b>	
JD Per Credit	\$1,664
Master's Program Per Credit	\$1,345 (Excluding LLM-ALS)

Any student enrolled in five or more residential credits in any term is required to be covered by a health insurance policy, whether it is a policy offered by Vermont Law School (through **Gallagher Student Insurance**) or a comparable policy provided by another vendor. Online Learning students and students taking fewer than five credits do not qualify for Vermont Law School student health insurance.

Enrollment/Waiver requests are due two weeks prior to the start of the coverage period. Students, for whom neither form is received at that time, will be **automatically enrolled** in Vermont Law School's student insurance.

Questions regarding the **billing/payment of insurance premiums or enrollment/waiver of coverage** should be directed to Emily Parker, Student Accounts, at eparker@vermontlaw.edu or 802-831-1233. [vermontlaw.edu/resources/student-health-insurance](http://vermontlaw.edu/resources/student-health-insurance).

## BILLING

Bills will be available through CampusWeb throughout the academic term. Hard copies of bills will only be generated if specifically requested. Students should view their account on CampusWeb. A student becomes liable for his/her tuition upon registration. Students at Vermont Law School are expected to take responsibility for meeting payment deadlines and adhering to relevant policies. Failure to receive a statement of account is not sufficient cause for extending payment due dates.

Students may request third-party billing by completing and submitting a Third-Party Billing Form online or requesting a form directly from the Business Office.

Please note that submitting a third-party billing request does not give Vermont Law School permission to talk to the third party. If you would like a third party (spouse, partner, parent, guardian, employer) to be able to discuss your account or financial aid with us, an Information Release form (online or available from the Business Office) must be completed and submitted to the Business Office.

## TUITION PAYMENT POLICY

**RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS:** All tuition and fees are due to Vermont Law School seven (7) days prior to the first day of classes.

**ONLINE LEARNING STUDENTS:** All tuition and fees are due to Vermont Law School two (2) business days prior to the start of classes.

The Business Office will work with the Financial Aid Office to verify the amount of loan money the student will be receiving. Upon verification of the loan proceeds, tuition that will be covered by the funds will be deferred until receipt of the funds. If a student wishes to have charges on their account other than tuition (health insurance, library fine, software charge, etc.) paid from Federal Loans, he/she will need to complete and submit a Non-allowable Charge Form ([vermontlaw.edu/resources/billing-information](http://vermontlaw.edu/resources/billing-information)). You may request this form directly from the Business Office. Payment for any portion not covered by loan disbursements is due seven (7) days prior to the first day of classes for Residential students. Payment, for any portion not covered by loan disbursements is due two (2) business days prior to the first day of classes for Online Learning students.

Students may pay by check, cash, money order, cashier's check, credit card (online only; MasterCard, Discover, American Express or VISA), or wire transfers (please contact the Business Office for instructions). Checks should be mailed to: Vermont Law School, Attn: Business Office; PO Box 96, South Royalton, Vt. 05068, or submitted to the Business Office on the second Floor of Abbott

House. Students' account numbers and/or names must appear on all checks and money orders to ensure they are credited to the appropriate accounts. Vermont Law School now offers the option to pay your student account online: [campusweb.vermontlaw.edu](http://campusweb.vermontlaw.edu).

**Transcript requests will not be released for any student who has an outstanding balance with Vermont Law School until the balance and any applicable interest is paid in full.**

#### UNPAID TUITION DROP POLICY

Any residential student who, by the last day of the add/drop period, still has a full tuition balance on their account will be notified through their Vermont Law School email account regarding outstanding tuition and fee delinquencies, and will be given seven (7) business days from the last day of add/drop period to make payment or make payment arrangements. After the seven (7) business days, if no payment or payment arrangements have been made, the student will be subject to academic dismissal from Vermont Law School. Appeals to this decision may be made in writing to the Comptroller in the Business Office.

Interest charges in the amount of 12 percent per annum will be charged to all accounts with an outstanding balance beginning 30 days after the due date. This applies to all residential students for whom financial aid has not fully covered the initial tuition charge, or charges that are incurred during the semester (library fines, etc.). A hold will also be placed on all outstanding accounts for grades, transcripts, and diplomas (if applicable).

#### PAYMENT PLANS

Vermont Law School offers payment plans, which allow a student to spread his/her tuition payments over a four-month period each semester. Payment plans are currently offered to on-campus/residential students only.

Payment plans are offered for the fall and spring semesters only. In the fall semester, payments begin August 10th and end November 10th. In the spring semester, payments begin January 10th and end April 10th. Payments are due the 10th of each month, and late payments are subject to a \$25 late charge on the 15th of each month. Payment plans that are in arrears for one month will be automatically terminated and the balance due on the account will become due immediately. Students who have had their payment plan agreements terminated will not be permitted to participate in the program in the future.

In order to participate in a payment plan, students must contact the Accounts Receivable Clerk either in person or via email prior to the first day of classes obtain a payment plan application. A \$75 nonrefundable processing fee is required with each application per academic year. Payment plans may be for one or both semesters in an academic year. Applications must be resubmitted, with the nonrefundable processing fee, for each academic year.

**Students on a payment plan are still considered to have an outstanding balance.** Transcript requests will not be released for any student who has an outstanding balance with Vermont Law School until the balance and any applicable interest is paid in full.

#### REFUNDS

Credit balances that are created as a result of a disbursement of any Title IV Federal Student loans on students' accounts must be refunded to students— if you are notified that a refund check has been made available and decide you do not need that money you must let the Business Office or Financial Aid Office know so that funds can be sent back to the Department of Education and your loan reduced accordingly.

**Students who do not claim their checks by the end of the semester will have their refund check voided and the unclaimed money returned to the Department of Education on their behalf.**

All checks issued by VLS expire 180 days from the date of issue. Checks can be reissued. To request a reissued check, a student must submit the Stop Payment form provided by Student Accounts. A stop payment fee will be assessed on any check over \$250.00

1. Checks that are not picked up within 21 days of being issued that are the result of a disbursement of federal funds will be voided and returned to the loan lender. Students will have the ability to request the funds again within the same semester if needed.

- A paper notice will be put in the student's mailbox at 14 days, giving the one week (seven days) to make necessary arrangements to pick up the check.

2. Checks that are not picked up within the 21 days of being issued, but are not the result of a disbursement of federal funds, will be voided at the end of the semester from which they were issued and applied back to the student's account.

3. Checks that are issued near the end of a semester will need to be picked up within 21 days of being issued. If they are not picked up in this timeframe, they will be voided. All checks issued by VLS expire 180 days from the date of issue.

Checks can be reissued. To request a reissued check, a student must submit the Stop Payment form provided by Student Accounts. A stop-payment fee will be assessed on any check over \$250.00. When a refund is issued, an email notification will be sent to the student's Vermont Law School email address. If the student has not received notification of a refund, the student should view their account on CampusWeb. All charges must be paid in full before refunds can be issued. If a student has a miscellaneous charge (health insurance, library fine, software charge, etc.) on their account and has signed a Non-allowable Charge Form, indicating "NO", a refund will not be issued until the charge is paid, or a new form is submitted, indicating "YES". **Valid photo identification is required when picking up a refund check.** Any student who reports a refund check as lost will be required to complete a Reissue Form before a new check will be processed. Reissued refunds will be subject to a \$28 stop-payment charge on the student's account. This charge will be deducted from original refund check amount.

#### **ACH deposit is now available for students.**

Sign into Campus Web using your current username and password.

Click on the Business Office link in the blue ribbon at the top.

Select **MY REFUNDS** from the menu on the left.

**Please be sure to read all the information provided.**

Vermont Law School is unable to void and re-issue or issue a refund check in two or more separate checks for mobile banking purposes.

Additional mailing options (overnight/ next day delivery) are available for refund checks, at the expense of the student. Such expenses will be deducted from refund checks prior to being issued.

#### RETURNED PAYMENT

If a student payment is returned for any reason (e.g., insufficient funds, stop-payment order, closed account, etc.), Vermont Law School will charge a \$25 returned payment fee to their account on payment amounts of \$100 or more. Notification of the returned item will be emailed to the student via their Vermont Law School email address.

Personal checks may not be used for repayment of a returned check or fee; only cash, money orders, cashier's checks are accepted.

#### VETERANS BENEFITS

Students who qualify for Veterans Administration (VA) Educational Assistance Programs may use their benefits at Vermont Law School. For further information about the VA Programs that VLS participates in, please contact the Financial Aid Department: [finaid@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:finaid@vermontlaw.edu).

For students using Veteran Education Benefits: Any covered individual, is permitted to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the educational institution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 31 or 33 (a certificate of eligibility can also include a "Statement of Benefits" obtained from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) website – eBenefits, or VA 28-1905 form for chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from V A is made to the institution,
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility.

Vermont Law School will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

### DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

If a student withdraws, takes a leave of absence, or is dismissed from Vermont Law School and still owes a balance and no payments or payment arrangements are made within 120 days, the account will be sent to our collection agency, Williams & Fudge, Inc. Statements of account, including interest on the account, will be sent to the student on a monthly basis. A certified letter of warning will also be sent for accounts at risk for being sent to collections.

### **WITHDRAWALS: BALANCES DUE AND REFUNDS**

If you are considering withdrawing\*, dropping\*\*, or taking a leave of absence, we encourage you to consult with your academic advisor, the Registrar's Office, the Business Office, and the Financial Aid Office. A student may receive a tuition credit for the academic period in which he/she withdraws/drops, prorated based on the date of withdrawal/drop, less non-refundable student fees and deposit. A student withdrawing (from a course or program) or taking a leave of absence from the school is Responsible for completing all applicable paperwork as required by the program for which they are enrolled.

- \* a withdrawal is defined as a request to be removed from a class **after** the add/drop period, resulting in a Wd grade on your transcript.
- \*\* a drop is defined as the removal of oneself from a class **prior to or during** the add/drop period and is not recorded on your transcript.

### **Your balance due or refund will be based on:**

1. The date you submit the applicable form (Request to Withdrawal/Leave of Absence)–if you are a Residential student less any non-refundable student fees.
2. The date you last accessed the LMS (Learning Management System)–if you are an Online Learning student less any non-refundable student fees.
3. The date you submit written notification of withdrawal (date of request on Request to Withdraw form or date of email to Registrar)–if you are participating in the Residential Summer Session.
4. Any applicable Title IV Regulations (Federal Financial Aid) and scholarship pro-ration.

**Note:** Online Learning students who are attending Residential Program classes will be subject to the Residential program withdrawal policy for those Residential credits.

**Note:** Residential students who are attending Online Learning Program classes will be subject to the Online Learning program withdrawal policy for those Distance Learning credits.

### **DISMISSALS AND SUSPENSIONS**

A student who is either dismissed or suspended for any reason during the academic semester will receive a tuition credit based on the applicable tuition credit percentage in effect at the time of dismissal/suspension (within first four weeks).

## **RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM**

Tuition charges will be adjusted according to the following schedule for students taking Residential classes. Students will be responsible for payment of non-refundable student fees in full if they withdraw, drop or take a leave of absence after the start of classes/semester. A student withdrawing (from a course or program) or taking a leave of absence from the school is required to complete a Request to Withdraw/Leave of Absence form and obtain the Registrar's signature.

- \* a withdrawal is defined as a request to be removed from a class **after** the add/drop period, resulting in a Wd grade on your transcript.
- \*\* a drop is defined as the removal of oneself from a class **prior to or during** the add/drop period and is not recorded on your transcript.

**The date of withdrawal for purpose of calculating the tuition credit is the date of request on the submitted form.**

<b>SPRING/FALL TERMS:</b>	<b>TUITION CREDIT</b>
If form is dated prior to the beginning of the Semester	100%
If form is dated during Add/Drop period	100%
If form is dated during the first week*	80%
If form is dated during the second week*	60%

If form is dated during the third week*	40%
If form is dated during the fourth week*	20%
If form is dated during the fifth week*	0%

**\*Note:** The calendar week for cancellation of tuition ends on FRIDAY. For example, if the add/drop period ends on a Wednesday, the withdrawal period for the purpose of tuition credit calculation, will be the end of the business day on Friday of that same week, this would constitute week one of the policy. If a student withdraws on the Monday AFTER the end of add/drop, the withdrawal calculation would be for week two.

Appeals to the above policy or calculation for special circumstances may be made in writing to Vermont Law School's Comptroller, [businessoffice@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:businessoffice@vermontlaw.edu).

Transcript requests will not be released for any student who has an outstanding balance with Vermont Law School until the balance and any applicable interest is paid in full.

### **PAYMENT PLANS**

Students who are enrolled in the payment plan option and withdraw during the refund period (first four weeks), should note that their refund will be calculated on the full amount charged and not the amount remitted via the payment plan.

### **SUMMER TERM**

Students may add or drop courses before the second class meeting. VLS students must do so through the CampusWeb Portal. Students visiting VLS for summer courses must email the Registrar's Office, [Registrar@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:Registrar@vermontlaw.edu), or go to the Registrar's office before attending the second class to report the drop. Tuition charges will be adjusted with no financial penalties during the add/drop period.

**Withdrawing from a class may be done online via the CampusWeb Portal.** Please be advised that there is no date recorded when withdrawing online, and as such there will be no tuition credit adjustment made.

- \* If you wish to receive a tuition credit (if applicable) as a result of your withdrawal, written notice (Request to Withdraw form or an email to [Registrar@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:Registrar@vermontlaw.edu)) is required. If no written notification is received, no adjustments will be made to the student account.

**Students who submit written notification of withdrawal** (Request to Withdraw form or email [Registrar@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:Registrar@vermontlaw.edu)) after the second class meeting are subject to the tuition credit schedule. The portion of tuition credit will be calculated on a daily (calendar days) pro-rata basis beginning with the first day of classes until the date in Eastern Standard Time of written notification of withdrawal is received.

**\*NOTE:** if your written notification is received prior to the time that the class is scheduled to meet, your withdrawal is still based on that date of class.

**There is no tuition credit after 60% of the session has been completed.**

Appeals to the above policy or calculation for special circumstances may be made in writing to Vermont Law School's Comptroller, [businessoffice@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:businessoffice@vermontlaw.edu).

### **RETURN OF TITLE IV FUNDS**

In addition to Vermont Law School's tuition credit policy, the Financial Aid Office is obliged to return to the federal government that portion of federal aid that is unearned. The Financial Aid Office will calculate unearned aid based on a daily pro-rata calculation. All Vermont Law School scholarship will follow the same daily pro-rata calculation as unearned aid.

It is important to understand that after 60% of the semester has been completed, there will be no adjustment to the financial aid received. The daily pro-rata calculation follows the guidelines set in the Federal Return to Title IV funds regulations.

Students who withdraw prior to the 60% point in the semester, and who received Federal loans, will owe a prorated repayment to these loans. The Vermont Law School Financial Aid Office will calculate and return money owed to the Federal loan program as part of the refund/repayment process. Repayments due

the Federal loan program are first allocated to the Federal Stafford unsubsidized loan, then the Stafford subsidized loan, then the Perkins loan, and then the Graduate Plus loan. Any unused portion of Vermont Law School scholarships and grants will be subject to the semester proration calculation. After payments to Vermont Law School scholarships and grants have been satisfied, remaining funds (if any) will be used to repay outside scholarship sources and finally to reimburse personal payments (unless otherwise dictated by prior arrangements with an outside funding program). If the student is due a refund, any non-refundable deposits are deducted from the refund.

You should be aware that if you withdraw early in the semester, you could potentially owe money to Vermont Law School.

**Transcript requests will not be released for any student who has an outstanding balance with Vermont Law School until the balance and any applicable interest is paid in full.**

## ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM

Tuition charges will be adjusted according to the following schedule for students taking Online Learning classes. Students will be responsible for payment of non-refundable student fees in full if they withdraw, drop or take a leave of absence after the start of class/term. A student withdrawing (from a course or program) or taking a leave of absence from the school is required to complete a Course Withdrawal/Drop form or Leave of Absence request form.

**Note:** Within one semester, there are two Online Learning Terms. This policy is based on terms for Online Learning classes.

- \* a withdrawal is defined as a request to be removed from a class after the add/drop period, resulting in a Wd grade on your transcript.
- \*\* a drop is defined as the removal of oneself from a class prior to or during the add/drop period and is not recorded on your transcript.

**The date of withdrawal for purpose of calculating the tuition credit is the date the student last accessed the Learning Management System (LMS).**

SPRING/FALL/SUMMER TERMS:	TUITION CREDIT
If last access date is dated prior to the beginning of the Semester	100%
If last access date is dated during Add/Drop period	100%
If last access date is dated during the first week*	80%
If last access date is dated during the second week*	60%
If last access date is dated during the third week*	40%
If last access date is dated during the fourth week*	20%
If last access date is dated during the fifth week*	0%

**\*Note:** The calendar week for cancellation of tuition ends on FRIDAY. For example, if the add/drop period ends on a Wednesday, the withdrawal period for the purpose of tuition credit calculation, will be the end of the day (11:59 p.m. EST) on Friday of that same week, this would constitute week one of the policy. If a student withdraws on the Monday AFTER the end of add/drop, the withdrawal calculation would be for week two.

Appeals to the above policy or calculation for special circumstances may be made in writing to Vermont Law School's Comptroller at [businessoffice@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:businessoffice@vermontlaw.edu).

## RETURN OF TITLE IV FUNDS

In addition to Vermont Law School's tuition credit policy, the Financial Aid Office is obliged to return to the federal government that portion of federal aid that is unearned. The Financial Aid Office will calculate unearned aid based on a daily pro-rata calculation. All Vermont Law School scholarship will follow the same daily pro-rata calculation as unearned aid.

**It is important to understand that after 60% of the semester has been completed, there will be no adjustment to the financial aid received.** The daily pro-rata calculation follows the guidelines set in the Federal Return to Title IV funds regulations.

Students who withdraw prior to the 60% point in the semester, and who received Federal loans, will owe a prorated repayment to these loans. Vermont Law School will calculate and return money owed to the



Federal loan program as part of the refund/repayment process. Repayments due the Federal loan program are first allocated to the Federal Stafford unsubsidized loan, then the Stafford subsidized loan, then the Perkins loan, and then the Graduate Plus loan. Any unused portion of Vermont Law School scholarships and grants will be subject to the semester proration calculation. After payments to Vermont Law School scholarships and grants have been satisfied, remaining funds (if any) will be used to repay outside scholarship sources and finally to reimburse personal payments (unless otherwise dictated by prior arrangements with an outside funding program). If the student is due a refund, any non-refundable deposits are subtracted from the refund.

You should be aware that if you withdraw early in the semester, you could potentially owe money to Vermont Law School.

**Transcript requests will not be released for any student who has an outstanding balance with Vermont Law School until the balance and any applicable interest is paid in full.**

## **CAMPUS BULLETIN BOARD POLICY**

The posting policy is designed to promote activities on and off the Vermont Law School campus. Violations of the posting policy could lead to a Code of Conduct violation. All final decisions on violations will be referred to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity for immediate resolution. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the posting policy, please feel free to contact the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity.

### **POSTING POLICY:**

In Chase Center Breezeway all bulletin boards that are labeled will be the responsibility of the group or individual assigned the bulletin board. It is strongly suggested that posters in labeled and public areas be removed upon completion of the program or event. VLS Buildings and Grounds staff will remove any posters that are on walls or doors in both buildings without prior approval from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. Materials placed on bulletin boards designated to a student group are the property of that student group. Unauthorized removal or alteration of materials is prohibited. Failure to abide by this policy could result in the removal of assigned bulletin board privileges by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity and could result in a VLS Code of Conduct violation.

All posters and posting of posters should meet the following guidelines:

- Recyclable paper should be used when possible.
- All posters should be dated and in appropriate posting sections in the common section of both buildings.
- Posting over other posters or signs is prohibited.
- Posters must be placed on bulletin boards with tacks not staples.
- As a general guideline, posters should be no larger than 400 square inches (20" x 20").
- Posters should not hinder the use or restrict access to hallways, doorways, stairs, corridors, or fire equipment. Posters may not be attached to light fixtures or exit signs.
- Student organizations and nonstudent organizations requesting the use of bulletin board space in Chase Breezeway should contact the Office for Student Affairs and Diversity.

The official bulletin board is located in Oakes Hall and is used for official documents including, but not limited to, advanced assignments, exam schedules, and policy changes.

## **CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

The use of cell phones, smart phones, tablets, and other electronic devices during class or in-class examinations is strictly forbidden. Please follow exam instructions and faculty directions carefully: your professor may request that you keep these devices out of the examination room. In the absence of specific instructions from your professor, turn the devices off and store them away until you turn in your exam. If you are concerned about a possible emergency call during an exam, direct the caller to contact the Vermont Law School switchboard at 802-831-1000, notify the operator of the emergency and ask to be transferred to the Registrar. Cell phone use in the classroom is not permitted: cell phones must be turned off in any room where classes or lectures are being held.

Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate-only in computer labs, Chase Center, and designated "quiet study areas." Cell phone use in these areas is not permitted: please step out to make or take a call.

Library cell phone policy: Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate-only. Cell phone use is not permitted except in:

- Unoccupied study rooms
- Connector to Chase



Please use a low voice when using a cell phone in these acceptable areas. The library reserves the right to ask patrons to leave if they are using cell phones in restricted areas or disturbing others in any area of the library.

## CLASS CANCELLATIONS

Canceled classes are usually listed on the VLS website and the Technology website. Notice may also be sent via email.

## SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS / DELAYED OPENINGS

Vermont Law School rarely closes. If weather conditions are very poor, we are more likely to delay classes than to close the school entirely. A delayed opening means that the school opens at 9:45 a.m. in time for second period (9:55 a.m.) classes. In all cases, each person should use their own best judgment about traveling in bad weather conditions. Information about a delay or closing will be transmitted via:

- VLS Alerts (see below for more information)
- VLS Web page - [vermontlaw.edu](http://vermontlaw.edu)
- VLS telephone switchboard 802-831-1000.
- WCAX - [wcax.com/weather/closings](http://wcax.com/weather/closings)
- VPR - [app.vpr.org/school-closings](http://app.vpr.org/school-closings)

VLS Alerts is a secure notification service that allows authorized Vermont Law School administrators to send information to the VLS community concerning emergencies as well as school closings or delays. It is the primary method of announcing school closings, school delays, and other weather-related announcements.

VLS Alerts sends a message to your Vermont Law School email account (username@vermontlaw.edu) and to any other method of contact that you designate, e.g., text message, voice message (cell phone and/or land line), or another email account. You may enter as many methods of contact as you choose. We encourage you to enter more than one alternative to ensure prompt notification.

Your VLS email is automatically in the VLS Alerts system. Students, faculty, and staff may enter other contact information through the VLS Regroup gateway at: [vermontlaw.regroup.com/networks/vermontlaw/ldap](http://vermontlaw.regroup.com/networks/vermontlaw/ldap). We strongly encourage all members of the VLS community to provide all their personal contact information as well to enable the school to contact you in the event of a campus emergency that may affect your safety or to provide you with immediate notification of school closings or delays.

If school is closed or there is a delayed opening, this information will be available on the VLS switchboard, i.e., the voice mail public greeting 802-831-1000. If you hear the normal greeting, school is open.

The decision to cancel or delay school is usually made by 6:30 a.m. so that the information can be disbursed as early as possible. You may want to check more than one source of information in the event that there is a lag in the posting of the information.

Please note that email and voice mail messages for cancellation or delay will always contain the day and date. For example, "It is Tuesday, February fifth, and Vermont Law School has a delayed opening today." The weather in Vermont varies considerably from location to location; it may not be possible for us to know what the conditions are like in your particular area. If you commute to school, please use good judgment in deciding whether the conditions in your area are safe for travel. Students are responsible for checking announcements to determine whether school will be canceled or have a delayed opening.

## FLAG POLICY

### GENERAL:

The display of international, national, state and other flags of institutional significance at Vermont Law School (VLS) shall be in accord with federal and state law and VLS policy, and with declarations by the President of the United States, the Governor of Vermont, the VLS Dean and President, and any other VLS official so designated, in accord with the information below.

This policy outlines the procedures to be observed at VLS to ensure proper display of the American flag Vermont State flag, and other flags of international, national, state, and institutional significance on VLS flagpoles. Visit: [usflag.org/uscode36.html](http://usflag.org/uscode36.html) and [crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45945](http://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45945).

## **PROCEDURES:**

This policy applies to all VLS sponsored flagpoles, including the flagpoles in the quad in front of Debevoise Hall and the designated flagpoles located outside of Eaton House. The following procedures for flag display approval apply to VLS students, faculty and staff. Non-affiliated external entities and individuals may not display flags on VLS facilities and grounds absent approval in accordance with the special request flag approval procedure described below.

### THE UNITED STATES AND VERMONT FLAGS:

The flagpole in front of Debevoise Hall and two of the three flagpoles outside of Eaton House will be reserved exclusively for the flags of the United States and the State of Vermont. With respect to these flags, VLS observes official periods of national and state mourning declared by the President of the United States or the Governor of the State of Vermont upon the death of a current or former public official or foreign dignitary, or after a tragic event. In addition, the VLS Dean and President may declare a period of mourning upon the death of a member of the VLS community or tragic events of special significance to the VLS community. In response to any such declarations, the request to fly the flag of the United States of America or the State of Vermont at half-staff will be communicated to the responsible staff for maintaining campus flagpoles by the Vice Dean for Faculty. Additional requests for half-staff display will not be recognized. The flying of flags representing an entity other than the United States of America or the State of Vermont shall be restricted to the designated flagpole and governed by the procedures for approval outlined in this policy.

### INTERNATIONAL FLAGS:

Of the three flagpoles in front of Eaton House, one is designated either for flags representing a country other than the United States ("International Flags") or a Special Request Flag (see below). The Vice Dean for Faculty is responsible for deciding which international flags should be displayed on this flagpole (the "Campus Special Request Flagpole") when not being used to display a Special Request flag.

### SPECIAL REQUEST FLAGS:

1. Designated Locations. The only flagpole available for sponsorship and use for Special Request Flags is located outside of Eaton House (the "Campus Special Request Flagpole").
2. Authorized Users and Representatives. An event or cause may be publicized by the flying of a flag on the Special Request Flagpole only as authorized under this policy and procedure. An academic or administrative unit, recognized group or organization, or VLS-affiliated organization ("sponsor") requesting authorization must designate a responsible person ("authorized representative") to submit the request.
3. Request. The authorized representative must file a formal Request for Use of Campus Special Request Flagpole with the Vice Dean for Faculty at least seven working days before the proposed date of use. The request must contain all required information, including the name and contact information for the sponsor's authorized representative; a description of the display's purpose and relation to the VLS mission; a written or pictorial depiction of the proposed flag; and start and end dates for displaying the flag. The duration of any flag display approved under this policy should not exceed two weeks (14 consecutive days).
4. Purpose. The purpose of Special Request Flag displays at VLS is to promote or recognize causes or events sponsored by or of importance to an academic or administrative unit, recognized group or organization, or a VLS-affiliated organization, in furtherance of the institutional mission.
5. Special Request Flag Content. VLS encourages and promotes freedom of expression of a wide diversity of viewpoints and this policy should be construed liberally to realize this goal. Specific content requirements include the following:
  - a. Flag content may be general in nature, graphically, symbolically or verbally representing or depicting a VLS-sponsored event or activity, or recognizing an event or cause of importance to the VLS community;
  - b. The message communicated by the proposed flag may not imply VLS sponsorship or endorsement without prior written authorization from the VLS President and Dean;
  - c. The message communicated by the proposed flag may not indicate support or opposition to any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for elective public office; and
  - d. The flag display must be consistent with the VLS mission, be respectful of all members of the VLS community, not be patently obscene nor grossly offensive, not be directed to incite imminent acts of likely violence or lawless action, and may not violate federal, state or local law, or any VLS policy.

6. **Flag Quality.** All flags displayed under this policy must be of professional quality, made of materials, including affixation methods, that will not damage the grounds or facilities where they are displayed or pose an undue risk of harm to pedestrians, and be provided by the sponsor. Additionally, the flag may not be larger in size than the United States Flag in compliance with the United States Flag Code.
7. **Request Approval.** A Special Request Flag is authorized when approval is communicated in writing by the Vice Dean for Faculty to the authorized representative. The approval notice will contain information including the allowable duration of the display. The sponsor will pay all service costs associated with the flying of a special request flag.
8. **Exceptions.** Any exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing and in advance by the Vice Dean for Faculty.
9. **Appeal of Denial.** Appeal of a denial of a request by the Vice Dean for Faculty must be made to the Dean and President or his or her designee in writing by the authorized representative within three business days of receipt of the denial. The decision of the Dean and President is final.
10. **Priority of Requests.** Every attempt will be made to accommodate requests within the VLS approved schedule of annual campus-wide sponsored events. Except under extraordinary circumstances, additional requests will be processed in the order in which they are received.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

“Event” means an activity (1) sponsored by and through an academic or administrative unit, VLS-recognized group or organization, or VLS affiliated organization (2) that is open to the entire VLS community and (3) that offers an educational, cultural, recreational or social opportunity in furtherance of the institutional mission.

“Recognized Group or Organization” means the Student Bar Association, a student group or organization recognized by the Student Bar Association, or any group of students numbering fifty (50) or more who join in a request to fly a Special Request Flag.

#### **CONTACTS AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:**

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to the Vice Dean for Faculty who is the official responsible for the interpretation and administration of this procedure.

### **USE OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR EXAM TAKING – EXAMPLIFY USE**

Each professor has the right to determine whether to ban, permit, or require the use of laptops for in-class examinations. All students must abide by the professor’s exam policy, unless an exception is necessary as accommodation of a documented disability. Whenever the use of laptops is permitted, students are encouraged to exercise this option and take their in-class examinations on their own laptop computers. Please note: The use of tablets or iPads is highly discouraged during exams. Students that have iPads or tablets will need to make plans to secure a laptop during the examination periods.

Laptop exam takers must use ExamSoft’s testing program, Examplify, for their in-class exams. Examplify is simple word processing software that blocks access to any stored files or the internet during the examination. It also prevents decipherable examination information from being stored on the computer. Any tampering with Examplify and the exam upload process may be considered a violation of the Honor Code or the Code of Conduct.

When the use of laptops and Examplify is mandatory for an in class exam, students who do not own a laptop should be prepared to secure one for exam taking purposes as Vermont Law School will not provide it.

Students using computers for take-home examinations are generally not required to use Examplify unless they receive specific instructions to do so.

### **EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR THE USE OF EXAMPLIFY AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL**

In order to use Examplify on your computer, you must be able to turn off your virus protection before entering a secure exam. Examplify may be used on 32-bit and 64-bit Versions of Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, and Windows 10 operating systems. All Windows 10 Creators versions, including the Spring 1803 update are now supported with Examplify version 1.5.0. Alternate versions of Windows 10, such as Windows RT, and Windows 10 S are NOT supported. Only genuine U.S.-English versions of Windows Operating Systems are supported. Examplify does not support Tablet devices other than Surface Pro. Surface Pro, Surface Books, and Surface Laptop devices are supported. Examplify also operates on OS X 10.9 (Mavericks), OS X 10.10 (Yosemite), OS X 10.11 (El Capitan), Mac OS 10.12 (Sierra), and Mac OS X 10.13 High

Sierra. Only genuine versions of Mac Operating Systems are supported; Server version of Mac OS X is not supported. You must have administrative rights to the computer you are using to register and download ExamSoft software. For optimal success, we recommend that you have at least 1.86Ghz Intel Core 2 Duo or equivalent processor, at least 2 GB of RAM, and 1GB or higher of free disk space. Screen Resolution must be 1024x768 or higher. Examplify cannot be used on virtual operating systems such as Microsoft's Virtual Machine, Parallels or VMware, VMware Fusion or any other virtual environments. ExamSoft does not support Tablet devices.

Laptops must be able to wirelessly connect to the internet, as all Exams require a download and upload process. Please check the requirements well before your exam for updated information.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMPLIFY FOR IN-CLASS EXAMINATIONS**

Use of Examplify software is free to all students that have completed the registration process. Specific information about using this software at Vermont Law School can be found on our own ExamSoft home page, [ExamSoft.com/Vermontlaw](https://ExamSoft.com/Vermontlaw).

Students must download and register the Examplify software at the beginning of EVERY ACADEMIC YEAR (Fall) even if they have registered and used ExamSoft software in the past. Questions or problems registering for Examplify or downloading the software should be directed to the ExamSoft technical support at: 866-429-8889 (a toll free number) or [support@examsoft.com](mailto:support@examsoft.com). Neither Vermont Law School's IT department nor the Registrar's Office supports ExamSoft technical issues.

All students are emailed their username and passwords via ExamSoft each semester, and sent reminders to register throughout the academic year. Using this set of username/password, students will log into the [ExamSoft.com/Vermontlaw](https://ExamSoft.com/Vermontlaw) website to download the most current version of the Examplify software. Once the software is installed, students will be prompted to register the software and restart their machine. Students are strongly encouraged to take the mock exam at least 48 hours prior to exams to make sure their computer and ExamSoft are compatible. The mock examination is available for immediate download and can be taken multiple times.

Students should come to exams with a fully charged battery, a power cord and any other necessary equipment. Please arrive in the exam room at least 15 minutes prior to the starting time of the exam to set up computers; no additional time is given for setting up, logging in or solving technical issues. Students that are having technical difficulties that cannot be easily resolved will be instructed to use bluebooks. At the end of the exam, the professor or proctor will notify students the exam is over. Upon hearing the exam has ended, students must immediately close their exam. Students that do not close their exam immediately will be in violation of the Honor Code and will be reported.

Completed exams are uploaded to a secure server. The exams are then downloaded and printed by law school staff and distributed to faculty in place of the traditional blue books. The printed copies are retained by the professor. More information about the use of ExamSoft will be provided via email notices leading up to exam times. Any questions about policy or procedure should be addressed to Sandy Johnston via email: [sjohnston@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:sjohnston@vermontlaw.edu) or phone at 802-831-1032.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

### **I. CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY**

VLS maintains the confidentiality of student educational records as required by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

A. Persons Outside Vermont Law School. No one outside VLS shall have access to, nor will VLS disclose any information from, a student's educational records without the written consent of the student except, pursuant to FERPA, to officials of other institutions in which the student seeks to enroll, to persons or organizations providing a student financial aid or enforcing provisions of student financial aid received, to accrediting agencies carrying out their accreditation function, to persons in compliance with a judicial order, and to persons in an emergency in order to protect the health or safety of students or other persons.

B. Persons within VLS. School officials must demonstrate a "need to know" before personally identifiable student information, located outside their immediate domain, may be released to them. Such releases are documented in the student file.

1. School officials are those members of VLS who act in the student's educational interest within the limitations of their need to know, which includes deans, faculty, administrators, clerical and professional employees, and other persons who manage student record information.
2. Within the VLS community, only those persons, individually or collectively, acting in student's educational interest are allowed access to a student's educational records. This includes persons in the Offices of the Registrar, Admissions, Comptroller, Financial Aid, and Business Services, and academic personnel within the limitations of their need to know. In addition, the Vice Dean for Students, the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, and the Director of the Academic Success Program have full access to student information contained in the administrative computer system.

C. Directory Information. At its discretion, VLS may provide such information, in accordance with the provision of FERPA, to include: student name, mailing address and telephone number, date of birth, dates of attendance, class year, full-time or part-time status, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

1. A student may withhold directory information by notifying the Registrar in writing within two weeks after the first day of classes for the fall semester.
2. Requests for nondisclosure will be honored by Vermont Law School for a student's entire enrollment. Any changes to the request for nondisclosure must also be made in writing to the Registrar's Office. Students who opt for nondisclosure will not have their names in Commencement programs.

## II. STUDENT INSPECTION OF RECORDS

FERPA provides each student with the right to inspect and review information contained in his/her education records, to challenge the contents of his/her education records, to have a hearing if the outcome of the challenge is unsatisfactory, and to submit explanatory statements for inclusion in his/her file if the decision of the hearing panel is unacceptable.

A. Written Request. The Registrar has been designated to coordinate the inspection and review procedures for student education records, which will include admissions, academic, and financial files; and academic cooperative education, and placement records.

1. A student wishing to review her/his education records must make a written request to the Registrar using the "Request for Copies of Documents in File" form available outside the Registrar's Office. In some circumstances, a copy will not be made (e.g., an academic record for which a financial "hold" exists, or a transcript of an original or source document which exists elsewhere). Copies are made at the student's expense at prevailing rates which are listed on the form.
2. Records covered by the Act will be made available within forty-five days of the request.

B. Exceptions and Exclusions. As provided by the Act:

1. Education records do not include records of instructional, administrative, and educational personnel which are the sole possession of the maker and are not accessible or revealed to any individual except a temporary substitute; employment records; or alumni records.
2. A student may not inspect or review financial information submitted by his/her parents; confidential letters and recommendations associated with admissions, employment, job placement or honors and to which he/she has waived his/her rights of inspection and review; or education records containing information about more than one student, in which case VLS will permit access only to that part of the record which pertains to the inquiring student.
3. VLS is not required to permit a student to inspect and review letters of recommendation to which the right to access was waived.

C. Correction Records. A student who believes that his/her education records contain information that is inaccurate or misleading, or is otherwise in violation of his/her privacy or other rights, may discuss his/her problems informally with the Office of the Registrar.

1. If the decision is in agreement with the student's requests, the appropriate records will be amended. If not, the student will be notified within a reasonable period of time that

the records will not be amended, and she/he will be informed by the Office of the Registrar of his/her right to a formal hearing.

2. A student's request for a formal hearing must be made in writing to the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs who, within a reasonable period of time after receiving such requests, will inform the student of the date, place, and time of the hearing. A student may present evidence relevant to the issues raised and may be assisted or represented at the hearing by one or more persons of his/her choice, including attorneys, at the student's expense. The hearing panel, which will adjudicate such challenges, will be the Committee on Standards.
3. Decisions of the hearing panel will be final, will be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing, will consist of written statements summarizing the evidence and stating the reasons for the decision, and will be delivered to all parties concerned.
4. The education record will be corrected or amended in accordance with the decision of the hearing panel, if the decision is in favor of the student.
5. If the decision is unsatisfactory to the student, the student may place with the education record statements commenting on the information in the record, or statements setting forth any reasons for disagreeing with the decision of the hearing panel. The statements will be placed in the education record, maintained as part of the student's records, and released whenever the records in question are disclosed.
6. A student who believes that the adjudication of his/her challenge is unfair or not in keeping with the provisions of the Act may request, in writing, assistance from the Dean of Vermont Law School to aid him/her in filing complaints with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office, Department of Education, Room 4074, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202.

Revisions and clarifications of this policy will be published as experience warrants.

## DIRECTORY OF RECORDS

**OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS (CURTIS HOUSE):** Records in the Office of Admissions are not covered under FERPA. These records receive FERPA protection and gain student access only upon the applicant's matriculation.

**OFFICES FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT (DEARING HOUSE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR):** Any student who has completed one full semester at VLS becomes a member of the Alumni Association at the time their student status ceases. The Alumni Office records may include home and business addresses and telephone numbers, name of spouse or significant other, name and address of parents, and history of contributions to Vermont Law School. Directory information for "alums" is no longer protected by FERPA, but alumni are afforded the opportunity to withhold release of directory information by contacting the Office for Alumni Relations and Development. All other information contained in their records is for internal use only.

**OFFICES FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT (DEARING HOUSE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR):** This office solicits information directly from students, including name, address, class, degree program(s), degree completion, previous education, gender, date of birth, race, cumulative grade point average/class rank, honors such as Law Review and/or Moot Court Advisory Board, and work-study eligibility. Any information forthcoming from students is available only to personnel in the department.

**OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER/BUSINESS OFFICE (ABBOTT HOUSE):** The Business Office maintains an accounting of a student's financial obligations to VLS. Failure to meet this obligation will result in the Business Office withholding approval of release of a student's transcript, bar certification, and/or diploma. Therefore, the general information of indebtedness will be shared with the Registrar's Office and the Dean's Office and/or holds are placed on the student information system. In addition, the Business Office maintains the record of a student's VLS parking sticker number in conjunction with the student's license plate number. None of this personally identifiable information will be disclosed to anyone outside the institution. In addition, students are given the opportunity to authorize other individuals to make inquiries of their accounts by completing a Business Office/Financial Aid Office Release Authorization Form. This form is considered in effect until further notice, i.e., the student submits an updated form. It is assumed that a student not completing this form does not consent to any release of information.

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER (DEBEVOISE HALL):** Summer Session applicants are processed by the ELC and records are transferred to the Registrar's Office upon the student's registration.

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID (ABBOTT HOUSE):** A student's financial aid file contains their Institutional



Student Information Report (ISIR), notice of financial aid eligibility and awards, loan applications, and other pertinent information requested to assess eligibility for financial assistance. Federal Perkins promissory notes and collection information is also kept in the Financial Aid Office for graduates who receive these loans. Copies of educational loan deferment forms are placed in the student's file prior to being sent to the lending agencies. A student has access to all this information. The Office of Financial Aid will release to scholarship committees the level of a student's financial need (e.g., none, high, etc.), but will not share any specific information. The Office of Financial Aid is notified by various agencies when a student/alum is in default on an educational loan and will inform the Registrar's Office of this default status when a student/alum has requested the release of a transcript or bar certification.

**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR (ABBOTT HOUSE):** Upon matriculation, electronic copies of some of a student's application file become accessible to the Registrar's Office. At that time, these records (electronic or paper) fall under the protection of FERPA. This record may contain the following application materials: application for admission, LSDAS summary report or GRE report, personal statement, letter of acceptance, and transcripts reflecting all post-secondary education. A student may review and/or request copies for his/her own use with the exception of transcripts from other institutions. Official copies of transcripts from other institutions are also in the student record. As a student progresses through his/her educational program, the electronic educational record will include requests for release of information, copies of letters reflecting any probationary and/or disciplinary action, and other status changes. The Registrar's Office maintains electronic records of student academic progress with an official transcript (showing course names, grades, semester and cumulative grade point average and class rank, where applicable.) A notice of loan default may be appended to the student's official transcript if received. Independent of a student's individual record, the Registrar's Office maintains archives of student petitions to the Committee on Standards, with a copy of the decision electronically maintained. Release of most information in the Registrar's Office requires a student's written permission, with the following exceptions: 1) When a student is being placed on academic probation, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the student's faculty advisor, the Director of the Academic Success Program, and the Director of Financial Aid are notified; 2) when a student has been academically dismissed, the same people as listed in #1 above, with the exception of the head of the program for Academic Success, are again notified; in addition, the Library, Office of Career Services, the Alumni Office, and all deans are notified of a student's "withdrawal," without mention of the circumstances; 3) when a student voluntarily withdraws or is granted a leave of absence, all people listed above, again with the exception of the head of the program for Academic Success, are notified; 4) if a student petitions the Committee on Standards, the committee members may be provided full access to the educational records maintained in the Registrar's Office; 5) the Director of Financial Aid needs to know class rank and probation status to determine the continued eligibility for scholarships and/or work-study funds; therefore, the class rank list is provided to the Director of Financial Aid; 6) if a member of the faculty needs to be reminded of a grade they issued a student, this information will be given with the understanding that it cannot be shared with a third party.

## **DISABILITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Vermont Law School, as an institution, assumes the ultimate administrative responsibility for ensuring compliance with the mandates of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It is the responsibility of the Vice Dean for Students to certify student disabilities and to recommend reasonable and appropriate accommodations in light of the nature of a student's disability and academic program requirements. The Vice Dean for Faculty will serve as a liaison between and resource to the students and faculty.

- A. The law school recognizes its legal obligation to make reasonable accommodations designed to provide overall educational program accessibility for otherwise qualified persons with disabilities. It is a law school policy that students with disabilities who have been admitted to the law school through the normal admissions process and have thus been deemed qualified to undertake the academic program be given reasonable accommodations.
- B. To the extent deemed reasonably possible and readily achievable, the location of programs within the physical plant will provide equal access to mobility and visually impaired students.
  1. The law school physical plant is an eight-acre complex of buildings, many of which were built at the turn of the century. Some areas within older buildings are inaccessible to mobility-impaired students or are difficult to access. All buildings are accessible on the first floor, either through a ground-level entrance or a ramp. Whenever a mobility-impaired student needs to meet with faculty or staff whose offices are in limited-access areas, the law school will provide an alternative space for the meeting.



2. Information concerning law school facilities that are accessible to and usable by mobility-impaired students is appended to this policy.
- C. The law school seeks to accommodate students with disabilities on an individual basis. Individual students are given reasonable and necessary accommodations based on specific information and assessment data documented by a professional from outside the law school who, in the judgment of the school, is qualified to provide such information and assessment.
  - D. While the law school will strive to accommodate students as fully as possible, reasonable accommodations do not include measures that fundamentally alter the academic program of the law school or that place undue administrative or financial burdens on the law school.
  - E. The faculty have the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the academic program. When course accommodations are required for a student, the intent is to provide that student with equal access to the essential course content and to mitigate the impact of the disability on the student's learning and/or academic performance without compromising course or program integrity. Accommodations may involve modification of the way in which material is presented or how learning is evaluated; however, accommodations that compromise the essential integrity of the course shall not be required of faculty by Vermont Law School. Faculty may not dispute the fact, nature, and/or extent of a disability that has been recognized by the Vice Dean for Students. If faculty have questions or concerns about a particular student's accommodation, they should meet with the Vice Dean for Students to discuss those concerns or questions. Faculty who are dissatisfied with the accommodations recommended may consult with the Vice Dean for Faculty. Faculty are encouraged to share with the Vice Dean for Students information about the course and/or program, so that the Vice Dean is best able to make appropriate accommodation recommendations. Faculty are to implement the accommodation as soon as possible, but in no case more than five academic days after the notification has been received. If no further consultation occurs between faculty, student, and the Vice Dean for Students, Vermont Law School assumes that accommodations will be provided as delineated in the notification. Time is of the essence in implementation of any academic accommodations. Delays in the negotiations or the implementation of accommodations can be construed as a form of discrimination.

## **II. ADMISSIONS POLICY**

- A. The law school does not discriminate on the basis of disability. No limitations are placed on the number or proportion of persons with disabilities who may be admitted or enrolled.
- B. Any information concerning an applicant's disability provided during the admissions process is voluntary or optional and is maintained in accordance with laws relating to confidentiality.
- C. Students should not assume that because their application to law school indicates the presence of a disability that this information is known to the Vice Dean for Students. New students should inform the Vice Dean for Students, under the procedure in Part IV, below, of the need for accommodations well in advance of their first examination.

## **III. POLICY OF REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS**

- A. The law school will provide, as necessary, reasonable and readily achievable accommodations, including academic adjustments and auxiliary aids, to ensure otherwise qualified students with disabilities access to the school's services, programs, and activities. To the extent necessary to accommodate a student with a particular disability, and to the extent deemed reasonable and consistent with the academic program, course loads, course examinations, and other methods of evaluating academic achievement will be adapted and administered so as to minimize the effect of the disability and accurately measure academic achievement in the course.
- B. Accommodations will not be provided if they fundamentally alter the nature of the program or if they would be unduly burdensome either financially or administratively to the law school.
- C. All accommodations are prospective; there are no retroactive accommodations for work completed before the submission of a request for accommodations and all required documentation.

## **IV. PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

- A. Identifying the Need for Accommodations: Students with disabilities who require accommodations are responsible for making these needs known to the Vice Dean for Students in a timely fashion and for providing any required documentation.

1. Students should not assume that because their application to law school indicated the presence of a disability that this information is known to the Vice Dean for Students. A student seeking accommodation for a disability should make a direct request to the Vice Dean for Students by visiting [vermontlaw.edu/accommodation](http://vermontlaw.edu/accommodation) and completing the online disability request form. Technical assistance with this form can be provided by the Office of the Vice Dean for Students.
2. In cases where only minor accommodations are required (such as requesting to sit in the front row because of a visual or hearing impairment), the student may simply make a request of the faculty member. If requests for minor accommodations are not responded to adequately, the student should make the request to the Vice Dean for Students.
3. Students who do not require accommodations need not make their disabilities known.
4. To ensure that accommodations may be implemented timely, it is strongly encouraged that students complete the online disability request form and schedule a meeting with the Vice Dean for Students as soon as practicable upon their arrival on campus. Requests made two weeks or less before midterm exams or final exams may not be implemented in time for those exams.

**B. Verification of Disability:**

1. A student who makes a request for accommodation due to a physical, mental, or learning disability must provide current professional verification documentation to the Vice Dean for Students.
2. The cost of obtaining the professional verification will be borne by the student.
3. The documentation required varies, depending on the nature of the disability.
4. If the law school requires an additional assessment for purposes of obtaining a second opinion by an appropriate professional of the law school's choosing, then the law school shall bear the cost not covered by any third party payer.

**C. Additional Information:** Students seeking reasonable accommodations for a disability will be asked to submit to the Vice Dean for Students a history of academic adjustments and accommodations received in postsecondary institutions or in places of employment. Such a history of adjustments and accommodations will be subject to verification.

**D. Verification of Temporary Disability:** Students seeking accommodations on the basis of a temporary disability must provide documentation to the Vice Dean for Students verifying the nature of the condition, stating the expected duration of the condition, and describing the accommodations deemed necessary.

1. Verification must be provided by a professional health care provider who, in the opinion of the law school, is qualified in the diagnosis of such conditions.
2. The assessment or verification of disability must reflect the student's current level of disability, and shall be no older than 60 days.
3. The cost of the professional verification will be borne by the student.
4. If the initial verification is incomplete or inadequate to determine the extent of the disability and appropriate accommodations, the law school will have the discretion to require supplemental assessment of a temporary disability. The cost of the supplemental assessment will be borne by the student.
5. If the law school requires an additional assessment for purposes of obtaining a second opinion by an appropriate professional of the law school's choosing, then the law school shall bear the cost not covered by any third party payer.

**E. Determination of Reasonable Accommodations:** The Vice Dean for Students has authority to decide whether accommodations will be granted in individual cases. The Vice Dean for Students will review all documents submitted to verify a disability and may conduct a personal interview to explore the personal and academic needs of the student in the law school setting.

1. A student must immediately report any dissatisfaction with an accommodation to the Vice Dean for Students. After the accommodation has been put in place, each student

receiving accommodations may meet upon request with the Vice Dean for Students to evaluate the effectiveness of the accommodation.

2. Accommodations will be subject to review and possible termination upon any change in the nature of the student's disability or the student's failure to properly utilize the services provided.
3. Services for students who improperly procure accommodations under this policy will be immediately terminated and the student may be subject to disciplinary action under the Vermont Law School Code of Conduct.
4. Subject to applicable rule of confidentiality, the Vice Dean for Students shall provide information to appropriate administrative staff and faculty when necessary to arrange for efficient administration of academic adjustments and accommodations.

F. Records and Privacy: Information concerning a student's disability and accommodations made is treated as confidential under applicable laws and law school policies and is provided only to individuals who are privileged to receive such information on a need to know basis. Faculty members who are informed of a disability are advised that this information is confidential.

1. The law school will maintain confidential records relating to accommodations based on disability within the Office of the Vice Dean for Students. The records will include documentation submitted to verify the disability. The Registrar's Office will receive a copy of the Vice Dean for Students' letter to the student detailing the accommodations that have been found reasonable and justified in light of the student's needs. Upon graduation or termination of enrollment, these records shall be archived apart from official educational records.
2. All documents produced by consultants in the performance of services for the law school will remain the property of the law school.

## **V. GRIEVANCE AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

- A. Students who request accommodations and believe that such accommodations have been impermissibly denied, should bring this matter to the attention of the Vice Dean for Faculty.
- B. If the Vice Dean for Faculty is unable to resolve the matter informally, or if the student is dissatisfied with the resolution, the Vice Dean for Faculty will ask the President and Dean to review the accommodation request and the accommodation will be granted or denied.
  1. The President and Dean may affirm, reverse, or modify the finding and/or recommendation of accommodation. The President and Dean may confer with the Vice Deans during this process.
  2. The appeal decision of the President and Dean is final.
- C. Students who believe that they have been discriminated against on the basis of their disability in matters other than an accommodation request should use the procedure described in the Vermont Law School Policy Against Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination.

## **VI. ACADEMIC DISMISSAL AND READMISSION**

Students who are academically dismissed sometimes raise a disability as the basis for the academic difficulty. The burden is on the student to clarify why the disability was not brought to the attention of the administration, if it had not been previously, to explain why accommodations were not requested, or to explain why accommodations that had been provided were inadequate.

Readmission petitions should be discussed with the Vice Dean for Students. The Committee on Standards considers and decides on such petitions.

## **VII. POST-GRADUATION POLICY AND SERVICES**

- A. The law school will assist students in documenting accommodations received during law school as an aid in requesting accommodations for bar examinations.
- B. The Office of Career Services will assist all graduates, with or without disabilities, in developing career opportunities after the completion of studies at Vermont Law School.

## VIII. DEFINITIONS

- A. A “Person with a disability” means a person who (1) has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) has a record of such impairments; or (3) is regarded as having such impairment.
- B. “Otherwise qualified person with a disability” means an individual with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission and participation in the law school’s educational program and activities.

Adopted August 28, 1995  
Revised June 3, 2016  
Revised May 16, 2018  
Revised August 8, 2019  
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## DOGS ON CAMPUS

If you have a dog, please obey these rules. The safety and cleanliness of public areas in town and the law school campus are important to all who use them. This policy was established out of respect for the health and safety concerns of students, employees, and visitors, and in an effort to reduce property damage caused by unattended dogs.

### CAMPUS POLICY

- With the exception of service dogs, dogs may not be brought into school buildings.
- Dogs brought on campus should be leashed at all times.
- Clean up after your dog and properly dispose of all waste.
- In the interest of safety and the welfare of your dog, please do not leave it unattended in your car, or tie your dog to trees, doors, benches, etc.

### TOWN OF ROYALTON ORDINANCES

- All dogs six months or older must be licensed. To be licensed, your dog must have had a rabies vaccination within the past 24 months (or within the past 12 months for a dog six months to one year old). License applications are available at the Town Clerk’s Office.
- Dogs within the village limits, including Vermont Law School property, must be leashed at all times.
- Dogs are prohibited on the village green and the Carpenter Recreation Fields, whether leashed or not. Violation of this ordinance can result in impoundment of the dog and a \$25 fine, plus impoundment fees.
- The Water District has prohibited dogs from the path to Kent’s Ledge as well as the Fire District property within the source protection area to protect the watershed.

## VERMONT LAW SCHOOL’S SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY

### A. SERVICE ANIMALS

Animals are generally prohibited in Vermont Law School (VLS) buildings. However, an individual with a disability is permitted to be accompanied by his/her service animal in VLS buildings when required by law, subject to the conditions of this policy.

A “Service Animal” means a dog<sup>39</sup> that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability<sup>40</sup>. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not Service Animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by the Service Animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. No breed of dog is excluded from being a Service Animal if the dog meets the other requirements of this policy.

<sup>39</sup> In limited circumstances, a miniature horse may qualify as a Service Animal. It must be less than 38 inches tall.

<sup>40</sup> The tasks may include, but are not limited to, guiding a person who is visually impaired or blind, aiding a person who is deaf or hard of hearing; pulling a wheelchair; assisting with mobility or balance; alerting or assisting a person who has seizures; retrieving objects; preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behavior by persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities; or performing other special tasks.

Animals that serve to deter crime, provide emotional support, comfort, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being do not fall within this policy's definition of a Service Animal. The Vice Dean for Students or the Director of Human Resources or their designees will resolve questions as to whether an animal qualifies as a Service Animal.

School officials may ask the owner or handler of an animal whether the animal is required because of a disability and what work or tasks the animal has been trained to do unless it is readily apparent. School officials may not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability and may not require documentary proof of certification or licensing of a Service Animal.

This policy applies to all students and employees.

## **B. SERVICE ANIMAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Written Request**

A person who wants to be accompanied by his/her Service Animal must make a prior written request to the Vice Dean for Students (for students), the Director of Human Resources (for employees), or their designees. These requests must be renewed by September 1 of each school year.

### **2. Vaccinations**

The Service Animal must be in good health. The owner or handler of the Service Animal must submit to the Vice Dean for Students or her designee documentation from a licensed veterinarian of the following: a current veterinary health certificate, and proof of the Service Animal's current vaccinations and immunizations.

### **3. Control**

A Service Animal must be under the control of its handler at all times. The Service Animal must have a harness, leash or other tether unless the handler is unable to use a harness, leash or other tether because of a disability or because the harness, leash or tether would interfere with the Service Animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks. In such a case, the Service Animal must be under the handler's control.

## **C. SUPERVISION AND CARE OF SERVICE ANIMALS**

The owner or handler of a Service Animal is responsible for the supervision and care of the animal, including any feeding, exercising, and clean up.

## **D. DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY AND INJURIES**

The owner or handler of a Service Animal is responsible for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the Service Animal.

## **E. REMOVAL OF SERVICE ANIMALS FROM SCHOOL PROPERTY**

The Vice Dean for Students, the Director of Human Resources or their designees, can require an individual with a disability to remove a Service Animal from VLS property under any of the following circumstances:

1. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
2. The animal is not housebroken;
3. The presence of an animal would require a fundamental alteration of the service, program, or activity of the school;
4. The animal unreasonably barks or makes other unreasonable vocalization or noises or destroys or damages school property; or
5. The animal shows aggression towards people or other animals

If the Service Animal is removed, the individual with a disability shall be provided with the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without the Service Animal.

## **G. DENIAL OF ACCESS AND GRIEVANCE**

If the Vice Dean for Students, the Director of Human Resources, or their designees deny a request for access of a Service Animal, the disabled individual can file a written grievance with the Vice Dean for Faculty or his/her designee. The Vice Dean for Faculty's decision will be final.

## **H. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This policy applies to all students who matriculate in the 2017-2018 academic year or after and all employees and guests of Vermont Law School as of the date of this policy. Students who were enrolled at Vermont Law School before the 2017-2018 academic year are not subject to this policy. Those students are subject to state and federal law and must follow the accommodations procedure set forth in Vermont Law School's Disability Policy.

Date: May 11, 2017

Date: August 8, 2019

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## **FACILITIES ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED STUDENTS**

### **DESIGNATED PARKING**

- Between Curtis House and Rogers House (3)
- Parking circle in front of Oakes Hall (3)
- Behind Abbott House (2)

### **FACILITIES ACCESSIBLE AT FIRST FLOOR (RAMP OR GROUND LEVEL ENTRY)**

- Abbott House (main entrance)
- Anderson House (rear entrance)
- Chase Center (through Chase Debevoise connector)
- Cornell Library (via halls to Chase Center, and ramp at front of library)
- Curtis House (street side and quad side of building)
- Eaton House (ramp at front of building)
- The Café (lift in hallway or back entry)
- Magic Mountain Day Care (ramp at front of building)
- Oakes Hall
- Debevoise Hall (driveway at the back of building and connector hallway at both ends)
- South Royalton Legal Clinic (front and back of building)
- Waterman Hall (main entrance)
- 190 Chelsea
- Fitness Center
- Student Center (Dearing House)
- Old School House

### **FACILITIES ACCESSIBLE ABOVE FIRST FLOOR**

- Debevoise Hall (elevator to all floors)
- Technology Department (lift in hallway)
- Library (elevator to all floors)
- Oakes Hall (elevator to all floors)
- Waterman Hall (elevators to all floors)
- Center for Legal Services (elevator to all floors)
- Old School House (has a lift)

### **ACCESSIBLE BATHROOM FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED ON EACH FLOOR OF THE LIBRARY, DEBEVOISE AND OAKES HALL AND THE FIRST FLOOR OF**

- Abbott House
- Curtis House
- Waterman Hall
- Old School House
- Student Center
- Center for Legal Services
- VLS Café
- Fitness Center

Any student who for reasons of physical disability is unable to meet in an office that is not accessible should contact that office to arrange to meet in an accessible location.

## **FINANCIAL AID POLICIES**

The cost of attendance at Vermont Law School is based on the amount needed to meet direct institutional costs and provide a moderate allowance for living expenses for a nine or 12-month academic year. Individual living and personal expenses may vary and costs in excess of the established allowances will have to be met from other sources. It should also be noted that the cost of attendance is related to your status as a student and cannot be increased to accommodate financial obligations beyond that status. The total of scholarship, loan, and work study funds that you receive cannot be more than the total Cost of Attendance. The Financial Aid Office has set student budgets that represent the amount of tuition and fees needed to attend Vermont Law School. Additional amounts are built into a student's budget to represent estimated expenses for health insurance, books, a modest cost of living allowance, including rent, utilities, food, and personal care expenses. Students are expected to live within the bottom line of the budget for the time period covered by their budget. Student living expenses are covered by the student expense budget only while they are actively attending classes.

## **BUDGET INCREASE POLICIES**

### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. In compliance with federal guidelines, the Office of Financial Aid has determined a cost of attendance that includes tuition, fees, books and supplies, living expenses, personal expenses, loan fees and transportation. While you may submit a budget adjustment request to increase your cost of attendance beyond standard allowances, the decision to approve or deny the adjustment is guided by professional judgment and federal guidelines
- 1.2. Effective March 13th, 2020: a new section has been added to address budget increase requests that are directly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These policies were written using guidance issued by the Department of Education under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Information on these policies can be found in section 7.

### **2. BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

- 2.1. Budget adjustments are for special and unusual expenses that differentiate the student from other students.
- 2.2. Submitting a request does not automatically ensure that your budget will be increased. Each submission is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.3. The Office of Financial Aid reserves the right to deny any and all budget increases.
- 2.4. A denial of some or all future types of budget adjustment requests may be made on a blanket basis based upon a student's individual circumstances.
- 2.5. This policy is for the purpose of documenting unusual, non-discretionary expenses that are directly related to your education.
- 2.6. The institution will take into account whether these expenses are special circumstances that differentiate you from the other students enrolled in the program.
- 2.7. If approved, a revision to your budget will not result in additional gift assistance but will increase your eligibility for loans.
- 2.8. An increase to your established student budget means you will be borrowing additional funds to cover the approved expenses. The loans borrowed would be in the form of additional Grad PLUS or private educational loans above the standard cost of attendance.
- 2.9. These are credit based loans and must be approved by the Department of Education or a private lender before Vermont Law School can process your request.

### **3. APPROVED TYPES OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS**

- 3.1. **Exceptional Circumstances**
  - 3.1.1. Emergency health care (medical, dental, psychological)
  - 3.1.2. Emergency automobile repair
  - 3.1.3. Psychological testing and disability accommodations
- 3.2. **Non-Standard Cost of Attendance Components**
  - 3.2.1. Dependent care
  - 3.2.2. Board examination
  - 3.2.3. One-time computer purchase
  - 3.2.4. One-time snow tire purchase and/or one-time summer tire purchase
  - 3.2.5. Travel home
- 3.3. **Semester in Practice/Off-Campus Exceptional Expenses**
  - 3.3.1. Adjustments for variations in standard Cost of Attendance Components



#### **4. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS**

- 4.1. Budget Worksheet Form.
- 4.2. A narrative statement regarding the reason for the request.
- 4.3. Receipts and documentation showing a paid expense incurred.
- 4.4. Copies of last three months bank statement.
- 4.5. As pertaining to emergency auto repair costs:
  - 4.5.1. Emergency Auto repairs allowed on one student vehicle only.
  - 4.5.2. Requests for routine or standard maintenance in order for the car to continue to run in working condition are not accepted.
  - 4.5.3. A statement/bill detailing the work performed, costs of the repairs, and the amount paid.
  - 4.5.4. The statement/bill must have the student's name as the customer.
  - 4.5.5. If the repair is the result of an accident, then the student must submit information on how much of the costs will be covered by insurance.
  - 4.5.6. Receipts paid for in cash will not be accepted unless the receipt has been signed by the company/person who performed the work.
- 4.6. As pertaining to unexpected health care costs
  - 4.6.1. Emergency out-of-pocket expenses for medical, dental, vision and prescriptions costs not covered by insurance.
  - 4.6.2. Cosmetic, diagnostic and elective procedures are not covered under this policy.
  - 4.6.3. Medical/dental receipt(s) must detail emergency procedure with the amount the student paid and the date the service was received.
- 4.7. As pertaining to psychological testing/disability accommodations
  - 4.7.1. Cost of disability testing.
  - 4.7.2. Cost of special services, personal assistance, transportation, equipment and supplies whose need is documented by a disability professional that are not provided by other agencies.
  - 4.7.3. Written documentation of disability and/or need for equipment, assistance, testing or supplies provided by disability professional.

#### **5. REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-STANDARD COST OF ATTENDANCE COMPONENTS**

- 5.1. Dependent care costs
  - 5.1.1. Students with children may incur additional expenses beyond the limits of the student budget.
  - 5.1.2. As a starting point for discussion purposes, \$3,000 per child per semester may be added to the budget.
  - 5.1.3. Because of the variability of expenses in this area, dictated both by age of the child and the type of day care available and/or preferred by the parent, students are encouraged to speak with the Financial Aid Director.
- 5.2. Bar Exam Costs
  - 5.2.1. One State exam fee may be included in the final year of a law student's budget.
  - 5.2.2. Students must submit the request in writing, stating the state in which the exam will be taken and the amount of the exam fee only.
- 5.3. Computer Purchase
  - 5.3.1. A one-time purchase of a computer is allowed while attending Vermont Law School.
  - 5.3.2. VLS has developed a standard reasonable cost to cover the cost of purchasing a computer, necessary software, and/or necessary repairs; student can receive up to \$2,000 for computer-related expenses during their time at VLS.
  - 5.3.3. The \$2,000 maximum is non-negotiable.
  - 5.3.4. Related items such as IPODs, computer software and warranties are not covered unless required for ADA accommodation (see 4.7.3).
- 5.4. Tire Purchase
  - 5.4.1. A one-time purchase of winter tires/installation is allowed while attending Vermont Law School.
  - 5.4.2. A one-time purchase of summer tires/installation is allowed while attending Vermont Law School.
  - 5.4.3. A statement/bill detailing the work performed, costs of the tires, and the amount paid.
  - 5.4.4. Receipts paid for in cash will not be accepted unless the receipt has been signed by the company/person who performed the work.
  - 5.4.5. The one-time maximum purchase for both winter and summer tires is non-negotiable; once a student has purchased one of each set of tires, she/he may not be eligible for an additional budget increase; no exceptions.
- 5.5. Travel home
  - 5.5.1. Once a semester a student may request a budget increase to cover costs to travel home.

- 5.5.1.1. The Financial Aid Office uses a flat-rate, standard calculation based on federal standard airfare rates by destination.
- 5.5.1.2. If a student's airfare ticket cost more than what is allowed, they will only be reimbursed for the flat-rate as set by the federal standard.
- 5.5.1.3. Students can be reimbursed for driving at the federal reimbursement rate, but miles are capped at 520 miles round trip.
- 5.5.2. Because of the variability of expenses in this area, dictated by where students may be travelling and the means of travel used, students are encouraged to speak with the Financial Aid Director.
- 5.5.3. Vacation expenses or personal leisure travel may not be considered in a budget increase request; students wishing to travel to a resort, on a cruise, attend a recreational event, etc., will be denied their request for additional funding.

## **6. SEMESTER IN PRACTICE, EXTERNSHIPS, AND OFF-CAMPUS STUDY EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES**

- 6.1. For students leaving Vermont to complete a Semester in Practice (SiP) or Externship, or in the Reduced-Residency program, there may be budget adjustments made to the standard Cost of Attendance components based on the area where the student will be living while away from VLS.
- 6.2. Students must provide copies of lease/rental agreements to show room and board expenses while away.
- 6.3. Students unable to sublet their South Royalton housing while away may request additional funds to offset any costs associated with maintaining both rentals.
  - 6.3.1. Students must document that they have tried working with the housing coordinator and put forth an effort to find someone to take over their lease while away.
- 6.4. Students will be given a budget increase for food/utilities based on average cost of living information in the area where they will be living; if it is not more than that of South Royalton, no increase will be awarded.
- 6.5. Cost of maintaining a car, parking/registering a car will not be considered.
- 6.6. Costs of public transportation that exceed the standard allocation can be considered provided there is documentation to support the request.
- 6.7. A one-time reasonable travel expense increase will be included to get to/from South Royalton to the SiP location.

## **7. COVID-19 AND BUDGET INCREASE REQUESTS**

- 7.1. Students who have documented COVID-19 related expenses who have maxed out their cost of living allocation for the semester may request a budget increase to help cover these expenses either through grant funding (if eligible - see section 7.2) or with federal loan funding. These expenses may include:
  - Computer equipment/upgrades for online learning
  - Printers/paper/ink
  - Alternative housing options if their current living situation is unsafe
  - Medical expenses/insurance co-pays
  - Travel expenses due to illness or family emergency
  - Loss of income due to a partner's loss of work
    - 7.1.1. Students may be asked to provide documentation to substantiate their requests, as we do with any other budget increase requests.
- 7.2. CARES Act Grant Funding
  - 7.2.1. Students who have unexpected expenses as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible to request federal grant funding to help pay for those expenses, so long as funding is still available. Requests to access these funds must be submitted through VLS' internal request system at: [vermontlaw.edu/community/alumni/covid-19-hardship-fund](https://vermontlaw.edu/community/alumni/covid-19-hardship-fund)
  - 7.2.2. To qualify for these funds, a student must have a valid FAFSA completed. Funds can only be used to pay for expenses directly related to disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus; these funds are not to be used to supplement a student's financial need outside of campus disruption caused COVID-19, such as loss of income or trouble paying for rent. Students who are experiencing additional financial need due to the pandemic may, however, still request additional loan funding through the budget increase request process to cover such expenses. These expenses might include cost of purchasing a laptop, a printer, and higher utility bills (high-speed internet, for example).

- 7.2.3. Students enrolled exclusively in our online program prior to March 13th will not qualify to receive these funds but can request a budget increase to request additional loan funds if the request falls within the expense categories outlined above.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL AID POLICIES**

- Financial aid offered by the school is awarded on the basis of financial need or merit. All students who apply and are eligible for assistance will be offered financial aid subject to availability of funds.
- To maintain eligibility for financial aid a student must be in good academic standing, attending Vermont Law School on at least a half-time basis and making satisfactory academic progress as determined by the school.
- All scholarships and financial aid will be awarded on an annual basis. Students are required to file a FAFSA each year to determine if the student will continue to qualify for federal aid.
- All awards received, including but not limited to: Fellowship, Tuition Waiver, or Stipend are included as anticipated Financial Aid, and will reduce any or all institutional scholarship previously awarded by Vermont Law School.
- All outside scholarships received by a student to attend Vermont Law School must be reported to the Financial Aid Office even though they may be received after aid from the school has been awarded. Federal regulations require the school to consider these resources in determining a student's total award.
- Vermont Law School reserves the right to review and modify the award based on changes of a student's financial or academic status or the availability of funds, at any time.
- Any funds received under the Federal Work Study, Federal Perkins Loan, or the Federal Direct Loan programs must be used solely for expenses related to attendance at Vermont Law School.
- If a student leaves school before completing the academic year, the student may be responsible for repayment of a pro-rated amount of any portion of aid payment made which cannot be reasonably attributed to meeting the educational expenses related to attendance at Vermont Law School. The amount of such repayment is to be determined on the basis of criteria set forth by the Secretary of Education.

## **FIRE SAFETY RULES**

Students and employees are prohibited from keeping or using firearms, fireworks, explosives, weapons (including but not limited to knives, pellet guns, air guns, spring-loaded or paintball guns), or other dangerous articles or substances. Activating a false fire alarm is strictly prohibited. Students and employees are not to tamper with or remove any fire or safety equipment, including but not limited to, smoke detectors, sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers, etc. Students and employees must vacate the building whenever the fire alarm system is activated.

## **FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES**

In the interest of the safety and peace of mind of students, employees, and visitors, Vermont Law School prohibits the possession and use of firearms, weapons, (including hunting weapons and bows), and explosives (as defined in Vermont Law) on all school property including, but not limited to, buildings, parking lots (including parked cars), common areas, school-owned residences, and at any school sponsored event or other law school related activities.

## **FITNESS CENTER POLICY**

Please refer to the link below for the Fitness Center Policy for an explanation of membership, procedures, regulations, and safety issues. All fitness center members are required to read the Fitness Center Policy before becoming members. Inquiries, requests, and concerns about the Fitness Center should be addressed to the Vice President for Finance and Administration. Any fitness center policy violations a member witnesses should be reported to the person at the desk or the Fitness Center Manager. Appeals regarding the Fitness Center Policy should be submitted to the Vice President for Finance and Administration on the second floor of Debevoise Hall who oversees the Fitness Center Manager. [vermontlaw.edu/resources](http://vermontlaw.edu/resources).

## **FOOD AND BEVERAGES IN LAW SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

No food is permitted in the Library, the Computer Lab, classrooms, or the Fitness Center. Beverages in nonspill containers are permitted in the Library, the Computer Lab, the classrooms, and the Fitness Center. There are food and beverage vending machines located in the side entryway of the Chase Center. No alcohol may be carried into or consumed in campus buildings, including outdoor areas at recreational events, with the exception of events that have received prior approval. (Refer to the Alcohol Policy in Miscellaneous Policies and Procedures.)

## FRAUDULENT OR DISHONEST CONDUCT POLICY

[vermontlaw.edu/resources/policies](http://vermontlaw.edu/resources/policies)

Vermont Law School's aspirations reflect our values (including being a community that values respect, integrity, innovation, openness, justice and responsibility, and promotes ethical decision-making). This policy and its related procedures reflect the desire to conduct the Law School's business ethically and with integrity. Vermont Law School will investigate any possible fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of Law School resources or property by faculty, staff, or students. Anyone found to have engaged in fraudulent or dishonest conduct is subject to disciplinary action by the Law School up to and including dismissal or expulsion, and civil or criminal prosecution when warranted. The VLS Fraudulent or Dishonest Conduct Policy and procedures are found at the link above. It is the responsibility of all faculty, staff, and students to read and follow this policy.

## FUNDRAISING AND SOLICITATION POLICIES

### FUNDRAISING POLICY

Raising money is always an important activity for student organizations. Many student organizations collect dues or have fundraisers to support their activities. Fundraisers range from simple (e.g., car washes and bake sales) to sophisticated (e.g., raffle and soliciting local businesses). In addition, the Student Bar Association funds dozens of student organizations each year, providing annual operating budgets, and special activity funds. When embarking on fund raising projects here are your options:

- I. **Raising money on campus** (use Student Group Information Event Request Form available in the Dean's Office)
  - A. EXAMPLES:
    1. Bake sales
    2. Selling merchandise (flowers, doughnuts, candy, etc.)
    3. Selling services (housekeeping, yard work, car washes)
    4. Rummage sales
    5. Raffles
    6. Events where admission is charged
    7. Selling concessions at events
    8. Auctions—on or off-campus—must be held at least two weeks apart and must be approved by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity
- II. **Off-campus fundraising must be approved by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity.**
- III. **Requesting funds from the Student Bar Association.**
  - A. EXAMPLES:
    1. SBA operational budgets
    2. Special activity funds
- IV. **Collecting dues from members.**
- V. **Cosponsoring programs with other organizations.** Look for VLS departments or other student organizations with a similar mission and pool resources to cosponsor events.
- VI. **Collecting Funds.** Students are not permitted to collect money for fundraisers via personal Venmo account. Money raised and collected from fundraisers may be collected in one of the following formats only:
  1. Cash or personal checks
    - a. Any cash or personal checks collected must be submitted daily to the Office of Student Affairs for a receipt.
    - b. Checks should be made payable to Vermont Law School with a note in the memo.
  2. Eventbrite
    - a. Eventbrite pages should be set up in coordination with the Events and Commencement Coordinator.
    - b. The Eventbrite Event ID must be recorded and tracked. The Business Office uses the Event ID to account for and transfer funds to the correct student group.
  3. Square
    - a. Student groups can check out an iPad and Square from the Office for Student Affairs and Diversity for the duration of the fundraiser.
    - b. Daily transaction reports will be submitted to the Business Office by the Office for Student Affairs and Diversity.

- c. The iPad and Square must be returned immediately following the end of the fundraiser, but no later than two days after the end of the fundraiser.

## **FUNDING THROUGH THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION**

There are two sources of funding from the Student Bar Association: annual operational budgets and special activity funds.

### **OPERATIONAL BUDGETS**

Operational budgets may be allotted to organizations to help supplement costs that were not met through fund raising. The SBA holds budget hearings near the beginning of each academic semester. Check your email for times and locations of meetings.

1. The Student Bar Association uses the following guidelines to determine if an organization is eligible for an operational budget and/or special activity funds.
  - a. Current and new student organizations must be properly recognized by the Student Bar Association may apply for an operational budget.
  - b. Funded organizations must have an open membership, whereby any enrolled student may be a member without a selection policy or process.
  - c. SBA shall not fund any activities, events, or organizations that do not adhere to VLS policies or procedures as stated in the Code of Conduct.

### **FINANCIAL RECORDS**

All student organizations with a bank account must keep accurate records of revenues and expenses. At the end of the Spring Semester, all student groups must complete the Annual Financial Summary form and submit to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. Revenue includes all fund raising, donations, membership fees, SBA funding, funds from external sources such as national sponsors, and VLS funding such as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity funding. Expenses include speaker fees, travel expenses, conference materials, food and alcohol, and supplies for fund raising purposes.

## **SOLICITATION POLICY**

The primary concern of Vermont Law School is the fostering of education and study. As one aspect of that process, Vermont Law School encourages participation by students, faculty, and staff in matters of public interest. This policy exists with three objectives in mind. The first is to allow Vermont Law School to continue its normal educational functions without undue interruptions. The second is to enable candidates, political parties and interest groups equitable and reasonable opportunity to solicit on campus. The third is to protect the individual rights of Vermont Law School community members, such as rights of privacy and personal security. Solicitation means the sale or offer for sale or sales promotion of any property or service and/or receipt of or request for any gift or contribution. It is with these considerations in mind that Vermont Law School promulgates the following policy.

### **STATEMENT OF POLICY**

1. LOCATION OF SOLICITATION:
  - a. Public areas - Public areas are those areas generally open to the public, which do not serve a specified educational, administrative, research, health, and campus dining, athletic, or recreational purpose.
  - b. Examples of public areas include outdoor walkways and building entryways and lobbies. Public areas are open to all forms of non-commercial solicitation during the normal operating hours of the Law School, all persons or organization who wish to engage in non-commercial solicitation are nonetheless required to follow the approval process outlined below.
2. SOLICITATION MUST BE CONDUCTED IN A WAY:
  - a. That will not disturb or interfere with the regular academic or institutional program being conducted on the campus.
  - b. That will not interfere with the free and unimpeded flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic or sidewalks, street, or entrances to the campus buildings or common areas of campus buildings.
  - c. That will not harass, embarrass, or intimidate the person or persons being solicited.

- d. Charitable fund-raising campaigns conducted on campus by individuals, student organizations or non-student campus groups must be approved by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.
  - e. Student organizations may solicit local vendors or merchants for donations only with prior approval from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Students should make it known that they are only representing their respective group and are not acting in any official capacity for Vermont Law School.
  - f. Student organizations and affiliated groups may solicit on campus only with the written approval of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. A properly completed Event Form must be submitted in advance. Approval will be granted under the following conditions. Event forms can be found on our website at [25live.collegenet.com/vermontlaw](https://25live.collegenet.com/vermontlaw).
    - (1) The primary purpose of such sales will be to raise money for the benefit of the campus group or for charitable cause.
    - (2) All solicitation must be conducted by and only by members of the affiliated group.
    - (3) Outside vendors are not permitted to conduct solicitation on behalf of student organizations. Solicitation must be conducted in space approved by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Other areas may be designated in special circumstances as determined by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.
    - (4) Activities authorized by the VLS administration involving the sale of goods or services including but not limited to activities of VLS.
    - (5) Bookstore personnel and representatives of education-supply firms are exempt from this policy.
    - (6) Event and Funding Request forms are available in the Dean's Office. Students are responsible for obtaining signatures before moving forward.
  - g. Students and student organizations may not solicit VLS alumni, trustees, or other individuals who are current donors. Students and student organizations wishing to make an inquiry to, or solicit, any foundation may do so only with the approval of VLS Director of Foundations.
3. RAFFLE GUIDELINES: It is lawful for tax-exempt organizations to conduct raffles in accordance with, but not limited to, the following regulations:
- a. A raffle is a lottery in which a prize is won by a random drawing of the name or number of one or more persons purchasing chances.
  - b. Most clubs and organizations operating under the auspices of VLS must claim tax-exempt status. The maximum cash prize for a raffle is \$10,000. There is a \$50,000 limit on the values of merchandise that may be offered.
  - c. No alcoholic beverages may be raffled.
  - d. An organization may sponsor only two raffles per year. (Exceptions are granted by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs).
  - e. Proceeds derived from the raffle may be expanded door prizes and operation of the raffle and religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational purposes.
4. APPEALS PROCEDURE:
- a. The student organization or group aggrieved by a decision covered by this section of the code is entitled to appeal to the President and Dean's Office by written notice on or before the fifth class day after the decision is announced. The notice shall contain in the student's or organizations' name and mailing address, a concise description of the complaint, the reason for disagreement with the decision, and the date the decision was announced.
  - b. When notice of the appeal is received, the President and Dean shall delegate responsibility for hearing that appeal. The delegate shall provide the student organization with an opportunity for a hearing and the person or organization shall be notified at least one day before the date of the hearing.
  - c. Decisions made by the President and Dean are final with no appeal.

## LICENSING AND USE OF VLS NAME AND TRADEMARK

Vermont Law School's federally registered trademark includes: "Vermont Law School," "VLS," the Vermont Law School logotype, the official Vermont Law School seal and design, and art and/or word(s) associated with or referring to Vermont Law School.

Everyone, including officially recognized student organizations, who wishes to use the names, marks, logotype, seals and/or symbols of Vermont Law School on products such as clothing, uniforms, or furniture, on publicity items distributed beyond campus, such as posters, flyers, or postcards, or other items (including letterhead, envelopes, forms, or publications) is required to obtain prior approval from the Communications Office. A PDF of "Vermont Law School Brand Standards," which includes logotype usage guidelines, may be found in **k/common/communications**.

## LOCKER POLICY

Vermont Law School provides a limited number of lockers for students to use during the academic year. Lockers are located on the first floor of the Oakes Classroom building and are assigned by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity.

Lockers are available on a first come, first served basis. Priority will be given to students with disabilities. An email announcement will go out when lockers are ready for rent. Please see Theresa Johnson, Assistant Director for Student Affairs if you have questions about lockers.

The cost for rental is \$10 per year. The funds collected will be used to maintain existing lockers and purchase additional lockers in future years.

Immediately after the final day of the academic year, it is the renters' responsibility to remove all belongings. Buildings and Grounds personnel will remove all contents three days after the close of the Academic Year.

## PARKING

- ENFORCEMENT

The administration of VLS expects that persons using the parking areas will use common sense and avoid parking in driveways, on grassed areas, or restricted areas that indicate no parking. Should enforcement action be necessary, the Vice President for Finance and Administration will determine appropriate action. Enforcement activities may include the placing of notes on windshields, the assessment of parking tickets, and, the towing of vehicles. Particular attention will be paid to abuse of handicapped spaces, visitor spaces, spots clearly marked no-parking, spots in front of fire hydrants, and any lots marked with no overnight parking signs.

- DISABLED PARKING

VLS attempts to establish an appropriate number of disabled persons parking spaces. Individuals wishing to use temporary handicapped parking may obtain the authorization from the Human Resources Office or the Office of Student Affairs and Diversity.

- DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS

The law school has refrained from creating large numbers of restricted parking areas. However, the areas between Rogers House and Curtis House are restricted to faculty, staff, and Admissions visitors only. Designated Car Pool spaces are located in the parking lot behind the Cornell Library. There are four electric charging stations located in the Oakes Hall lot and eight stations in the parking lot adjacent to the Cornell Library.

- OVERNIGHT PARKING

The law school does not allow overnight parking. It is the responsibility of landlords in the community to provide parking for their tenants associated with their facilities.

- EMERGENCY PARKING

In the case of hazardous driving conditions due to a snowstorm, limited parking will be available in the lot near the Eaton House. Cars must be removed within 12 hours after the storm ends.

- REPORTS OF DAMAGE

VLS is not responsible for damage to vehicles. During the winter months, persons should exercise caution in parking near buildings because of the potential for damage from falling



ice and snow. Damage to vehicles in parking lots is a matter for the vehicle owner and his or her insurance company. Any damage should be reported to the Vice President for Finance and Administration, and a Campus Incident Report Form should be completed. As a matter of courtesy, the administration expects that any person responsible for damage to another vehicle will seek the owner and report the damage.

## **PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY**

Peaceful assembly, picketing to petition for redress of grievances, and protest are cherished rights, particularly in an educational environment. These rights are not absolute and must be balanced against the rights of others to freedom of speech and passage as well as the safety of Vermont Law School students, employees, and invited guests. The democratic principle of open discussion and presentation of opinions, popular or unpopular, carries with it the obligation to allow all individuals to speak and to permit audiences to listen.

Peaceful assembly, picketing, or protests will be allowed on the Vermont Law School campus by students and employees as long as the activity does not block ingress or egress to the campus, to Vermont Law School facilities in general, or to specific buildings, rooms, or locations. Such activities will not be allowed if they disrupt classes, events, or the normal course of business. Abuse of persons or property or physical confrontations that deny freedom of passage or freedom of speech or that pose a threat of harm to persons or property have no rightful place in the Vermont Law School community and will not be tolerated on campus or at Vermont Law School sponsored events. Groups or persons not affiliated with Vermont Law School have no right to picket, protest, assemble, or solicit on the Vermont Law School campus.

Students who violate this policy or deny others the right to peaceful assembly shall be subject to the Vermont Law School Code of Conduct. Employees who violate this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary procedures.

## **POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS**

### **I. POLICY STATEMENT**

VLS's institutional participation or intervention in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office is strictly forbidden. VLS's officials, administrators, faculty, staff, and student representatives are not authorized to participate, in their official capacity, in any political activity in support of or in opposition to a candidate for public office. When making statements in their individual capacity, such persons must indicate clearly that they are not representing VLS.

Consistent with its mission, VLS promotes and encourages the discussion of legal, social and political issues, and the free expression of viewpoints and ideas. Thus, VLS will fully support and respect the First Amendment rights of the individual members of the VLS community. Nothing in this Policy shall limit the rights of students, faculty or staff to express their opinions or to engage in political activity when acting in their individual capacities and not as representatives of VLS.

### **II. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY: TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION RESTRICTIONS**

Under the Internal Revenue Code, VLS is absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. The prohibition applies to all campaigns including campaigns at the federal, state and local level. The purpose of this policy is to ensure VLS's compliance with the IRS restrictions by establishing guidelines and procedures for school-sponsored political activity.

### **III. APPLICABILITY OF POLICY**

All VLS students, faculty, staff, and student organizations. All VLS facilities, services and activities.

### **IV. ACTIVITIES COVERED BY POLICY**

For purposes of this policy, the term "political activity" is defined as any activity related to a candidate's political campaign for public office. The policy therefore affects lobbying, candidates' appearances on campus, voter registration drives, political rallies, fundraising events, dissemination of campaign materials, and publication of political statements.

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41 VLS reserves the right to exclude from participation any individual who has engaged in disruptive or inappropriate conduct at previous VLS events, or/and who may create a risk of harm to other attendants. The decision to exclude a candidate from a debate lies exclusively with the President and Dean.

## V. POLICY

### A. VLS shall not participate directly or indirectly in partisan political activity.

VLS may not engage in partisan political activity, therefore no person may engage in such activity in VLS' name or on its behalf.

#### 1. USE OF VLS'S NAME

Neither VLS's name nor seal may be used on letters or other materials intended for partisan political purposes. Whenever VLS's name appears as part of the name of a student organization, such as "VLS's Students for Candidate A," the organization must make clear that the opinions expressed are those of the individuals in the organization and not an official opinion of VLS or its trustees.

#### 2. USE OF VLS'S RESOURCES

VLS's offices, addresses, and email addresses may not be used as a return mailing address for partisan political mailings. VLS telephones may not be used for partisan political purposes. VLS's services, such as interdepartmental mail and mailing lists; equipment, such as copiers and facsimile machines; and supplies may not be used for partisan political purposes. No VLS employee may, as part of his or her job, be requested to perform tasks in any way related to partisan political purposes. This section shall not limit the right of SBA-recognized political groups to use campus resources for their internal operations and activities, such as meetings, events unrelated to a political campaign, and general communications.

#### 3. USE OF VLS'S EMAIL

Sending mass emails in support of or in opposition to a particular candidate is not permitted. Mass emails advertising a political event or otherwise addressing political issues are permissible, subject to the restrictions set on the Code of Conduct.

### B. VLS-Sponsored Political Events

1. A VLS-Sponsored political event must be in the format of a candidate forum or debate. At a minimum, all viable candidates<sup>41</sup> for a political office must be invited to participate, although VLS strongly encourages participation of all candidates. VLS must invite all candidates participating in the debate to any VLS or SBA sponsored social activity held in conjunction with the debate.

#### 2. PROCEDURES

- a. Organizers shall submit an Event form for approval. Please contact the Events Coordinator for applicable deadlines and additional information about scheduling requirements; see Event Planning in the Institutional Resources section of Student Handbook.
- b. Promotional materials advertising the event must not contain explicit or implicit endorsements of any particular candidate, position on an issue, or political party.
- c. At the beginning of the event, the following disclaimer should be read: "VLS does not endorse or oppose any political candidate or organization in connection with any campaign or election, and the use of the law school's facilities for this event should not be construed as the school's endorsement of, or opposition to, any candidate."
- d. Organizers are responsible for communicating with the political candidates or their organizations to ensure awareness of and compliance with VLS guidelines.

### C. Political Activity organized by student organizations.

SBA-recognized student organizations can either sponsor or host political events. A sponsored event is an event that receives any kind of financial support from the SBA or a SBA-recognized student group. Student organizations host an event when they invite a political organization or candidate to visit the VLS campus, but do not provide funding for the event. Because the conduct of a student group may be attributable to VLS, the following restrictions apply:

#### 1. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- a. Organizers must request approval from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity for any kind of political event. Contact the Dean's Office for the appropriate forms and applicable deadlines.

- b. Organizers are responsible for communications with the political candidates or their organizations to ensure awareness of and compliance with VLS guidelines.
- c. Fundraising events are prohibited.
- d. On campus voter education, voter registration, and “get out the vote” drives must be non-partisan.
- e. When in doubt about whether an event complies with VLS rules, **do not guess**; contact the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity for further assistance.

**2. POLITICAL EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE SBA OR BY ANY SBA-RECOGNIZED STUDENT GROUP**

- a. Events fully or partially financed by the SBA or an SBA-recognized student group must comply with the following guidelines.
- b. Promotional materials advertising the event must not contain explicit or implicit endorsements of any particular candidate, position on an issue, or political party.
- c. The event must be in the format of a candidate forum or debate in which all viable candidates for a political office are invited to participate.
  - i. VLS or SBA-sponsored receptions and other social activities held in conjunction with the debate must include all candidates participating in the debate. If several student organizations organize the event, it is permissible to reserve different rooms for separate candidate “meet and greet” time at the conclusion of the general debate, so long as all candidates are provided with similar facilities, for an equal amount of time, and the activity is open to all.
  - ii. At the beginning of the event, the following disclaimer should be read: “This event is sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_. The SBA and VLS do not endorse or oppose any political candidate or organization in connection with any campaign or election, and the use of the law school’s facilities for this event should not be construed as the school’s endorsement of, or opposition to, any candidate.”
  - iii. Costs, Expenses, Fees and Honoraria: VLS will waive any facilities rental charge, but the sponsoring group will be responsible for other costs and expenses. Admission must be free.
  - iv. Event organizers are responsible for contacting the candidates’ campaign officials, to ensure compliance with these rules.

**3. HOSTED EVENTS:** Student organizations may host, but not sponsor, political events in a format other than that described in 2(b)(i) Only under the following conditions:

- a. Funding
  - i. The event shall not be financed with funds from any SBA-recognized group, the SBA or VLS.
  - ii. The political candidate or political organization is responsible for facilities rental charges and all costs associated with the event, such as catering, security services, and audio-visual equipment set-up and operation. See the Event Scheduler for applicable rental fees. Again, payment for these costs cannot be made with any funds from any VLS or SBA-related account.
  - iii. Absolutely no fund-raising may occur during the event. The political candidate or political organization may charge as an admission fee only the amount necessary to cover reasonable costs of the event.
- b. Promotional materials advertising the event may not state that VLS or the SBA endorse the invited political candidate or political organization. The promotional material must disclose the event’s sponsor.
- c. At the beginning of the event, the following disclaimer should be read: “This event is sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_. The use of VLS’s facilities for this event does not constitute an endorsement. VLS does not endorse or oppose any political candidate or organization in connection with any campaign or election.”
- d. Partisan registration activities during the event must occur within the space rented for the event. Setting tables or boards elsewhere on the VLS campus is not permitted.

- e. Organizers are responsible for communicating with the political candidates or their organizations to ensure awareness of and compliance with VLS guidelines.

**4. VLS AND SBA-SUPPORTED PUBLICATIONS**

- a. Political editorials in *The Forum* or other VLS and SBA-supported publications are not restricted. Faculty and staff must clearly state that the views expressed are their own, and not those of VLS.
- b. Bulletin boards for political expression are available on an equal basis to all political groups recognized by the SBA.
- c. The policies of VLS and SBA-supported publications regarding political advertising must be nonpartisan: either advertising is made available to all candidates on an equal basis, or is made unavailable to all.
- d. Voter guides are documents or charts intended to help voters compare candidates on a set of issues. Because these guides carry a high risk of noncompliance with federal rules, the use of VLS or SBA funds or facilities in the preparation and distribution of voter guides requires previous approval by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Diversity.

**5. LOBBYING**

Lobbying or attempting to influence federal, state, or local legislative action or a legislative or administrative official or staff member by using VLS’s name may only be authorized by VLS’s President or his designee. Permission from the Office of the President is necessary to ensure that any lobbying activity is conducted in compliance with applicable law. This policy should not be interpreted as hindering VLS’s faculty, staff or students’ efforts to individually attempt to influence the legislative process and use their VLS titles for identification so long as each such action is accompanied by a statement that the person is speaking as an individual and not as a VLS representative.

**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY AND SAFETY INFORMATION**

We encourage everyone to be mindful of the need to exercise prudence with respect to your personal safety at all times on and off campus. Faculty, staff and students must complete a Campus Incident Report Form if a victim of theft, assault, or property damage on campus, or witness a crime on campus. Questions related to campus public safety can be addressed to the Vice President for Finance.

**VLS SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Vermont Law School has a Safety Committee comprised of staff, faculty, and student representatives. The committee’s primary mission is to assist the administration in developing programs, policies, and procedures that address safety and security concerns. The committee is responsible for emergency evacuation plans, campus first-aid kits, scheduling fire drills, and arranging various trainings. All members of the VLS community are encouraged to share safety or security concerns or requests with any member of the Safety Committee. Students interested in joining the committee should contact Shirley Jefferson, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity.

**CAMPUS SAFETY INFORMATION**

For further campus safety information please go to:  
[portal.vermontlaw.edu/VLS/Pages/Campus-Safety.aspx](http://portal.vermontlaw.edu/VLS/Pages/Campus-Safety.aspx).

**CALLING 911**

When calling 911 or the Royalton Police Department at 802-763-7776, use the following building numbers and street addresses to ensure that respondents arrive at the proper on-campus location.

BUILDING NAME	ADDRESS
Abbott House	168 Chelsea Street
Anderson House	38 North Windsor Street
Anderson Barn	38 North Windsor Street
Barrister’s Book Shop	190 Chelsea Street
Center for Legal Services	190 Chelsea Street
Chase Community Center	166 Chelsea Street

Cornell Library	43 Cornell Street
Curtis House	40 North Windsor Street
Davis House - Magic Mountain	114A North Windsor Street
Davis House - Radio Station	114B North Windsor Street
Davis House - B&G Shop	114C North Windsor Street
Dearing Barn	182 Chelsea Street
Dearing House - Student Center	182A Chelsea Street
Dearing House - 2nd Floor	182B Chelsea Street
Debevoise Hall	164 Chelsea Street
Eaton House	153 Chelsea Street
Eaton House Barn	155 Chelsea Street
Fitness Center	172 Cameron Way
Jacobs House - 1st Floor	150A Chelsea Street
Jacobs House - 2nd Floor	150B Chelsea Street
Oakes Hall	29 Cameron Way
Old Schoolhouse	22 North Windsor Street
Pierce House	159 Chelsea Street
Rogers House	15 Cornell Street
Vermont Law Review	25 Cornell Street
Waterman Hall	158 Chelsea Street
VLS River Parking Lot	2459 VT Route 14

Please remember that VLS is our community and we can all help make our campus safer. If you have concerns or questions, feel free to contact the Vice President for Finance.

## REPORTING FOR CHARACTER AND FITNESS

As a gateway to the legal profession, Vermont Law School holds applicants and students to a high standard of professional and ethical conduct. Vermont Law School reviews your answers to questions asked on your law school application and other outside entities may review these answers as well as part of your admission to the bar or job application process. For instance, the board of bar examiners in the jurisdiction where you sit for the bar will conduct an in-depth background search. During that search, it will review your law school application as well as other materials. Some jobs (especially government positions) may also review your law school application as part of their security clearance.

Although a court order may have expunged, dismissed, or vacated a charge or conviction from your record, you may wish to disclose these charges or convictions on your Vermont Law School application. The Vermont Board of Bar Examiners does not require you to disclose criminal convictions that have been expunged or sealed. However, many other jurisdictions may compel these disclosures when applying for the bar and then raise concerns about why you declined to make the disclosure when applying to law school.

The Vermont Law School application asks the following questions related to character and fitness:

1. Have you ever, as an adult or as a juvenile, been charged with, arrested for, or convicted of a violation of any civil or criminal law, other than a parking violation or a speeding ticket?
2. Are any civil or criminal charges pending against you?
3. Has any educational institution, governmental or administrative agency (including any branch of the Armed Forces), or employer ever taken disciplinary action (including academic probation or suspension) against you?

You have a continuing duty to respond to these questions during law school. If you realize you neglected to report an incident on the application form after you are enrolled at Vermont Law School, you should report it immediately to the Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing, and Communications

as an “amendment to application.” If an incident occurs while you are enrolled as a student at Vermont Law School, you must report it immediately to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. The board of bar examiners or potential employer will often view your failure to disclose as more serious than the incident itself. It is not unusual for a board of bar examiners to place your application on hold for over a year while it conducts more in-depth investigations and hearings.

Please contact John Miller, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing, and Communications; or Shirley Jefferson, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity if you have any questions or concerns.

## **SMOKING**

To comply with Vermont law, public health, and fire precautionary measures required for insurance purposes, smoking is prohibited inside all VLS buildings. VLS offers a designated smoking area located outside that is easily accessible and centrally located with cigarette butt depositories. The designated areas is:

- The back lawn behind Oakes Hall where the crab apple trees and outdoor seating is located.

The success of this policy will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers. All persons share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Please refrain from throwing cigarettes on the ground for the benefit of the campus.

For students, faculty, and staff who smoke and who are trying to quit, Vermont Law School partners with the Vermont Smoke Free Campus Initiative and 802 Quits to provide free tools and resources that can double your chances of quitting successfully. Find more information on the available resources at [802quits.org](http://802quits.org) and 1-800-784-8669.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

The Vermont Law School Information Technology Department is responsible for implementing and maintaining technology resources in support of the school’s educational mission. This document describes the technology resources available to you as a student and institutional policies related to the use of these resources.

Vermont Law School community members are entitled to access the VermontLaw campus network with an authenticated login. Email is the official form of communication within the VLS Community and each member is provided an account. Other rights, privileges, and resources may be made available to members of the VLS community in support of its educational mission. Issues with these policies may be brought to the attention of the Deans’ office, the Human Resources office or the Information Technology Department for discussion, improvement, or adjudication as appropriate. The Vermont Law School network and computer systems are the property of Vermont Law School. Student, Faculty and Staff use of the network and these systems is a privilege, not a right.

IT makes every effort to communicate changes in technology resources and policies to the VLS community. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with school policies related to the use of VLS technology resources. Policy violations will be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity for review and, as appropriate, disciplinary action.

VLS is subject to laws and regulations and is obligated to provide information related to student, faculty, and staff use of the school’s technology resources, such as email, to third parties who have the legal right to request it (e.g., law enforcement agencies). In addition, VLS may review information stored to school systems for the purposes of ensuring the effective and efficient operation of the institution.

## **POLICY SANCTIONS**

Violation of policies may result in suspension or termination of computer, network account, and other access. Depending upon the circumstances, violation may also result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, academic expulsion or employment termination. Policy violations will be processed through normal VLS channels. If the activity is also unlawful, it may result in criminal prosecution.

1. IT can immediately suspend all computing privileges of any student who engages in inappropriate computer use activities.
2. If suspended, privileges will remain suspended until a review of the incident has been completed by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity and a decision has been made about the imposition of additional sanctions or further action.

3. Suspected violations by students will be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity and may be subject to the Code of Conduct.

Sanctions for violations of this policy will be imposed by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity. Final responsibility for resolution of the disciplinary process may include consultation with IT. VLS reserves the right to seek restitution and/or indemnification from a student for damage(s) arising from violations of this policy. In addition, VLS and/or third parties may pursue criminal and/or civil prosecution for violations of law.

Students agree to read and abide by this policy and its administrative interpretation as they may be amended from time to time. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity is responsible for providing administrative interpretation, which will be modified periodically in light of experience gained and legal and administrative developments. Users are responsible for reviewing this policy and its administrative interpretation on a routine basis.

## **INTERNET, NETWORK, AND WIRELESS**

### **Internet access**

VLS provides access to the Internet to Students, Faculty, Staff, and guests of the institution for both academic and personal use. Public Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are a regulated industry subject, amongst other laws, to Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) terms, and VLS must make every effort to not be construed as a public Internet Service Provider so as to avoid being subject to these regulatory terms.

### **Internet Usage Policy**

- Using VLS technology resources to access the Internet (including but not limited to social media) you are subject to VLS technology policies and the VLS Code of Conduct in addition to any applicable local, state, and federal laws. Inappropriate use (or the suspicion of inappropriate use) of the Internet will be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity for review and, as warranted, disciplinary action.

### **PRIVATE WIRELESS NETWORK**

VLS maintains a private, secure, campus-wide wireless network for student use, broadcast as VermontLaw. Your network account username (the part of your VLS email address before the '@' symbol) and password are required to access the wireless network. VermontLaw wireless network is available indoors campus-wide.

### **GUEST WIRELESS ACCESS**

VLS provides a wireless network for personal use by members of the VLS community and guests of the institution, broadcast as VLS-Guest. Accessing this network does not require a VLS username or password. The VLS-Guest wireless network does require the acceptance of a terms-of-usage statement. VLS-Guest wireless network is available indoors campus wide.

### **Ad Hoc Wireless Broadcast Policy**

- If it is determined that a personal, ad hoc wireless network or wireless 'hot spot' is impacting the performance of the VLS wireless network, the student will be requested to stop using the device. Failure to comply will result in being reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity for review and, as warranted, disciplinary action.
- If it is determined that a personal communication device (including cell phones) is being used to intentionally mimic VLS networks in order to hijack, intercept or manipulate legitimate client traffic, VLS reserves the right to utilize technical mechanisms of its own to contain the device. Failure to comply will result in being reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity for review and, as warranted, disciplinary action.

### **NETWORK FILE STORAGE**

As a student, you may request a personal folder to be created for you on the network which you may use to securely store your education-related files, documents, etc.

### **Network Storage Policy**

- Network storage shall not be used as a 'full backup' for computers or other personal devices.
- Network storage shall not be used for the storage of personal multi-media files (music, movies, photos.) Reasonable storage of multi-media storage files for academic purposes is permitted. If more than 5Gb of space is needed, please contact IT.
- O365 OneDrive is available as well. Please refer to Software section.



## EMAIL

Email is an official form of communication at VLS and all school-related email is sent to your VLS email account. The secure @vermontlaw.edu address is the official email of Vermont Law School, and is used by the Law School to convey official information. If a student contacts the institution from any other email address requesting information or discussing academic matters, the student will be deemed to have waived any right to security in such communication with the Law School—or from the Law School in response—which would otherwise be afforded under this policy, or state or federal law regarding electronic communication.

The use of VLS email is a privilege and should be regarded as such. The privilege of using the email system may be revoked. When using VLS email, you are not only bound by any official school policy, but also by local, state, and federal laws relating to electronic media, copyrights, privacy, and security. Email is a legal document and may be subpoenaed.

VLS has adopted Microsoft Exchange and Outlook as the school's email system. Your VLS email can be accessed from the VLS network or anywhere you have Internet access. If you would like information or instructions on setting up or accessing your VLS email account from a personal device please contact IT. Not all devices support synchronizing with a Microsoft Exchange account.

### Email Policy

- VLS reserves the right to review any and/or all emails passing through the school's servers and networks.
- **Email accounts remain available to students for a period of one-year following graduation, at which time the account is removed from the school's email system.**
- Vermont Law School's Honor Code, Code of Conduct, and the Policy Against Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation found in the Student Handbook, apply to all uses of email.
- Vermont Law School Students are not allowed to send email messages to All-Staff, All-Faculty, and All-Student email groups unless specially permitted. They are, however, allowed to submit those messages they would like to share with the All groups to designated members of the student community (including but not limited to SBA Executive Board, Senate, and Committee Members as well as SBA Groups [three members selected by the group]) who have permission to send to All groups, or in the case of immediacy, request assistance in sending an email from a member of staff or faculty.
- Those members of the student body who do have permission to send to those All groups are required to make use of the BCC or blind copy feature ONLY when sending to them.

### General Guidelines

VLS has developed guidelines to ensure that use of email is appropriate and efficient. While VLS rejects any form of censorship, behavior that constitutes misconduct may result in sanctions. Please consider the following rules when composing any message:

1. Use professional and respectful language and comportment at all times when addressing any other group or individual. Respect the rights of others.
2. Identify yourself clearly at all times. Email may embolden the user. Be very certain about what you want to say in your message. Think about the tone your message conveys. Never say anything via email that you wouldn't say in person to the party with whom you are communicating. The environment of email is so immediate that messages sent in haste or anger should be carefully considered before sending.
3. The 'Subject' line must be clear and accurate at all times.
4. Email is a tool. It is your responsibility to use this tool in a manner that does not disrupt the efficient workings of the system and its users, or cause the system to fail. Any action that compromises the system's security or function is expressly prohibited.
5. Commercial use. Using the VLS email system for commercial use and/or personal gain is prohibited. Do not send "everyone" messages that advertise projects, items or services for sale.
6. Lobbying, supporting legislation, sending email that expresses your opinions/beliefs. When sending email that is intended to express your support or disagreement with a particular issue outside the VLS system (governmental action, piece of legislation, etc.) you must clearly and immediately make a statement that identifies your comments as clearly your own and that they do not represent the opinions of Vermont Law School. Your statement should be similar to the following: "The opinions or statements expressed herein are my own and should not be taken as a position, opinion, or endorsement by Vermont Law School." Please refer to the Student Handbook under the "Political Activity" heading for more information.

## CAUTIONS AND NETIQUETTE

### Users should be aware of the following:

- Electronic mail is considered to be a legal document, and as such, may be subpoenaed.
- Although you may have deleted a piece of e-mail from your account (that you sent), it may still reside in the account of any person you sent it to.
- Unless marked private, electronic mail may be forwarded to other persons, regardless of whether your intent was that the message was private. Breaches of confidentiality may be in violation of the Honor Code or Code of Conduct.
- Forwarded mail may be modified by a person other than the sender.
- It is possible to receive mail that has not been sent from the person the sender is listed as. If you are in doubt as to the authenticity of the sender of a particular piece of e-mail, please check with the 'sender' to verify the authenticity.
- No one other than the System Administrator may access another person's directory space, account, or mailbox without permission or proxy rights.
- Some users automatically filter 'Everyone' messages, so be aware that an 'Everyone' message might not be read by everyone.
- Using capital letters is akin to yelling.
- Type your name or initials at the end of text to indicate the end of a message.
- No flaming, maintain a civil dialogue at all costs in a public forum.
- VLS administration reserves the right to review all email messages via VLS computers.
- Email is the official communication mechanism of Vermont Law School and is subject to all VLS policies.

## SOFTWARE

### Personal Productivity Software

Students are free to use productivity software of their choice; however, VLS has standardized on Windows 10 and Microsoft Office. Office 365 Education is a suite of productivity applications offered to the Vermont Law School community. This is offered free for Students who are currently enrolled. Includes:

- a. Word
- b. Excel
- c. PowerPoint
- d. OneNote
- e. Teams
- f. 1 TB of OneDrive Storage

Office 365 includes applications that can be downloaded and installed on your personal computer.

## ACADEMIC SOFTWARE

You may have the option or be required by your professor to use your personal computer to take exams. Exam software is supported by a professor's academic assistant. It is not supported by IT. See Use of Laptops in Classrooms for detailed information and acceptable-use policies.

## COMPUTER LABS

General use computer labs are located in Chase Center Computer Lab and Cornell Library Computer Lab. In addition to network printers, the labs provide computers with VLS-approved software for use by students on a first come, first served basis. There are program specific computers in the legal clinics. If you require accommodations, please contact IT to make arrangements.

### VLS Managed Computers Policy

- It is against policy to install, maliciously manipulate or remove software or hardware from computers owned and operated by VLS. This includes but is not limited to computers and printers in the Cornell Library Lab, Chase Center Computer Lab, SRLC and EAC labs, Law Review and VJEL locations. Monitors, keyboards and mice are not to be moved or disconnected.

## SERVICE AND SUPPORT

### Support for Personal Computers/Devices

Students are free to use a computer of their choice while a student at VLS and the IT Department provides 'best effort' personal computer support. However, it is impracticable for VLS to provide in-depth hardware and/or software support for the variety of devices students bring to campus. Support for student personal computers and devices are provided on a 'best-effort' basis, generally 15-20 minutes. Many computer issues can be resolved quickly. However, if the IT Department staff determines that a problem cannot be resolved in 15-20 minutes, and

requires more in-depth troubleshooting and/or warranty support, you will be provided with a list of local computer dealers that are familiar with your particular brand of computer. A local computer dealer may offer special service rates for VLS students, so be sure to ask.

#### **Personal Computer Support Policy**

- Personal computers or other personal devices that connect to the VLS campus area network must have installed up-to-date software for identifying and remediating malicious software.
- If it is determined that a device is infected with malicious software, the device will be denied access to the network.

#### **TECHNOLOGY SERVICE REQUEST**

A technology service request is normally required when seeking assistance related to your personal technology. The purpose of the service request is to help us clarify your particular problem and to ensure that an IT staff member is available to help you. To submit a technology service request, send an email to: [helpdesk@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:helpdesk@vermontlaw.edu). A ticket will automatically be generated.

If you have an emergency, please walk in or call the IT Department. An emergency is considered to be a technology problem that prevents you from using either your personal computer or a lab computer to complete required academic work. The IT department reserves the right to determine whether a given situation meets the definition of an emergency.

#### **AUDIO / VISUAL SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

AV staff provides on-campus service and support for events directly related to the educational mission of Vermont Law School. Please check the VLS Event webpage for up to date information.

Periodically you may require audio-video services as part of your coursework or other VLS-sanctioned activities. For audio-video support, send an email to [AVRequests@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:AVRequests@vermontlaw.edu) for availability of specific audio-video services.

- AV setup requests, equipment loan requests, or revisions to a prior request must be submitted three business days prior to the event. Insufficient notice requests (requests made less than three days' notice) are considered low priority and may not be completed.
- There will be no A/V support for student events taking place off-campus.

#### **SUPPORT AND PRIORITY OF SERVICE**

Requests are given priority based on the amount of notice given. Support from VLS A/V staff is available under the following conditions (unless otherwise specified):

- Equipment requiring support is owned by VLS and coordinated by A/V staff.
- Event support as prearranged using the request methods above.
- Classroom and teaching events are always given priority over student groups or organizations.

#### **SETUPS**

A/V setups requests for student organizations may be provided during normal business hours only. A/V technicians are unable to accept setup requests during major events, including but not limited to:

- Admissions visit days or other admissions events
- Commencement, including the week prior to commencement
- Alumni reunion weekend
- Orientation and matriculation week
- Convocation and first week of classes

#### **AFTER HOURS**

Outside of normal business hours student organizations may request to borrow certain A/V equipment for on-campus use and directly related to the educational mission of Vermont Law School. Regardless of whether equipment is available, requestors should reserve a room on-campus already equipped with technology if possible. When equipment is borrowed for afterhours use, the following conditions apply:

- Support may or may not be available – do not expect support.
- Failure to return equipment in good working order and in a timely fashion will result in suspended A/V privileges for that student organization. Organizations may be charged for repair or replacement of damaged or missing equipment.

- After hours A/V equipment requests require at least three business days advance notice and are subject to review. These requests may not be fulfilled if this requirement is not met.
- Equipment requests must be submitted by email to AVrequests@vermontlaw.edu.
- Requests will receive a response/confirmation with indication of equipment availability.
- Availability of equipment will be determined based on priority need and determined by the A/V staff.

### **MEDIA DUPLICATION**

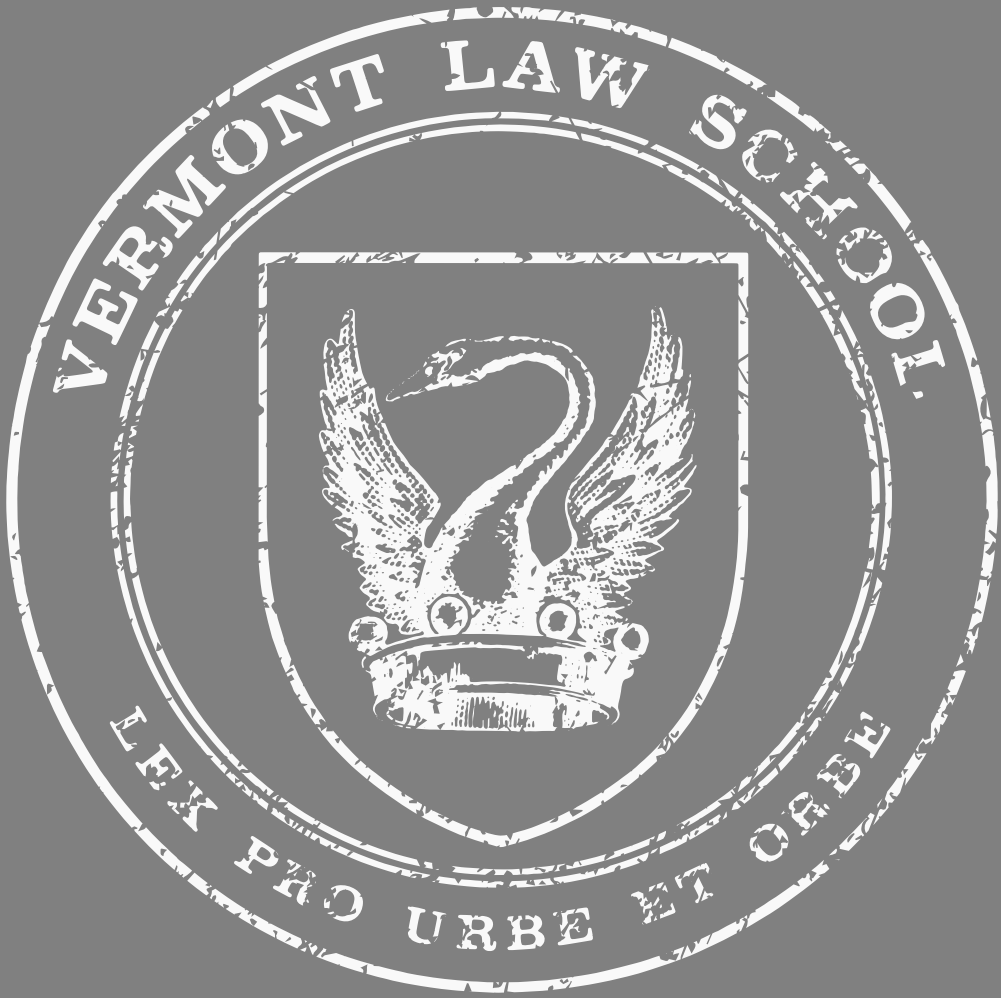
The Technology Department offers limited DVD and CD duplication. Additionally, we can transfer from DVD to VHS and from VHS to DVD. When bringing the originals to Technology for duplication, please bring blank media with you. **Technology does not provide video or audio editing services for student groups;** media is copied "as is."

### **MEDIA RELEASE POLICY**

Vermont Law School

While on campus, Vermont Law School students, faculty, and staff are regularly featured in multimedia and publicity materials produced by the Communications Office at Vermont Law School. Such materials may include still photography, video and audio recordings, publications, press releases, presentations, and other productions that involve the use of student, faculty, and staff names, likenesses, or voices. Such materials may be edited, copyrighted, copied, and distributed by the Communications Office to promote Vermont Law School. They may be used in print, online, including on the Vermont Law School website, and on Vermont Law School social media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and other platforms.

If you do not wish to be included in multimedia and publicity materials produced by the Communications Office at Vermont Law School, please contact the Associate Director Marketing, Angie Campbell at: [acampbell@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:acampbell@vermontlaw.edu), ext. 1071.



# LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

## LOCAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Information in this section is listed alphabetically.  
Please refer to the Table of Contacts if you are looking for something specific.

### BOOK STORES

<p><b>BARRISTER'S BOOK SHOP</b></p> <p>Barrister's Book Shop is the Vermont Law School bookstore, located on Chelsea Street. Barrister's specializes in law books and related materials. They also offer coffee, tea, and specialty drinks, as well as newspapers, gifts, and VLS imprinted clothing. Open Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p>802-763-7170 <a href="http://barristers.vermontlaw.edu">barristers.vermontlaw.edu</a> South Royalton, VT</p>
<p><b>BEAR POND BOOKS</b></p>	<p>802-229-0774 Montpelier, VT</p>
<p><b>DARTMOUTH BOOKSTORE</b></p>	<p>603-643-3616 Hanover, NH</p>

### BUSINESS CARDS

<p><b>WHITMAN COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p>Whitman Communications in Lebanon, New Hampshire, is the publisher authorized to use the VLS logo and template for student business cards. The standard production time is three business days.</p>	<p>603-448-2600 <a href="http://puritanpress.com/whitman">puritanpress.com/whitman</a> Lebanon, NH</p>
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### CABLE/SATELLITE TV AND INTERNET

Most of the towns in this region are covered by a cable television company. If you live outside of town, your only hope may be a satellite dish. To find out about the TV opportunities in your area, talk to your landlord or call your town clerk.

<p><b>CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS</b></p>	<p>855-479-6984</p>
<p><b>COMCAST</b></p>	<p>800-934-6489</p>
<p><b>CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS (FAIRPOINT)</b></p>	<p>866-984-2001</p>
<p><b>DIRECTV</b></p>	<p>888-777-2454</p>
<p><b>DISH NETWORK</b></p>	<p>800-333-3474</p>
<p><b>EC FIBER</b></p>	<p>802-763-2262</p>

### CARS AND CAR REPAIR

#### CAR REPAIR

<p><b>IDEAL PERFORMANCE</b></p>	<p>802-763-2499 Royalton, VT.</p>
<p><b>JAS AUTO BODY</b></p>	<p>802-296-2500 White River Junction, VT</p>
<p><b>JASMIN AUTOBODY</b></p>	<p>802-295-7572 White River Junction, VT</p>
<p><b>JIFFY LUBE</b></p>	<p>603-298-5019 West Lebanon, NH</p>
<p><b>JONNY'S AUTOMOTIVE</b></p>	<p>802-889-9439 Tunbridge, VT</p>
<p><b>MIDAS MUFFLER AND BRAKE SHOP - FULL SERVICE</b></p>	<p>603-298-8741 West Lebanon, NH</p>

NORTHEAST FOREIGN CARS, INC.	802-295-9570 White River Junction, VT
SOUTHEND AUTO	802-728-5666 Randolph, VT

### TOWING SERVICES

BLAKEMAN'S TOWING RECOVERY & REMOVAL (AAA)	802-291-1991 South Royalton, VT
CLASSIC AUTO REPAIR AND TIRE	802-359-3318 Sharon, VT

### CHILDREN

Kids Vermont is a free monthly newspaper available locally at RB's Deli and other locations. Their website [kidsvt.com/](http://kidsvt.com/) includes events lists and under Family Resources has a deep library of links to resources including recreation, education, summer camps, shopping, maternity info and children's classes from ballet to tae kwon-do.

### CHILD CARE RESOURCES

State of VT: Bright Futures, accredited child care list, [dcf.vermont.gov/childcare/parents](http://dcf.vermont.gov/childcare/parents).

Vermont Family Network has extensive resources for parents of children with special needs, [vermontfamilynetwork.org](http://vermontfamilynetwork.org).

For information regarding services for children who qualify for Title 1 care, call the Superintendent's office in South Royalton at 802-763-8840.

### CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

The following is a sampling of local daycare providers. Fees vary. Plan to visit each facility and talk to both parents and teachers to determine whether the facility is appropriate for your child.

CHILDCARE CENTER IN NORWICH Nursery through age four and after-school program	802-649-1403 Norwich, VT <a href="http://childcarenorwich.org">childcarenorwich.org</a>
FIT KIDS CHILDCARE AT RIVER VALLEY CLUB Infant through kindergarten	603-643-8650, Ext. 105 Lebanon, NH <a href="http://rvcfitkids.com">rvcfitkids.com</a>
GREEN MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S CENTER Ages six weeks to four years old	802-296-2296 White River Junction, VT <a href="http://gmccvt.org">gmccvt.org</a>
MAGIC MOUNTAIN DAY CARE CENTER Ages six weeks to six years old	802-763-7908 South Royalton, VT <a href="http://magicmountainchildrenscenter.com">magicmountainchildrenscenter.com</a>

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### COMPOSTING

You can drop off food scraps generated at your home at the **Bethel/Royalton Transfer Center**. If you would like set up a home-composting system, you can purchase equipment from them.

BETHEL/ROYALTON TRANSFER CENTER	802-763-2232 122 Waterman Road Royalton, VT
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#### RECYCLING AND TRASH

CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC	802-797-4153 White River Junction, VT
ROGER VESPER TRUCKING	802-763-8298 South Royalton, VT



**TO DROP OFF YOUR OWN MATERIALS, VISIT**

BETHEL/ROYALTON TRANSFER CENTER Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Saturday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$3/bag trash; free clean, sorted recycling for Bethel and Royalton residents.	802-763-2232 122 Waterman Road Royalton, VT
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**REDEMPTION CENTERS**

BOB’S M&M BEVERAGE Collect and return your bottles and cans with the “VT-5¢” or “VT-10¢” label.	802-728-9197 4 Salisbury Street Randolph, VT
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**COMPOSTING, RECYCLING, REDEMPTION, AND TRASH SERVICES**

**COMPOSTING**

VLS collaborates with local farmers in South Royalton to compost the food waste on campus. Compost bins for food waste generated at VLS are located in The Café and Chase Center. VLS does not accept off-campus food waste in its composting bins.

**RECYCLING**

VLS participates in Zero-Sort recycling. On campus, you can recycle all plastics #1-#7, paper, glass, and metals. No sorting is required, and recycling bins are located throughout campus. Hard to recycle items such as Brita water filters and personal care products can be recycled in the blue bin by the vending machines outside of the Chase Center. Personal Care products include: hair care tubes and bottles, skin care tubes and bottles, make-up, and make-up packaging.

**REDEEMABLES**

VLS collects plastic and glass bottles as well as cans which have the “VT-5¢” or “VT-10¢” label. Ordinarily, the label is engraved on the tops of cans and printed on the sides of bottles. VLS redeems these bottles for funds which are invested back to the school. Redemption bins are located in waste-kiosks throughout campus. Additionally, you may collect bottles and cans with the redemption label at your home and drop them off at VLS. The collection center is behind the bike shed on the quad.

**DRY CLEANERS AND LAUNDROMATS**

A laundromat is on the Green in South Royalton, operated by Welch's Hardware. Other options are:

CORNER STOP MINI MART (drop-off service)	802-763-2226 Corner of VT Routes 14 and 110
RANDOLPH VILLAGE LAUNDROMAT	802-728-6430 Randolph, VT

**ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE**

Different areas have arts councils that organize a wide variety of music, theater, film, and opera. The Valley News, Burlington Free Press, Times Argus and Boston Globe feature event listings every Thursday. Seven Days (northern Vermont [7dvt.com/](http://7dvt.com/)) and the Valley Advocate (southern Vermont [valleyadvocate.com](http://valleyadvocate.com)) are free weekly papers featuring events. The Herald of Randolph, a local weekly newspaper for central Vermont including South Royalton, comes out every Thursday and has event listings.

**MOVIE THEATERS**

CAPITOL THEATER	802-229-0343 Montpelier, VT
DARTMOUTH’S FILM SOCIETY (offers movie passes for \$15)	603-646-2422 Hanover, NH
ENTERTAINMENT CINEMAS	603-448-6660 Lebanon, NH
NUGGET THEATRE	603-643-2769 Hanover, NH
PARAMOUNT THEATER	802-479-9621 Barre, VT

PLAYHOUSE THEATER	802-728-4012 Randolph, VT
BETHEL DRIVE-IN (open long after the frost forms on your windshield)	802-728-3740 betheldrivein.com 15 minutes from VLS on VT Route 12 North between Bethel and Randolph, VT
THE SAVOY THEATER (art house films)	802-229-0598 Montpelier, VT
WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL THEATER	802-457-3981 Woodstock, VT

### LIVE THEATER, DANCE AND MUSIC

BARRE OPERA HOUSE	802-476-8188 Barre, VT
CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS	802-728-9878 Randolph, VT
FLYNN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	802-652-4500 Burlington, VT
HOPKIN'S CENTER AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE	603-646-2422 Hanover, NH
LANE SERIES AT UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT	802-656-4455 Burlington, VT
PENTANGLE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS	802-457-3981 Woodstock, VT
SEVEN STARS ARTS CENTER	802-763-2334 Sharon, VT
SEARCHABLE LIST OF ALL KINDS OF DANCES, FESTIVALS AND CLASSES.	<a href="http://thedancegypsy.com">thedancegypsy.com</a>

### FARMERS MARKETS

Farmers markets are a Vermont tradition, and are in almost every town. In South Royalton, they are on the Green on Thursday afternoons from mid-May through mid-October. Randolph, Norwich, Montpelier, and Waitsfield have Farmers Markets on Saturday mornings, and Chelsea's are on Friday afternoons.

### FLORISTS

BOTANICA FLORALS	802-229-9885 Montpelier, VT
CENTRAL MARKET FLORIST	603-298-9677 Lebanon, NH
LEBANON GARDEN OF EDEN FLORAL SHOP	603-448-6000 Lebanon, NH
REGAL FLOWER DESIGN (INSIDE RABBLE ROUSER)	802-870-0991 Montpelier, VT
SIDEWALK FLORIST	802-728-9979 Randolph, VT
VALLEY FLOWER COMPANY	802-698-0358 White River Junction, VT

## FURNITURE

ALLARD'S NEW AND USED FURNITURE, FUTON/MATTRESS	603-298-6800 West Lebanon, NH
BROWN'S FURNITURE	603-298-5755 West Lebanon, NH
KMART, JC PENNEY, AND WALMART	KMart located in West Lebanon, NH JC Penney and Walmart have locations in West Lebanon, NH and Montpelier, VT
T. COPELAND & SON'S INC.	802-222-9282 Bradford, VT
PIER 1 IMPORTS	603-298-0162 West Lebanon, NH
POMPANOOSUC MILLS	800-841-6671 East Thetford, VT

## GROCERY STORES AND SUPERMARKETS

South Royalton Market is the only full-service grocery store downtown. The Market offers conventional, organic and locally grown food; take out; home-made baked goods; bulk foods; and wine, beer, and brew making supplies. They will special order many health products upon request. The Market is a member-owned cooperative but you do not have to be a member to shop. Co-op members receive discounts; your membership fee of \$50 is refunded to you upon request. On the Green. Hours: Monday-Friday. 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. [soromarket.coop](http://soromarket.coop) or 802-763-2400.

There are many small general stores locally, such as the Sharon Trading Post in Sharon, Vt. Their prices tend to be higher, but they are useful in a pinch and with the price of gas these days they can end up saving you money. Stern's Quality Produce in White River Junction, Vt. has cheap produce/veggies—however, be aware they accept cash only.

Conventional big-box stores: Price Chopper in West Lebanon, N.H. and Barre, Vt. is open 24 hours. Shaw's supermarkets are located in Randolph, Vt. and West Lebanon, N.H. Additionally, Hannaford Supermarket has stores in West Lebanon, N.H. and Barre, Vt.

## HAIR AND NAIL CARE

CHRISTIAN ROY HAIR SALON	802-295-3900 White River Junction, VT
HAIR ON THE GREEN	802-763-8783 South Royalton, VT
HOLIDAY BEAUTY SALON	802-728-3839 Randolph, VT
JC PENNEY (ethnic hair care)	603-298-5971 West Lebanon, NH
KEN'S BARBER SHOP	802-728-5867 Randolph, VT
NEFERTITI NAILS	603-643-8878 Hanover, NH
SHERRI'S HEADQUARTERS, LTD.	802-763-7759 South Royalton, VT
WE'RE MAKING WAVES (ethnic hair care)	603-643-1244 Hanover, NH

## INSURANCE

HULL MAYNARD HERSEY INSURANCE SERVICES	802-457-4143 Woodstock, VT  802-773-3000 Rutland, VT
KINNEY PIKE	802-728-4434 Randolph, VT
VLS STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE	<a href="http://vermontlaw.edu/resources/student-health-insurance">vermontlaw.edu/resources/ student-health-insurance</a>

## LIBRARIES

There are a number of local libraries in the area. They all take part in interlibrary loan, and many have children's programs, show films, and sponsor other musical and film events. Call your local library for more information.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE	603-646-2560 <a href="http://library.dartmouth.edu">library.dartmouth.edu</a> Hanover, NH
KIMBALL PUBLIC LIBRARY	802-728-5073 <a href="http://kimballlibrary.org">kimballlibrary.org</a> Randolph, VT
ROYALTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY	802-763-7094 South Royalton, VT
VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE - HARTNESS LIBRARY	800-431-0025 <a href="http://hartness.vsc.edu">hartness.vsc.edu</a> Randolph Center, VT

## LOCAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES

In Vermont, the town offices are the key resource for information about their local businesses, lodging, animal control laws, recycling programs, and the like. VT Secretary of State's office and the VT League of Cities and Towns have excellent websites with information on how town government works and municipal directories. Local town clerks are:

BETHEL	802-234-9722 <a href="http://townofbethelvt.com">townofbethelvt.com</a>
CHELSEA	802-685-7801
RANDOLPH	802-728-5433 <a href="http://randolphvt.org">randolphvt.org</a>
SHARON	802-763-8268 <a href="http://sharonvt.net">sharonvt.net</a>
SOUTH ROYALTON	802-763-7207 <a href="http://royaltonvt.com">royaltonvt.com</a>
STRAFFORD	802-765-4411 <a href="http://straffordvt.org">straffordvt.org</a>
TUNBRIDGE	802-889-5521 <a href="http://trorc.org/towns/tunbridge">trorc.org/towns/tunbridge</a>

## LODGING

Depending upon the season, reservations are recommended for lodging accommodations. The Upper Valley is a popular tourist spot. Hotel rooms fill up quickly, especially during leaf season, skiing season, and when Dartmouth College is having special events such as football games, alumni weekend, and commencement. For a link to local accommodations as well as maps and directions, visit our website [vermontlaw.edu/resources/lodging](http://vermontlaw.edu/resources/lodging).

## MASSAGE THERAPY

TAMMY BARNARD, LMT	603-300-8774 South Royalton, VT
HANOVER MASSAGE THERAPY CLINIC	603-643-7588 Hanover, NH
MASSAGE PROFESSIONALS OF RANDOLPH	802-728-5565 Randolph, VT
MISSY KILMER	802-291-4774 South Royalton, VT

## MEDICAL

### MEDICAL INFORMATION AND HOSPITALS

Alice Peck Day Memorial	603-448-3121 Lebanon, NH <a href="http://alicepeckday.org">alicepeckday.org</a>
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center	603-650-5000 Lebanon, NH <a href="http://dhmc.org">dhmc.org</a>
<b>Gifford Medical Center operates several community centered offices:</b>	<a href="http://giffordhealthcare.org">giffordhealthcare.org</a>
Chelsea Health Center, Chelsea, VT	802-685-4400 Chelsea, VT
Gifford Medical Center, Randolph, VT	802-728-7000 Randolph, VT
Bethel Health Center, Bethel, VT	802-234-9913 Royalton, VT
Sharon Health Center, Sharon, VT	802-763-8000 Sharon, VT
Northern New England Poison Center	800-222-1222
Veterans Administration Hospital	802-295-9363 White River Junction, VT <a href="http://whiteriver.va.gov">whiteriver.va.gov</a>

### OTHER MEDICAL CENTERS, CLINICS, AND PRACTITIONERS

Alice Peck Day Women's Care Center	603-448-3996
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Women's Health Resource Center	603-650-2600
Good Neighbor Health Clinic (for uninsured and low income)	802-295-1868
Planned Parenthood, Barre, VT	802-476-6696
Planned Parenthood Rutland, VT	802-775-2333
Planned Parenthood, White River Junction, VT	802-281-6056
Red Logan Dental Clinic (for uninsured and low income)	802-295-7573
Rutland Community Health Centers	802-773-3386

### ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE

Integrative Health, Randolph, VT	802-728-9600 <a href="http://integrativehealthvt.com">integrativehealthvt.com</a>
Mt. Ascutney Hospital Comp. and Alternative Medicine, Windsor, VT	802-674-6711 <a href="http://mtascutneyhospital.org">mtascutneyhospital.org</a>

**MENTAL HEALTH**

24-Hour Emergency (Clara Martin Center)	800-639-6360
Karen Chalom, LICSW, South Pomfret, VT	802-457-6191
Clara Martin Center operates several community-centered offices	<a href="http://claramartin.org">claramartin.org</a>
Clara Martin Center, Chelsea, VT	802-685-4859
Clara Martin Center, Randolph, VT	802-728-4466
Clara Martin Center, Wilder, VT	802-295-1311
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Psychiatric Associates (24 hours)	603-650-5848
Health Care and Rehab Services, Hartford, VT	802-886-4500
West Central Behavioral Health	24 Hour Emergency: 800-564-2578 or Office: 603-448-0126

The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center has a nationally renowned Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth Medical School with in-patient and outpatient facilities.

**OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND SUPPORT**

**HEADREST** is a 24-hour-a-day crisis management center with arguably the most complete list of references for New Hampshire and Vermont. The staff are trained emergency workers.

Headrest	603-448-4400 or Hotline 800-273-8255 <a href="http://headrest.org">headrest.org</a>
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**SAFELINE AND WISE:** Information, supportive, and protective services for women including domestic violence and sexual assault programs, emergency advice, and a network of safe houses for women in danger. Call for protocols when you encounter a sexual assault.

Safeline 24-hour hotline	802-685-7900 800-639-7233 800-NEWSAFE <a href="http://safelinevt.org">safelinevt.org</a>
WISE 24-hour hotline (toll free)	603-448-5922 866-348-WISE <a href="http://wiseuv.org">wiseuv.org</a>

**VT CARES**

Vermont Cares works for and with Vermonters affected by HIV/AIDS	800-649-2437 <a href="http://vtcares.org">vtcares.org</a>
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**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** Vermont’s Alcoholics Anonymous website has a list of meetings by date and location, every day of the week. Please visit the website for a list of local meetings.

White River Junction., VT	802-295-7611 <a href="http://aavt.org">aavt.org</a>
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**VERMONT LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** provides confidential, meaningful assistance to lawyers, judges, law students and their families in coping with alcoholism and other addictions, depression, and other personal or professional crises.

BOSTON	800-525-0210
NEW HAMPSHIRE	603-491-0282 <a href="http://lapnh.org">lapnh.org</a>
VERMONT	802-355-4352 <a href="http://lapvt.org">lapvt.org</a>

## MONEY AND FINANCE

BAR HARBOR BANK AND TRUST	<a href="http://bhbt.com">bhbt.com</a> 802-763-7771 South Royalton, VT 802-234-5311 Bethel, VT 802-728-9611 Randolph, VT 802-767-4222 Rochester, VT
NORTHFIELD SAVINGS BANK	<a href="http://nsbvt.com">nsbvt.com</a> 802-485-5871 Northfield, VT 802-234-6979 Bethel, VT 802-728-4837 Randolph, VT
PEOPLE'S UNITED BANK	<a href="http://peoples.com">peoples.com</a> 802-295-5701 White River Junction, VT 802-457-2660 Woodstock, VT
WHITE RIVER CREDIT UNION	<a href="http://whitercu.com">whitercu.com</a> 802-767-3333 Rochester, VT 802-234-9232 Bethel, VT 802-728-9228 Randolph, VT
MASCOMA SAVINGS BANK	<a href="http://mascomabank.com">mascomabank.com</a> 802-234-6417 Bethel, VT 603-448-3650 Lebanon, NH 603-298-5933 West Lebanon, NH 802-295-5456 White River Junction, VT

## NEWSPAPERS

Papers are available at Barrister's Book Shop, depending on student requests. Corner Stop, at the junction of Routes 14 and 110, sells the widest selection of newspapers in South Royalton. Local papers include: Valley News (Upper Valley), Rutland Herald (best environmental state reporting), Burlington Free Press, and the Times Argus. The Herald of Randolph is a local weekly; Seven Days is a free alt-weekly. VLS Cornell Library's Reading Room has a wide variety of local, national and international newspapers and magazines to read in the library.

## PASSPORTS

SOUTH ROYALTON POST OFFICE	802-763-7330 South Royalton, VT
RANDOLPH POST OFFICE	802-728-5444 Randolph, VT
CVS/PHARMACY	603-643-3178 West Lebanon, NH



## PETS

Please refer to the Dog Policy in the Student Handbook for a complete description of VLS policies. The South Royalton leash ordinance must be obeyed. No dogs are allowed on the town green. Please clean up after your pet.

## VETERINARIANS

CHELSEA ANIMAL HOSPITAL (holistic and traditional)	802-685-3232 Chelsea, VT
COUNTRY ANIMAL HOSPITAL	802-234-5999 Bethel, VT
HANOVER VETERINARY CLINIC	603-643-3313 West Lebanon, NH
KEDRON VALLEY VETERINARY HOSPITAL	802-457-3135 Woodstock, VT
RANDOLPH ANIMAL HOSPITAL	802-728-3266 Randolph, VT
RANDOLPH REGIONAL VETERINARY HOSPITAL	802-728-3505 Randolph, VT
RIVERBEND VETERINARY CLINIC	603-298-8381 Plainfield, NH
UPPER VALLEY VET SERVICE	603-448-3534 Lebanon, NH
VEREMEDY	802-295-6900 White River Junction, VT  802-457-2229 Woodstock, VT

## KENNEL AND BOARDING FACILITIES

COUNTRY ANIMAL HOSPITAL	802-234-5999
HAPPY TAILS BOARDING KENNEL	802-485-5296
WOODSTOCK FARM KENNEL	802-229-8608

## PHOTOCOPYING

VLS LIBRARY	Printer/scanners are available in the library.
STAPLES	603-298-5260 West Lebanon, NH

## RECREATION

### VLS OUTDOORS CLUB

The VLS Outdoors club runs and operates “The Gear Shed.” Recreational items can be checked out at the VLS Fitness Center. VT Outdoor Guide Association hosts an excellent website [voga.org/](http://voga.org/).

### HIKING

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY	802-281-5894 Hartford, VT
DARTMOUTH OUTDOOR PROGRAMS OFFICE	603-646-3512 Hanover, NH
GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB, INC	802-244-7037 <a href="http://greenmountainclub.org">greenmountainclub.org</a> Waterbury, VT

## FISHING

Fishing licenses are available at most general stores.

## SWIMMING

GAYSVILLE ROCKS	off Rte. 107 behind the Post Office
MCINTOSH POND	South Royalton, VT
PAINES BEACH	north of town on the White River
SHAPE POOL AT VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE	802-728-1584 Randolph Center, VT
SILVER LAKE	Barnard, VT
UPPER VALLEY AQUATIC CENTER pool, splash park, and fitness center Discounted memberships for VLS students, faculty, and staff.	802-296-2850 <a href="http://uvac-swim.org">uvac-swim.org</a> White River Junction, VT

## ICE SKATING

Students often help build and maintain a skating area on the town green. Your help would be appreciated. Area ponds are transformed into rinks, including Silver Lake in Barnard, Upper Reservoir in South Royalton, and Occum Pond in Hanover. Other ice-skating rinks include the Municipal Rink, Barre, Vt.; Thompson Arena, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.; Champion Rink, West Lebanon, N.H.; Union Arena, Woodstock, Vt.; and the Hartford Municipal Arena, White River Jct., Vt.

## SKIING

[skivermont.com](http://skivermont.com) (resorts, conditions, programs, events).

## BIKING

The best paved roads are Rte. 110 North to Chelsea and Rte. 14 West, beginning a few miles north of Royalton: little traffic, rivers/rolling farmland. Bicycle rentals can be found at Fat Bike Vermont 802-457-7057, or Woodstock Sports 802-457-1568. For great mountain biking trails visit Millstone Trails, 44 Brook St, Websterville, Vt. | [millstonetrails.org](http://millstonetrails.org).

## TENNIS

Courts open to the public are in Barnard, Randolph, South Strafford, and White River Junction, Vt. and at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.

## CANOEOING/TUBING

Access the White River at the two bridges north of town. The spring snowmelt proves why it's named the White. At that time it is not safe for canoes or anyone but expert kayakers. In the summer, the White River becomes heaven for slow and easy summer floats in tubes; rent a tube from any of a half-dozen places on Route 14 and Route 107. Other fine rivers in Vermont for canoeing and kayaking include the Mad River (rentals at Clearwater Sports in Waitsfield); the Winooski River (rentals in Stowe at Umiak Outfitters). The Ledyard Canoe Club at Dartmouth 603-643-6709 accesses the Connecticut River. Silver Lake State Park, in Barnard, is the closest lake with canoes and paddleboats to rent.

## SPORTS EQUIPMENT

The VLS Outdoors Club maintains "The Gear Shed" of equipment on loan to students, which can be checked out at the VLS Fitness Center. Go to the Outdoors Club TWEN site for more information.

DARTMOUTH CO-OP	800-643-2667 <a href="http://dartmouthcoop.com">dartmouthcoop.com</a> Hanover, NH
EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS	603-298-7716 <a href="http://ems.com">ems.com</a> West Lebanon, NH

L.L. BEAN	603-298-6975 <a href="http://llbean.com">llbean.com</a> West Lebanon, NH
OMER AND BOB'S	603-448-3522 <a href="http://omerandbobs.com">omerandbobs.com</a> Lebanon, NH
STATE LINE SPORTS	603-298-8090 West Lebanon, NH

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

This is a sampling of what is available for worship in Central Vermont:

BAPTIST	Baptist Fellowship of Randolph <a href="http://bfrvt.org">bfrvt.org</a> East Randolph Baptist Church <a href="http://eastrandolphbaptistchurch.org">eastrandolphbaptistchurch.org</a> Thetford Baptist Church <a href="http://thetfordbaptistchurch.org">thetfordbaptistchurch.org</a> Riverbank Church <a href="http://riverbankchurch.com">riverbankchurch.com</a>
CATHOLIC	Our Lady of the Snows Roman Catholic Church <a href="http://ourladyofthesnows.org">ourladyofthesnows.org</a> Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church <a href="http://ourladyvt.org">ourladyvt.org</a>
COMMUNITY CHURCH	The Tunbridge Church <a href="http://tunbridgechurch.org">tunbridgechurch.org</a> United Church of South Royalton (Red Door Church) <a href="http://unitedchurchofsoro.org">unitedchurchofsoro.org</a>
EPISCOPAL	Christ Church Episcopal <a href="http://episcopalchurch.org/parish/christ-episcopal-church-bethel-vt">episcopalchurch.org/parish/christ-episcopal-church-bethel-vt</a> St. John's Episcopal Church <a href="http://stjohnsrandolphvt.org">stjohnsrandolphvt.org</a> St. James' Episcopal Church <a href="http://stjameswoodstock.org">stjameswoodstock.org</a>
SYNAGOGUES	Upper Valley Jewish Community <a href="http://uvjc.org">uvjc.org</a> Shir Shalom <a href="http://shirshalomvt.org">shirshalomvt.org</a>
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	Quechee Community Church <a href="http://quecheechurch.org">quecheechurch.org</a> Sharon Congregational Church <a href="http://sharonvtcongchurch.org">sharonvtcongchurch.org</a>

## SPIRITUAL RESOURCES, RETREAT CENTERS AND SANCTUARIES

AWAKENING SANCTUARY	<a href="http://awakeningsanctuary.org">awakeningsanctuary.org</a>
COVENANT OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PAGANS	<a href="http://cuups.org">cuups.org</a>
KARME CHOLING SHAMBHALA MEDITATION CENTER	<a href="http://karmecholing.org">karmecholing.org</a>

MILAREPA TIBETAN BUDDHIST CENTER	<a href="http://milarepacenter.org">milarepacenter.org</a>
UPPER VALLEY ZEN CENTER	<a href="http://uvzc.org">uvzc.org</a>
VALLEY INSIGHT MEDITATION SOCIETY	<a href="http://valleyinsight.org">valleyinsight.org</a>

## RESTAURANTS AND TAKE-OUT

### FAST FOOD

To satisfy just about any junk-food craving, head to West Lebanon, N.H. Sandy's, Route 14 South in Sharon, Vt., is a locally owned seasonal drive-in restaurant.

### FINE DINING

There are dozens of fine dining establishments in Hanover, Woodstock, Norwich and Quechee. Seven Days hosts an online guide to restaurants [7nvt.com/](http://7nvt.com/). For independent restaurants go to: [hungryvt.com](http://hungryvt.com).

ROYALTON AND SOUTH ROYALTON	
108 CHELSEA STATION (diner-style breakfast and lunch)	802-763-8685
FIRST BRANCH COFFEE (specialty coffee, lunch menus, and Upper Pass Beer Company)	802-281-8453
FIVE OLDE TAVERN AND GRILLE (full lunch and dinner menus)	802-763-8600
RB'S DELI (take out and subs)	802-763-2411
SOUTH ROYALTON MARKET (coffee, take out and baked goods)	802-763-2400
THE WORTHY BURGER (craft beer and burger bar)	802-763-2575
VILLAGE PIZZA (pizza and more)	802-763-2800
BETHEL	
BETHEL VILLAGE SANDWICH SHOP	802-234-9910
COCKADOODLE PIZZA (pizza and more)	802-234-9666

## SHOPPING

West Lebanon, N.H.—20 miles south on I-89 (first exit over the Conn. River). Typical strip mall stores—K-Mart, Wal-Mart, grocery stores, fast food chains, etc. Tourist shops, antique shops, etc. abound around the area (see Woodstock and Quechee). In addition to the Powerhouse Mall in West Lebanon, N.H., there are several larger malls in Burlington, one in Berlin, and one in Rutland, Vt.

## TRANSPORTATION

### AIRPORTS

BOSTON LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 2.5 hours from South Royalton in Boston, MA	<a href="http://massport.com/logan-airport">massport.com/logan-airport</a>
BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 2 hours from South Royalton on I-91 South, in Windsor Locks, CT	<a href="http://bradleyairport.com">bradleyairport.com</a>
BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT The largest airport in Vermont, 1.5 hours north of South Royalton off I-89 North.	<a href="http://btv.aero">btv.aero</a>
LEBANON REGIONAL AIRPORT 30 minutes from South Royalton in Lebanon, NH. off I-89. (Cape Air Express to Boston and New York.)	<a href="http://lebanonnh.gov/150/Airport">lebanonnh.gov/150/Airport</a>
MANCHESTER - BOSTON REGIONAL AIRPORT 1.5 hours on I-89 South, in Manchester, NH	<a href="http://flymanchester.com">flymanchester.com</a>
The Dartmouth Coach offers an affordable, convenient airport shuttle service	<a href="http://dartmouthcoach.com">dartmouthcoach.com</a>

**BUS**

CONCORD COACH LINES	800-639-3317 <a href="http://concordcoachlines.com">concordcoachlines.com</a>
DARTMOUTH COACH Offers a shuttle between Hanover or Lebanon, N.H. and Boston Mass. and Logan Airport, as well as between Hanover or Lebanon, N.H. and New York City.	800-637-0123 <a href="http://dartmouthcoach.com">dartmouthcoach.com</a>
GREYHOUND NATIONAL	800-231-2222 <a href="http://greyhound.com">greyhound.com</a>
STAGECOACH Stagecoach Transportation Services connects the people and places of Orange and Northern Windsor Counties of Vermont with a network of community transportation alternatives	802-728-3773 <a href="http://stagecoach-rides.org">stagecoach-rides.org</a>

**TRAIN**

AMTRAK	1-800-872-7245 <a href="http://amtrak.com">amtrak.com</a> White River Junction, VT
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**WEATHER**

“If you don’t like the weather, just wait a minute!” is a Vermont-ism. Weather is serious business here as it can change many times during one day, and will differ from place to place. Put the VT Agency of Transportation travel information service web page on your toolbar [511.com](http://511.com). The state’s 24-hour phone line of recorded weather updates is: 1-800-ICY-ROADS. Popular weather radio broadcasts include Roger Hill on WDEV (96.1 FM) and The Eye on the Sky on VPR (107.9 FM).



<p align="center"><b>SOUTH ROYALTON MARKET</b></p> <p>A Community-Owned Market For Everyone</p> <p align="center">Groceries Fresh Produce VT Cheeses and Meats Wine and Beer Home Brew Supplies</p> <p><b>Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.</b> <b>Sat. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.,</b> <b>Sun 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>SHERRI'S HEADQUARTERS, LTD.</b></p> <p align="center">Family Hair Care</p> <p align="center">236 Chelsea St. (802) 763-7759</p> <p><b>Tue. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.</b> <b>Sat. 8 a.m. to Noon</b> <b>Thur. evening by appointment</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Walk-ins Welcome</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>SOUTH ROYALTON HEALTH CENTER</b></p> <p align="center">Rebecca A. Foulk, M.D.</p> <p align="center">Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine</p> <p align="center"><b>79 S. Windsor St.</b> <b>802-763-7575</b> <b>rfoulk@srhc.pcc.com</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>RED DOOR THRIFT SHOP</b></p> <p align="center">All your household needs; books, clothing, and more!</p> <p align="center">On the Green in the rear of Chelsea Station Restaurant</p> <p align="center"><b>Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>SENIOR CENTER THRIFT SHOP</b></p> <p align="center">All proceeds benefit area Senior Citizens</p> <p align="center">Accepts all saleable donations</p> <p><b>Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</b> <b>Sat. 9 a.m. to Noon</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>RB'S DELICATESSEN</b></p> <p align="center">Sandwiches • Cold Cuts Beer • Wine • Videos</p> <p align="center">Now Serving Pizza</p> <p align="center">On the Green</p> <p align="center"><b>802-763-2411</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>FULL CIRCLE WOMEN'S HEALTH</b></p> <p align="center">Anita Onofrio, CNM</p> <p align="center">Well Women Gynecology 79 S. Windsor St.</p> <p align="center"><b>802-763-7713</b> <b>fullcirclewomen.com</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>RED DOOR CHURCH</b></p> <p align="center">"Loving God, Loving Neighbor"</p> <p align="center">Pastor Joshua Moore</p> <p align="center">Conveniently located on the South Royalton Green</p> <p align="center"><b>Unitedchurchofsoro.org</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>TESSIE'S TAVERN</b></p> <p align="center">A Unique Blend of Casual and Fine Dining</p> <p align="center">Gazebo Dining Outdoor Fireplace</p> <p align="center">Bethel, Vt.</p> <p align="center"><b>802-392-8042</b> <b>tessiestavern.com</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>WORTHY BURGER</b></p> <p align="center">A Craft Beer and Burger Bar</p> <p align="center"><b>802-763-2575</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>FIRST BRANCH COFFEE</b></p> <p align="center">Specialty coffee, lunch menus, and Upper Pass Beer Company</p> <p align="center">On the Green</p> <p align="center"><b>802-281-8453</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>108 CHELSEA STATION RESTAURANT</b></p> <p align="center">Serving Breakfast and Lunch</p> <p align="center">On the Green</p> <p align="center"><b>802-763-8685</b></p>
	<p align="center"><b>JONNY'S AUTOMOTIVE</b></p> <p align="center">103 Potash Hill Road Tunbridge, Vt. 05077</p> <p align="center">Reliable Auto Repair</p> <p align="center"><b>802-889-9439</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>ROYAL AUTO PARTS INC.</b></p> <p align="center">59 Alexander Place South Royalton, Vt. 05068</p> <p align="center"><b>802-763-8675</b></p>	









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