

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; last revised July 5, 2017.

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 XI. for provisions of the Vermont Law School Honor Code.

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, 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. Unless the professor indicates otherwise, a student may not be absent for more than one class in a course during the summer session.
- d. Individual faculty may adopt a more stringent attendance policy than specified in paragraph b, 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 regulations III.A.6.b.(2). and III.D.2.b.

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 at Vermont Law School may enroll in courses for credit 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: <http://www.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 into 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 Director of the Environmental Law Center 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) program¹, the minimum course load is 10 credits per semester, and the maximum course load is 17 credits per semester.²

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 B.2.d. 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

¹ See Regulation III A.7.

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

semester. The maximum course load for summer session is 11 credits. No exceptions are allowed other than with the prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

- c. For students taking distance learning classes, the recommended course load is 3 credits per term. The distance learning program offers 6 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.
 - 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.³
 - f. A MELP, MERL, MFALP, 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 an Experiential Advocacy 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 and Natural Resources Law Clinic, the Energy Clinic, the Food and Agriculture Clinic, the Criminal Law Clinic, or the Land Use 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. No student may drop or add the Dispute Resolution Clinic after the required training session.

³ Audited courses do not count toward this total.

- m. 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.
 - n. 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.
 - o. 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.
 - p. 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.
 - q. 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.
 - r. 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 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.
 - d. 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.
 - e. 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.
 - f. 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: Distance Learning Program

For students taking distance learning courses, the first week of classes is the Add/Drop period. The Add/Drop period will end on Friday at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard time of that same

week. Individual courses dropped during the Add/Drop period do not appear on the student's transcript. A course dropped after the end of Add/Drop period becomes a Withdrawal.

Students should inform Vermont Law School immediately of a decision to withdraw from a course, program, or take a leave of absence prior to the start of classes. 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 6 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 D or lower, including a designation of 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; however, course credit will count only once and only 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 Faculty.

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 ⁴
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

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

2. Designations

Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement I

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

⁴ These are the course grades; grade point averages are truncated to two decimal places.

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.

Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course	Wd
Year-long course	Y
Administrative Delay	AD

3. The following courses are graded Pass-Honors/Pass/Low-Pass/Fail:

Bar Examination Skills and Tactics
Deans Fellows
Dispute Resolution Clinic
Energy Clinic
Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic
Food and Agriculture Clinic
Legal Analysis and Writing I
South Royalton Legal Clinic

4. The following courses are graded Pass/Fail:

Criminal Law Clinic
Land Use Clinic
Judicial Externship practicum
Law Review
Legislative Clinic
LLM Externships
MELP Externships
MERL Externships
MFALP Externships
Part-Time JD Externships
Semester in Practice 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 II and Legal Methods, 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:⁵

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.⁶ If a student achieves a grade point average sufficient for honors

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

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, 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 1 or 2 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, on 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.
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 14 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.

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;⁷ Legal Analysis and Writing I; Legal Research; Legal Writing II: Theory & Practice; Property; and Torts⁸

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 subsections b and c of this regulation and in regulations III.D.2.b. and III.D.2.c., all other courses are elective.

- b. Each student is also required to satisfactorily complete one perspective course. Perspective courses substantially and systematically expose students to the broader foundations of law, including its social, cultural, historical, philosophical, comparative, or scientific contexts. The courses which satisfy this requirement change from time to time; a list of courses which currently satisfy this requirement is published online each year at vermontlaw.edu under JD degree requirements in the academic catalog.
- c. 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 C 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 semester⁹ or file with the Registrar a statement approved by a regular faculty member setting forth the particulars of the project which the student intends to complete to satisfy the requirement.

⁷ 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 under JD degree requirements in the academic catalog.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

- (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 insure 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.
- d. 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 & 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 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.¹⁰
 - c. JD students may enroll only in courses approved for JD credit.
 - d. Non-law courses and courses not approved for JD credit are not considered classroom hours for purposes of regulation III.A.5.b.
4. Credits toward JD Degree from Study Abroad Programs

¹⁰ 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 Students or the Director of International and Comparative Law 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 credits 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.¹¹
- 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 connection with enrollment in the South Royalton Legal Clinic (SRLC), the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC), the Food & Agriculture Clinic, and the Energy Clinic 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, the Renmin University of China School 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) Practicum portion of Dispute Resolution, Criminal Law, and Land Use Clinic
- (6) Legislative Clinic
- (7) Vermont Law Review and the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law
- (8) 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).

¹¹ The maximum course load of 17 credits is mandated by the American Bar Association and may not be waived.

- b. The usual period of study to obtain the JD degree is three years (six semesters).¹²
- (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. See regulation III.D.2.b.
 - (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.)
- 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.
- d. 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 5.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

¹² 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.

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.¹³
- 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. See also regulation III.A.7.
- 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 (a) 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 readmission to that program. The Committee on Standards will only grant such petitions in extraordinary circumstances.

8. Extended Scheduling Option

¹³ This regulation applies to students who are admitted to and matriculate into the AJD program after April 1, 2013.

Vermont Law School offers a flexible scheduling option that will allow JD students to extend the JD program over 8 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 8 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 extra-curricular activities: students in the extended scheduling option will be eligible for participation in Law Review, VJEL and extra-mural 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.¹⁴ Ordinarily, a student with a GPA below 2.4 will not be allowed to enroll.
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;¹⁵
 - 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, with the following exception:
 - (1) Reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the specific externship is permitted, but only to the extent that reimbursement is not taxable to the student.
 - (2) Examples of reimbursable expenses include:
 - (a) Local transportation costs such as bus fare, subway fare, parking, and mileage;
 - (b) Transportation to and from an externship that is not local; or
 - (c) The reasonable cost of meals and housing to the extent that the student can establish that those costs exceed what the student was paying at the location of the law school.
 - (3) Examples of expenses that are not reimbursable include:
 - (a) The cost of owning a car, including registration, insurance, and depreciation;
 - (b) The basic cost of meals and housing; or
 - (c) Stipends.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

- h. Students enrolled in full-time externship or semester in practice courses may take up to three additional credits if the additional credits are approved before the externship semester begins by both the Director of JD Externships and the supervising attorney or judge with whom the student will work in the field.
- 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 six may be set, depending upon the amount of student time required by the project, such credit to be figured at the rate of three hours of student time per week per credit. A load greater than six credits requires approval of the Vice Dean for (after consultation between said Dean and the director of the part-time externship program). Such approval shall not ordinarily be granted.

C. 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 assistant professor, associate professor, professor, of the law school 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 Program 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 1.67.

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.c.

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.

D. 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 assistant professor, associate professor, professor, of the law school 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 employees 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 II.A.2.c. including the requirement 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.
- b. A Directed Study may not be used to satisfy any other graduation requirement including a required course, a perspectives course, or the experiential requirement.

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 have an overall average of at least 2.20.

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, 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 2.20.
- 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. 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 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.
- c. A student who is on academic probation at the end of the second or third semester is required to take the following courses to obtain the JD degree: Corporations, Criminal Procedure, Estates, and Sales. The student's course schedule and any changes to it must 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 extra-curricular student group.

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; or
 - (6) 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.D.2.c.
 - c. A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 3.a.(6) 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.D.2 and III.D.3., summer session does not count as a semester unless the student is pursuing the accelerated scheduling option or has been granted 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. 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 year¹⁶ 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

¹⁶ For purposes of this regulation, "a year" refers to a calendar year not an academic year.

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.¹⁷

6. 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.

7. 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, and MFALP 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 Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.
- (3) For students taking distance learning classes, the recommended course load is 3 credits per term. The distance learning program offers 6 terms per academic year.

b. Joint-Degree Students

See Regulation V below.

c. Dual Degree Students

¹⁷ See regulation II.B.7.

See regulations 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 Director of the Environmental Law Center shall have the discretion to allow students to enter the master's program in the spring semester.
- c. Distance 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 Director of the Environmental Law Center 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 environmental 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 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 5 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 Director of the Environmental Law Center 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 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 a field 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 must work primarily on site at the Master's Externship. Students may not receive master's externship credit if their work is done by telecommuting.
- 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. The maximum number of credits a student may earn in one or more master's externship(s) is ten credits.
- 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 in its entirety, including all signatures, the contract form available at www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships.
- 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 Masters 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

- 1. Students who elect to undertake independent research projects shall follow the guidelines set forth in regulation III.C.
- 2. Independent research projects 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. DIRECTED STUDY

- 1. Students who elect to undertake directed study shall follow the guidelines set forth in regulation III.D.
- 2. 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.

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 have an overall average of at least 2.20.

2. Academic Probation¹⁸

- a. A student will be placed on academic probation if, after the completion of 6 credits and before completion of 12 credits, the student's cumulative average is between 1.00 and 1.90.

¹⁸ For purposes of regulations E.2. and E.3., "completion" includes grades of F. and F.Wd. but not Wd.

- 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.
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 6 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 semester¹⁹ 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 CURRICULUM²⁰

¹⁹ For purposes of this regulation, the summer session shall be considered as a "semester."

²⁰ Students enrolled in the distance 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.

- a. MELP students must satisfy the following requirements:²¹

Requirement	Courses that Satisfy the Requirement
Legislation and Regulation Survey	REQ7186 Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)
Environmental Law	ENV5115 Environmental Law (3)
Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership	ENV5122 Communications, 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
Natural Resources Law	ENV5235 Natural Resources Law (3)
Environmental Science	ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law (3) ENV5430 Ecology (3)
Environmental Economics and Markets	ENV5220 Environmental Economics and Markets (3)
Environmental Ethics (minimum of 2 credits)	DIV7628 Indian Tribes as Governmental Stewards of the Environment (2) ENV5406 Animal Rights Jurisprudence (2) ENV5305 Environmental Ethics Seminar (2) ENV5375 Global Energy Justice (2) ENV5383 Food System Justice and Sustainability (2) ENV5385 Global Food Security (2) ENV5478 Global Food Security & Social Justice (3) ENV5408 The Law of Animals in Agriculture (3) ENV5446 Environmental Justice (2) ENV5521 Earth Law (2) JUR7330 Moral Philosophy for Professionals (2) JUR7333 Animal Law & Ethics (3)
Dispute Resolution (minimum of 2 credits)	ADR6410 Alternative Dispute Resolution (3) ADR6415 Environmental Dispute Resolution (3) ADR6425 Interviewing, Counseling & Negotiation (only JD/MELPs) (3) ADR6405 Arbitration (2) ADR6412 Mediation (2) ADR6412 Mediation Advocacy (2) ADR6420 Negotiation (2) ADR6450 Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar (2) ADR9405 Dispute Resolution Clinic

Any MELP student having completed a JD degree or enrolled in a JD degree program may have the Public Law requirement 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

²¹ 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.

ADR6410	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ADR6412	Mediation
ADR6415	Environmental Dispute Resolution
ADR6416	Negotiating Environmental Agreements
ADR6420	Negotiation
ADR6425	Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation (JD students only)
ADR6450	Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar
ADR6450	Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar
BUS6262	Social Enterprise Law
BUS6305	Nonprofit Organizations
BUS6350	Nonprofit Management
CLI9302	Envl & Natural Resources Law Clinic (JD or LLM students only)
CLI9326	Advanced Envl & Natural Resources Law Clinic (JD or LLM only)
CLI9405	Dispute Resolution Clinic I
CLI9427	Energy Clinic
CLI9428	Food and Agriculture Clinic
CLI9429	CAFS Clinic Seminar
CLI9437	Advanced Energy Clinic
CLI9450	Land Use Clinic (JD or LLM students only)
DIV7620	Native Americans & the Law
DIV7628	Indian Tribes as Gov'l Stewards of the Environment
ENV5105	Administrative Law
ENV5108	Law & Policy of Agriculture, Food & Environment
ENV5110	Ecology of Food & Agriculture
ENV5112	Science for Environmental Law
ENV5115	Environmental Law
ENV5125	Land Use Regulation
ENV5205	Air Pollution
ENV5209	CERCLA Law & Policy
ENV5210	CERCLA Liability & Cleanup
ENV5212	Climate Change & the Law
ENV5214	Climate Change Mitigation
ENV5218	International Climate Change Law (COP)
ENV5220	Environmental Economics & Markets
ENV5223	Environmental Governance in the Developing World
ENV5226	Energy Law & Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World
ENV5228	Energy Regulation, Markets & the Environment
ENV5229	Environmental Issues in Business
ENV5230	Global Energy Law and Policy
ENV5235	Natural Resources Law
ENV5239	Land Transactions & Finance

ENV5245	Water Resources Management
ENV5246	Water Quality
ENV5250	Watershed Management
ENV5303	Advanced Energy Writing Seminar
ENV5304	Comparative Environmental Law Research
ENV5305	Environmental Ethics
ENV5310	Environmental Health Law
ENV5311	Environmental Conflict Management Systems Design
ENV5335	Extinction & Climate Change
ENV5336	Climate Change, Extinction & Adaptation
ENV5342	Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts
ENV5343	Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems
ENV5344	Alternative Fuels & Renewable Energy
ENV5346	New Frontiers in Environmental Policy
ENV5349	Regulating the Marine Environment
ENV5350	Risk Assessment
ENV5356	Scientific Controversies
ENV5365	Climate Change: the Power of Taxes
ENV5375	Global Energy Justice
ENV5380	Food Regulation & Policy
ENV5381	Local Farm and Food Law
ENV5383	Food System Justice & Sustainability
ENV5401	Agricultural Environmental Law
ENV5405	Ecosystem Conservation Strategies
ENV5406	Animal Rights Jurisprudence
ENV5408	Law of Animals in Agriculture
ENV5410	The Modern Farm Bill
ENV5411	Federal Regulation of Food & Agriculture
ENV5423	Ocean and Coastal Law
ENV5430	Ecology
ENV5446	Environmental Justice
ENV5449	Environmental Litigation Workshop
ENV5462	Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study
ENV5468	Oil and Gas Production and the Environment
ENV5469	Oil & Gas Development & the Environment
ENV5474	Land Conservation Law
ENV5476	Nuclear Power and Public Policy
ENV5478	Global Food Security and Social Justice
ENV5479	Law and Policy of Local Food Systems
ENV5492	Renewable Energy Law & Policy
ENV5497	End Use Energy Efficiency

ENV5498	America's Energy Crisis
ENV5500	Environmental Aspects of Business Transactions
ENV5510	Three Essentials of the Electric Grid
ENV5521	Earth Law
ENV5540	Public Health Implications of US Ag & Food Policy
ENV5561	Environmental Enforcement and Compliance
ENV5564	Peace, War & the Environment
XAD7819	Envl Issues in Business Transactions (JD students only)
INT7412	Law of the EU
INT7413	EU Law Trento
INT7421	International Environmental Law
INT7440	Comparative US-China Environmental Law
INT7445	European Environmental Law
INT7446	International Trade and the Environment
INT7448	Comparative U.S.-France Land Use Field Study
INT7450	Intl Investment Arbitration & the Environment
JUR7307	Culture & the Environment
JUR7330	Moral Philosophy Seminar
JUR7333	Animal Law and Ethics
PUB7510	Legislation
PUB7525	Legislative Clinic
WRI7344	Adv Legal Research (JD or LLM students only, must be env'l topic)
WRI7380	Advanced Environmental Legal Research

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 CURRICULUM²²

a. MERL students must satisfy the following requirements:

Requirement	Courses that Satisfy the Requirement
Energy Law and Policy	ENV5226 Energy Law & 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)

²² Students enrolled in the distance 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.

Legislation and Regulation Survey	REQ7186 Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)
Project/Writing Requirement	CLI9427 Energy Clinic (4) CLI9437 Advanced Energy Clinic (4) ENV5303 Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2) 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
Energy Electives (minimum of 6 credits)	ENV5230 Global Energy Law and Policy (2) ENV5344 Alternative Fuels & Renewable Energy (3) ENV5375 Global Energy Justice (2) ENV5498 America’s Energy Crisis (2) ENV5476 Nuclear Power and Public Policy (2) ENV5468 Oil & Gas Production & the Environment (2) ENV5469 Oil & Gas Development & the Environment (3) ENV5492 Renewable Energy Law & Policy (2) ENV5497 End Use Energy Efficiency (2) ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance & 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

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 CURRICULUM²³

- a. MFALP students must satisfy the following requirements:

Requirement	Courses that Satisfy Requirement
Required Courses	
ENV5180	Law and Policy of Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (3)
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)
ENV5112	Communications, Advocacy and Leadership (3)
Food and Agriculture Electives (minimum of 9 credits)	
ENV5349	Regulating the Marine Environment

²³ Students enrolled in the distance 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.

ENV5401	Agricultural Environmental Law (3)
ENV5381	Local Farm and Food Law (3)
ENV5411	Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture (3)
ENV5380	Food Regulation and Policy (3)
ENV5383	Food System Justice and Sustainability (2)
ENV5385	Global Food Security (2)
ENV5478	Global Food Security and Social Justice (3)
ENV5408	Law of Animals and Agriculture (3)
ENV5479	Law and Policy of Local Food Systems (3)
ENV5410	Modern Farm Bill (2)
ENV5540	Public Health Implications of U.S. Agriculture and Food Policy (2)
General Electives (minimum of 3 credits)	
ENV5105	Administrative Law (3)
ENV5115	Environmental Law (3)
ENV5125	Land Use Regulation (3)
ENV5246	Water Quality (3)
ENV5245	Water Resources Law (3)
ENV5250	Watershed Management and Protection (3)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (at least one of the following; zero credit minimum)	
	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)

- 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.

V. JOINT DEGREES

A. JOINT JD/MASTER'S DEGREES

Vermont Law School awards joint JD/MELP, joint JD/MERL, and joint JD/MFALP degrees. The requirements in regulation V.A.1. apply to all three 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 Director of the Environmental Law Center 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.²⁴

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.

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.
- 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.

²⁴ 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.

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 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.

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))
- 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. See regulations II., III. D., and XI.

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 either the perspective requirement or 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) A dual-degree candidate may satisfy the perspective requirement during study at Cergy.
- (3) 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;
- (4) 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 Director of International and Comparative Law Programs, also be satisfied by summer study at another ABA-approved law school.

Other appropriate courses may be substituted for the courses listed in subpart (3) and (4) of this regulation with the prior permission of the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs.

- (5) 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 Director of International and Comparative Law Programs.

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 Director of International and Comparative 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 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) A dual degree candidate in this program may satisfy the perspective requirement through courses taken in the LLM portion of the program of study.
- (3) 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, an 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 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. 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. 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 9 (nine) credits from his/her JD program to the MELP program.
- c. Vermont Law School will accept 9 (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 ten 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 (VLS) will allow students who meet degree requirements at both schools to receive a dual degree of Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) 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 the 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.G., 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 6 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 distance learning classes, the recommended course load is 3 credits per term. The distance learning program offers 6 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 6 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 5 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 5 years from matriculation.
- b. Residential students may enter the LLM program in either summer or fall semester.
- c. Distance 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 must work primarily on site at the LLM externship. Students may not receive LLM externship credit if their work is done by telecommuting.
- 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.
- e. The minimum number of credits a student may earn in an LLM externship is four credits.²⁵

2. Eligibility Requirements

²⁵ 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.

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

1. Students who elect to undertake directed study shall follow the guidelines set forth in regulation III.D.
2. 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 have an overall average of at least 2.20.

2. Academic Probation²⁶

- a. A student will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of 6 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.
- . 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

²⁶ For the purposes of regulations D.2. and D.3., "completion" includes grades of F. and F.Wd. but not Wd.

- a. A student will be dismissed if:
 - (1) the student has a cumulative average of 1.0 or below at the completion of 6 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 semester²⁷ 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 Degree²⁸

- a. Each student must satisfy the following requirements for the LLM degree:²⁹

Requirement	Courses that Satisfy the Requirement
Graduate Seminar	ENV9606 LLM Graduate Seminar (3 credits)
Environmental Law	ENV5115 Environmental Law (3 credits)
Administrative Law	ENV5105 Administrative Law (3 credits)

required for degree completion remains unchanged.

²⁷ For purposes of this regulation, the summer session shall be considered as a “semester.”

²⁸ Students enrolled in the distance 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.

²⁹ Students who matriculated in the LLM in Environmental Law program prior to May 2013 must satisfy the following requirements: the LLM Graduate Seminar, Environmental Law, Administrative Law, Science for Environmental Law, and Natural Resources Law. Students who matriculated in the LLM 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.

- 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.

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 4 and a maximum of 6 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 and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC) may elect to undertake a second teaching project with the approval of the ENRLC Director. Each teaching project will be for a minimum of 4 credits and a maximum of 6 credits. The second teaching project must provide a qualitatively different experience from the first. The ENRLC Fellow must satisfactorily complete all aspects of each teaching project in accordance with the teaching project plan, subject to the ENRLC 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 2 and a maximum of 6 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 Degree³⁰

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

Requirement	Courses that Satisfy Requirement
Energy Law and Policy	ENV5226 Energy Law & Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World (3)
Energy Regulation	ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
Administrative Law	ENV5105 Administrative Law (3)
Graduate Seminar	LLM9606 LLM Graduate Seminar (3)
Project/Writing Requirement	CLI9427 Energy Clinic (4) CLI9437 Advanced Energy Clinic (4) 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
Energy Electives (minimum of 4 credits)	ENV5230 Global Energy Law and Policy (2) ENV5344 Alternative Fuels & Renewable Energy (3) ENV5375 Global Energy Justice (2) ENV5498 America's Energy Crisis (2) ENV5476 Nuclear Power and Public Policy (2) ENV5468 Oil & Gas Production & the Environment (2) ENV5469 Oil & Gas Development & the Environment (3) ENV5492 Renewable Energy Law & Policy (2) ENV5497 End Use Energy Efficiency (2) ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance & 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 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

³⁰ Students enrolled in the distance 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.

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.D.2.a. apply

b. Research Project

The provisions of regulation IX.D.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 Degree³¹

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

Requirement	Courses that Satisfy Requirement
Required Courses	
ENV5105	Administrative Law (3)
ENV5180	Law and Policy of Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (3)
LLM9606	LLM Graduate Seminar (3)
Food and Agriculture Electives (minimum of 6 credits)	
ENV5349	Regulating the Marine Environment (2)
ENV5380	Food Regulation and Policy (3)
ENV5381	Local Farm and Food Law (3)
ENV5383	Food System Justice and Sustainability (2)
ENV5385	Global Food Security (2)
ENV5401	Agricultural Environmental Law (3)
ENV5408	Law of Animals and Agriculture (3)
ENV5410	Modern Farm Bill (2)
ENV5411	Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture (3)
ENV5478	Global Food Security and Social Justice (3)
ENV5479	Law and Policy of Local Food Systems (3)
ENV5540	Public Health Implications of U.S. Agriculture and Food Policy (2)
General Electives (minimum of 3 credits)	
ENV5115	Environmental Law (3)

³¹ Students enrolled in the distance 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.

ENV5125	Land Use Regulation (3)
ENV5246	Water Quality (3)
ENV5245	Water Resources Law (3)
ENV5250	Watershed Management and Protection (3)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (at least one of the following; zero credit minimum)	
	LLM thesis or research project on a food/agriculture topic (2-6)
	LLM externship in food/agriculture law (4-10)
	Center for Agriculture and Food Systems research associate program
CLI9428	Food and Agriculture Clinic (4)
ENV5301	Advanced Food Writing Seminar (2)

- 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.D.2.a. apply.

b. Research Project

The provisions of regulation IX.D.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, and Legal Research. With the approval of the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs or the Director's designee, 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 Director of International Programs.
- 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.

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. CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

All certificates for JD students must be declared by the end of their 4th 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 <http://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/certificates> for more information.

A. GENERAL

1. A student may only obtain one certificate³²
2. All certificates require a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 in all courses that count toward the certificate.
3. Students must declare their intention to pursue a certificate by filing a written declaration with the Registrar. The declaration must be signed by the student and by the director of the certificate program.

All certificates for JD students must be declared by the end of their fourth (4th) semester.

All certificates 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 certificate declaration, the student must meet with and obtain the permission of the director of the certificate program or the director's designee.
5. Completion of the certificate requirements will be noted on the student's transcript.

B. CERTIFICATE IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION³³

1. General

The Certificate in Dispute Resolution seeks to provide students with the skills and substantive knowledge valuable to legal practice as well as a wide variety of problem-solving careers. The certificate requires coursework in arbitration, and mediation and/or negotiation, to build competency, writing skills, and practical experience.

2. Requirements

The Certificate in Dispute Resolution requires 15 credits. For non-VLS students, four credits can come from non-VLS courses. Certificate courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, and LLM degree programs.

Requirement 15 credits	Courses that Satisfy Requirement
Competency: 9 Credits	
Choose one:	ADR 6410 Alternative Dispute Resolution (3) OR ADR 6415 Environmental Dispute Resolution (3)
Choose one:	ADR 6405 Arbitration (2) OR ADR 6406 International Commercial Arbitration (2) OR INT 7450 International Investment Arbitration and the Environment (2)
Choose four credits from this list:	ADR 6415 Negotiation (2) ADR 6410 Mediation (2) ADR 6413 Mediation Advocacy (2) ADR 6425 Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation (3) CLI 9405 Dispute Resolution Clinic I (4)
Writing: 2 Credits	
Choose One:	WRI 1205 Independent Research (2) OR

³² This regulation is effective for students matriculating after May 1, 2016.

³³ This certificate will not be available for students entering the JD program after May 1, 2017.

	ADR 6450 Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar (2)
Practicum: 4 Credits	
Choose One:	CLI 9405 Dispute Resolution Clinic I (4) OR ADR 6490 Externship in Dispute Resolution (4) OR An equivalent clinical experience

C. EXPERIENTIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM CERTIFICATE

1. General

The Experiential Advocacy Program Certificate is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of experiential advocacy.

2. Requirements

The Experiential Advocacy Certificate requires 16 credits. Certificate courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MERL, MFALP, and LLM degree programs.

At the discretion of the Director, there may be additional non-curricular requirements that students must meet in order to receive the Certificate. These requirements may include but are not limited to attendance at professional and related events, keeping of journals, submission of Practice of Law Memos and other reflective work.

3. Director Discretion

For good cause shown, the Director retains discretion to substitute equivalent course(s) or to alter the distribution, but not the number, of credits required for the Certificate.

Requirement	Courses that Satisfy the Requirement
Course Options (minimum of 16 credits) ³⁴	ADR6425 Interviewing, Counseling & Negotiation (2)* ADR6424 Interviewing and Counseling (2)* ADR6413 Mediation Advocacy (2)* ADR6420 Negotiation (2)* BUS6226 Corporate Finance (2)** CRI7307 Criminal Practice & Procedure (2)* CRI7331 Impaired Driving (2)** FAM7715/7717 Family Law w/Optional Lab (2)** XAD7823 Bankruptcy, Collections, & Foreclosure/Landlord-Tenant (2) XAD7810 Commercial Transactions (2) XAD7817 Criminal Procedure: Bail to Jail/Criminal Law (2) XAD7816 Employment Law/Pre-Trial Litigation (2) XAD7819 Environmental Issues in Business Transactions (2) XAD7821 Estate Planning (2) XAD7814 International Intellectual Property (2) XAD7815 Municipal Law (2) XAD7812 Real Estate Transactions (2) XAD7818 Representing Entrepreneurial Business (2) XAD7830 Legal Activism: Lawyering for Social Change (2)** LIT7220 Trial Practice (2)* BUS6372.A Hactivist Boot Camp (2)** Enrollment in any VLS clinic or participation in an Externship/SiP

³⁴ *Credit accepted for 2014-2015 academic year forward

**Credit accepted for 2015-2016 academic year forward

	may be substituted for one semester of XAd courses (4)
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D. INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW CERTIFICATE

1. General

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

2. Requirements

To earn the International and Comparative Law Certificate, each student must satisfactorily complete the following requirements in addition to those noted in regulation X.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 D.7. as meeting this requirement; and
- (3) a Study Abroad course, from the list of courses designated in the table below in subsection D.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 Director of International and Comparative Law Programs; a list of courses that satisfy this requirement is published each year in the registration materials.

- 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 certificate.

- 3. Pass/fail credits: No more than 10 credits taken on a pass/fail basis may be used to satisfy the Certificate’s credit requirement.
- 4. No more than 10 credits from a qualifying Semester-in-Practice may be used to satisfy the Certificate’s credit requirement.
- 5. Courses taken at an ABA-approved summer study-abroad program must have the prior approval of the Director of International Programs 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 certificate requirements.

INT7425 International Law (must earn B or above in this course)	
Take at least one course from each of the following two categories	Courses that satisfy the requirement
Comparative or Foreign Law Course (must earn B or above)	INT7407 Comparative Law INT7426 Comparative Constitutional Law

	INT7412 European Union Law INT7437 Introduction to Chinese Law INT7440 Comparative US-China Environmental Law INT7448 Comparative US-France Land Use Study
Study Abroad Course	INT7426 Comparative Constitutional Law INT7414 European Union Law –Trento ENV5218 International Climate Change Law International SiP ³⁵ (max. 10 credits towards Certificate) Semester Study at McGill University ³⁶ Semester Study at University of Trento ³⁷ Semester Study at Renmin University ³⁷ Semester Study at the University of Cergy-Pontoise ³⁷ ABA-approved Summer Course ³⁷ 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 Director of International and Comparative Law Programs Other such courses approved by the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs
Additional courses to meet the 18-credit requirement	Courses meeting this requirement are produced each year and are found in the web-based registration materials.

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

E. CERTIFICATE IN CLIMATE LAW

1. General

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

2. Requirements

The Certificate in Climate Law requires 14 credits. Certificate 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
Required Courses (minimum of 6 credits)	ENV5212 Climate Change and the Law (3) ENV5226 Energy Law & Policy in Carbon-Constrained World (3)
Climate Electives (minimum of 4 credits)	ENV5205 Air Pollution Law & Policy (3) ENV5214 Climate Change Mitigation (3) ENV5218 International Climate Change Law (3) ENV5335 Extinction & Climate Change (2) ENV5342 Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts (2) ENV5336 Climate Change, Extinction & Adaptation (3)

³⁵ Credit maximum: A maximum of 10 credits from this course may be used to satisfy the course credit requirements for the Certificate in International and Comparative Law; however, all of the credits earned may apply to satisfy the J.D. requirements.

³⁶ 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.

³⁷ Courses taken at an ABA-approved summer study-abroad program must have the prior approval of the Director of International Programs for the course to be used to satisfy the study-abroad requirement, and of the Registrar to determine that VLS will accept the credits.

	ENV5343 Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems (3) ENV5365 Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)
General Electives (minimum of 3 credits)	ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law (3) ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets & the Env (3) ENV5346 New Frontiers in Environmental Policy (3) ENV5375 Global Energy Justice (2) ENV5468 Oil & Gas Production & the Environment (2) ENV5469 Oil & Gas Development & the Environment (3) ENV5492 Renewable Energy Law & Policy (2) ENV5498 America's Energy Crisis (2) ENV5510 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (3) ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance & 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. CERTIFICATE IN ENERGY LAW

1. General

The Certificate 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 Certificate in Energy Law.

2. Requirements

The Certificate in Energy Law requires 14 credits. Certificate 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
Required Courses (minimum of 6 credits)	ENV5226 Energy Law & Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World (3) ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
Energy Electives (minimum of 4 credits)	CLI9427 Energy Clinic (4) CLI9437 Advanced Energy Clinic (4) 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 & Gas Development & the Environment (3) ENV5492 Renewable Energy Law & Policy (2) ENV5497 End Use Energy Efficiency (2) ENV5498 America's Energy Crisis (2) ENV5510 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (1-3) ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance & Development (2)
General Electives (minimum of 3 credits)	ENV5105 Administrative Law (3) ENV5205 Air Pollution Law & Policy (3) ENV5210 CERCLA Liability & Cleanup (2) ENV5212 Climate Change & the Law (3) ENV5365 Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2) BUS6226 Corporate Finance: Mergers & Acquisitions (3)

	BUS6235 Corporations (4) ENV5125 Land Use Regulation (3) PUB7550 National Security Law (3)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (minimum of 1 credit)	ENV5303 Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2) Advanced Writing Requirement on an energy topic Independent Research Project on an energy topic LLM thesis or research project on an energy topic Master's or JD externship on an energy topic

G. CERTIFICATE IN LAND USE LAW

1. General

The Certificate 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 Certificate in Land Use Law requires 14 credits. Certificate 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
Required Courses (minimum of 6 credits)	ENV5125 Land Use Regulation (3) ENV5239 Land Transactions and Finance (3)
Land Use Electives (minimum of 4 credits)	ENV5345 Land & the Law of Takings (2) ENV5349 Regulating the Marine Environment (2) ENV5430 Ecology (3) ENV5405 Ecosystem Conservation Strategies (2) ENV5472 Law of Ecosystem Management (2) ENV5474 Land Conservation Law (2) ENV5462 Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study ENV5250 Watershed Management & Protection (3)
General Electives (minimum of 3 credits)	ENV5105 Administrative Law (3) ENV5401 Agricultural Environmental Law (3) ENV5235 Natural Resources Law (3) ENV5423 Ocean & Coastal Law (3) PUB7580 State & Local Government (2)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (minimum of 1 credit)	Advanced Writing Requirement on a land use topic CLI9450 Land Use Clinic (LLM or JD) Independent Research Project on a land use topic LLM thesis or research project on a land use topic Master's or JD externship on a land use topic

H. CERTIFICATE IN WATER RESOURCES LAW

1. General

The Certificate 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 Certificate in Water Resources Law requires 14 credits. Certificate 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
Required Course (9 credits)	ENV5245 Water Resources Law (3) ENV5246 Water Quality (3) ENV5250 Watershed Management & Protection (3)
Water Electives (minimum of 2 credits)	ENV5349 Regulating the Marine Environment (2) ENV5405 Ecosystem Conservation Strategies (2) ENV5423 Ocean and Coastal Law (3) ENV5472 Law of Ecosystem Management (2) ENV5561 Environmental Enforcement & Compliance (2)
General Electives (minimum of 2 credits)	ENV5235 Natural Resources Law (3) ENV5401 Agricultural Environmental Law (3) ENV5430 Ecology (3) ENV5474 Land Conservation Law (2)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (minimum of 1 credit)	Advanced Writing Requirement on a water topic Independent Research Project on a water topic LLM thesis or research project on a water topic Master's or JD externship on a water topic

I. CERTIFICATE IN CRIMINAL LAW

1. General

The Certificate 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 Certificate in Criminal Law requires 18 credits.

Requirement 18 credits	Courses that Satisfy Requirement
Doctrinal Requirements (10-11 credits)	
	REQ7140 Criminal Law (3 credits) CRI7262 Constitutional Criminal Procedure (3 credits) or CRI7307 Criminal Practice & Procedure (4 credits) LIT7210 Evidence (4 credits)
Skills/Experiential Requirements (8-16 credits)	
	LIT7220 Trial Practice (3 credits) or LIT7318 Intensive Trial Practice (2 or 3 credits depending on whether students are selected to compete in the Texas Young Lawyers' Association Trial Competition). CRI7350 Criminal Law Clinic or a part-time externship or full-time SIP in a prosecutor's or defender's office or part-time or full-time judicial externship where 50% or more of student's time is spent on criminal matters (6-13 credits depending on whether placement is part-time or full-time).
Writing Requirement (0-3 credits)	
	A law review note written on a criminal law topic and submitted for AWR credit (2 credits) or a seminar, to be chosen from the following list, in which the student fulfills his/her AWR requirement (2-3 credits): CRI7305 Advanced Criminal Law Seminar CRI7313 Capital Punishment Seminar

	CRI7319 Juvenile Justice Seminar CRI7314 Narcotics Law and Policy Seminar CRI7304 Sex Crimes Seminar Or An Accepted Brief in conjunction with the Criminal Law Clinic
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J. CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS LAW

1. General

The Certificate 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 Certificate in Business Law requires 15 credits.

Requirement 15 credits	Courses that Satisfy Requirement
Required: 7 Credits	
Take both:	BUS6235 Corporations (4) BUS6290 Securities Regulation (3)
General Electives: 7 Credits	
Take seven credits from this list. Refer to vermontlaw.edu/registrar for current list.	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) BUS Digital Drafting (3) BUS6245.A Employment Law (3) BUS 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) XAD7819.A Environmental Issues in Business Transactions (XAD) (2) XAD7814.A International Intellectual Property (XAD) (2) XAD7823.A Bankruptcy/Landlord-Tenant (XAD) (2) XAD7810.A Commercial Transactions (XAD) (2) XAD7816 Employment Law/Pretrial Litigation (XAD) (2) XAD7812 Real Estate Transactions (XAD) (2) XAD7818 Representing Entrepreneurial Business (XAD) (2)
Students must complete a business law-related IRP or AWR	

K. CERTIFICATE IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW

1. General

The Certificate 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 Certificate in Food and Agriculture Law requires 14 credits. Certificate 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	Courses that Satisfy the Requirement
Required Courses (3 credits)	ENV5108 Law & Policy of Agriculture, Food & the Environment (3)
Food & Agriculture Electives (minimum of 7 credits)	-ENV5349 Regulating the Marine Environment ENV5380 Food Regulation and Policy (3) ENV5381 Local Farm and Food Law (3) ENV5383 Food System Justice and Sustainability (2) ENV5385 Global Food Security (2) ENV5401 Agricultural Environmental Law (3) ENV5408 Law of Animals and Agriculture (3) ENV5410 Modern Farm Bill (2) ENV5411 Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture (3) ENV5478 Global Food Security & Social Justice (3) ENV5479 Law and Policy of Local Food Systems (3) ENV5540 Public Health Implications of U.S. Ag & Food Policy (2)
General Electives (minimum of 3 credits)	ENV5125 Land Use Regulation (3) ENV5235 Natural Resources Law (3) ENV5245 Water Resources (3) ENV5246 Water Quality (3) ENV5250 Watershed Management & Protection (3) ENV5310 Environmental Health Law (3) ENV5405 Ecosystem Conservation Strategies (2) ENV5406 Animal Rights Jurisprudence (2) ENV5474 Land Conservation Law (2) ENV5561 Environmental Enforcement & Compliance (2) JUR7333 Animal Law & Ethics (3)
Experiential/Writing Requirement (minimum of 1 credit)	CLI9428 Food and Agriculture Clinic (4) ENV5301 Advanced Food Writing Seminar (2) Advanced Writing Requirement on a food and agriculture topic Independent Research Project on a food and agriculture topic LLM thesis or research project on a food and agriculture topic Master's or JD externship on a food and agriculture topic

XI. VERMONT LAW SCHOOL HONOR CODE

ARTICLE I. AN HONOR CODE FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & 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.³⁸

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.
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:

³⁸ Non-academic matters are governed by a separate Code of Non-Academic Conduct.

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 member³⁹; (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.

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 (See, Article III, Paragraph 3) 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.

³⁹ 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).

- 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 (See, Article III, Paragraph 3), 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 fifteen 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 (3) 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 sanction⁴⁰ 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, 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.

⁴⁰ 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.

- 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, 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. Amendments 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.

XII. 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.

A. 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.

B. 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.