



To: Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ) and Restorative Justice Professional Certificate Class of 2020

From: Erin Webster-Chambers, Program Coordinator, Center for Justice Reform

Date: Summer 2019

Greetings from Vermont Law School. I am the planning advisor for students in our Restorative Justice program. I have worked at VLS since 2016, throughout different departments on campus. I am excited to share our program with you and help you along your journey.

On-Campus Orientation takes place on August 19-23. It will be a busy week of sessions preparing you for studies and academic planning sessions to prepare you to register for classes for the fall and spring semesters.

Online registration for fall and spring residential classes opens on Thursday, August 22, at 7:00am. You will be registering for both semesters but will have the opportunity to add and drop courses during the first two weeks of each semester. You will also have the opportunity to revise your spring course schedule in a special add/drop period in October. You will register for summer courses next spring. I will be available to meet with you in person or talk to you via phone to help you with your schedule.

This packet includes the current course listings and when they are available, course descriptions and degree requirements. It's a good idea to spend some time before you arrive at VLS thinking about what courses you want to take and how you plan to fulfill all of the degree requirements. To help you plan, I have enclosed Program Planning Guidelines for your degree.

Please feel free to email or call the RJ team with any questions: Erin Webster-Chambers ewebsterchambers@vermontlaw.edu, 802-831-1264; Robert Sand rsand@vermontlaw.edu, 802-831-1061; Stephanie Clark sclark@vermontlaw.edu, 802-831-1315. We look forward to seeing you soon!



2019-20 MASTER OF ARTS IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CURRICULUM - Representative sample of available courses (Subject to change)			VERMONT LAW SCHOOL			Updated: 7/9/19		
Needed: MARJ 30 Credits 2019								
SUMMER 2019 Online Term 1 - May 7 - June 26			SUMMER 2019 Online Term 2 - July 2 - August 21			SUMMER 2019 Residential Courses		
Course	Credits		Course	Credits		Course Day/Time	Course	Credits
Legislation and Regulation - Survey	3		Legislation and Regulation - Survey	3		Session 1 May 28 - June 13	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization	3
Narrative Writing Seminar	3		Communication, Advocacy, and Leadership (CAL)	3		Session 2 June 17 - June 27	RJ in Indigenous Communities	3
Advanced Writing Seminar	3		Global Restorative Justice	3		Session 3 July 8 - July 18	RJ In Educational Institutions	3
						Session 4 July 22- Aug 1	New Approaches to DV/SV	3
FALL Online Term 1 - September 3 - October 23			FALL Online Term 2 - October 29 - December 18			FALL Residential Courses - August 26 thru December 6 (Exams December 11-19)		
Course	Credits		Course	Credits		Course Day/Time	Course	Credits
Legislation and Regulation - Survey	3		Communication, Advocacy, and Leadership (CAL)	3		Thur 9:55-12:35	Principles of Restorative Justice	3
Origins, Evolution and Critical Issues	3		Legislation and Regulation - Survey	3		M/W 12:45-2:00 or F 9:55-12:35	Legislation and Regulation	3
Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization	3		Advance Victims Rights Seminar	3		T 3:35-6:15	Narrative Writing Seminar	3
Administrative Law	3		RJ in Indigenous Communities	3		MW 8:30-9:45	Criminal Law	3
			Ethics and Restorative Justice	3		October F 2:00-6:30/S 8:30-6:30	Negotiation	2
			Environmental Dispute Resolution	3		MW 2:10-3:25	Communication, Advocacy, Leadership	3
						Thur 5:25-7:05	GPP: Criminal Procedure - Bail to Jail	2
						M 5:30-8:00	International Human Rights	3
						W 3:35-5:10	Capital Punishment Seminar	2
SPRING Online Term 1 - January 7 - February 26			SPRING Online Term 2 - March 3 - April 22			SPRING Residential Courses - January 13 thru April 27 (Exams April 30-May 8)		
Course	Credits		Course	Credits		Course Day/Time	Course	Credits
Legislation and Regulation - Survey	3		Legislation and Regulation - Survey	3		TR 2:10-3:25	Communication, Advocacy, and Leadership (CAL)	3
Narrative Writing Seminar	3		Communication, Advocacy, and Leadership (CAL)	3		TBD	Origins, Evolution & Critical Issues in RJ	3
Global Restorative Justice	3		Clemency, Pardons and Expungements	3		M 3:35-6:15	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization	3
New Approaches to DV/SV	3		Environmental Dispute Resolution	3		Thur 9:55-11:35	Advanced Restorative Practices	2
Administrative Law	3					MW 12:45-2:00 or TBI	Criminal Law	3
						February F 2:00-6:30/S 8:30-6:30	Negotiation	2
						MW 2:10-3:25	Native Americans & the Law	3
						MW 3:35-4:50	Administrative Law	3



Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ)

Program Planning Guidelines

These guidelines are for general planning purposes for students. Please refer to the Academic Regulations for official regulations and policies.

REQUIRED AND CORE COURSES

Requirements of the MARJ Degree

- A minimum of 30 credits, including all required courses
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.2 for successful completion of the degree
- Students have up to 5 years from the date of matriculation to complete the MARJ

Required Courses

You must fulfill all of the following required courses (these requirements may be met by taking the course, transferring in credits, or by waiver):

RSJ7115	Principles of Restorative Justice (3 credits) or RSJ7110 Restorative Justice Theory and Practice (2 credits) or RSJ7120 Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice (3 Credits)
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation or Legislation and Regulation Survey (3 credits)

Writing Requirement

You must have a minimum of 3 Credits from the following:

RSJ7215	Narrative Writing Seminar (3 credits)
WRI7301	Advanced Writing Seminar (3 credits)
ENV5122	Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership (3 credits)

Core Electives

You must take a minimum of 9 Credits from the following:

RSJ7350	Ethics and Restorative Justice (3 credits)
RSJ7325	Advanced Restorative Practices (2 credits)
RSJ7330	Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions (3 credits)
CRI7319	Juvenile Justice (3 credits)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3 credits)
RSJ7250	Global Restorative Justice (3 credits)
REQ7140	Criminal Law (3 credits)
CLI9405	Advanced Criminal Law Seminar (2 credits)
RSJ7320	New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence (3 credits)
ADR6420	Negotiation (2 credits)
RSJ7210	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization (3 credits)
RSJ7360	Advanced Victim Rights Seminar (3 credits)
RSJ7270	Clemency, Pardons, Expungement (3 credits)
	Externship (4 credits)



Electives

Any remaining courses may be chosen from the approved list in the Academic Regulations.

CREDITS

Number of Credits

The minimum number of credits required to earn the MARJ is 30. You can take up to 36 credits; however, if you have reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.

ACADEMIC PLANNING

During the registration process (which takes place during MARJ orientation), work with your academic planning advisor to establish a tentative schedule of courses you plan to take for your MARJ degree, subject to later modifications as your individual program planning requires.

It is your responsibility to ensure fulfillment of all degree requirements. Check with the Registrar if you have questions regarding your degree status.

REGISTRATION AND TUITION BILLING

Withdrawing from a Course

During the Add/Drop period in the fall and spring semesters, students may drop a course with no enrollment limit during the first ten days of the semester. Limited enrollment courses and seminars must be dropped during the first five days. Courses may not be added after the sixth class day without the written permission of the professor. After the Add/Drop period, you may withdraw from any course which is not required or does not have a limited enrollment. This withdrawal will be reflected on your transcript as “WD.” You may not withdraw from a required course or limited enrollment course unless you obtain permission from the Committee on Standards. Contact registrar@vermontlaw.edu regarding petitioning the Committee on Standards.

Auditing

Fulltime Students in Fall and Spring may audit two courses at no charge. Any additional audits will be charged at the current audit rate. Contact registrar@vermontlaw.edu to determine if space is available in the class you wish to audit. Students may not audit courses or seminars that have a wait list. If the Registrar determines that space is available, you will be given an Audit Form to obtain the professor’s permission to audit. This form should be returned to the Registrar’s Office once faculty approval has been obtained. Audited courses will appear on your transcript.

MARJ Tuition

MARJ students are billed on a per-credit basis. For further information, contact the Business Office at studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu.



SUMMER SESSION

Registering for Summer Session

Summer Session registration begins in April. You may take a maximum of eleven credits. Anything beyond that requires a waiver from the Center for Justice Reform Director or Designee.

Summer Add/Drop Period

You have between the first and second meeting of the class to add or drop a course. If you miss the Add/Drop period and need to withdraw from a class, a tuition refund schedule is published in the Summer Session catalog and is also available from the Business Office.

ONLINE CLASSES

Most of the MARJ required courses, as well as many electives are available online. Online semesters are divided into two terms of seven weeks; each online class is seven weeks long and worth three credits. Online classes are available to residential students on a space-available basis. Talk with your academic planning advisor to learn about the registration process.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

RSJ7115.1 Principles of Restorative Justice (3 Credits - Residential)

This highly participatory course will explore restorative justice and the ideas that form its foundation, question its strengths and shortcomings, examine restorative practices, and investigate opportunities to put the theory into practice.

RSJ7120.1 Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

This online course covers the evolving definitions and history of restorative justice and related regulatory and relational practices and approaches. Faculty and students will consider the ways concepts and debates in restorative justice are evolving and being used to tackle some of society's most challenging problems.

RSJ7350.1 Ethics and Restorative Justice (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

This course provides a brief review of ethical codes of conduct applicable in various professional disciplines and analyzes the possible tension between modern codes of conduct and a pure restorative approach to harm and conflict. Students will be presented with a series of ethical dilemmas across various disciplines and will be asked to analyze the ethical issues in each problem. The course will draw upon philosophical underpinnings and will analyze and explore how to discern a proper path in complex ethical situations.

RSJ7210.1 Adversity Trauma and Victimization (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

This course will explore the legal, historical, cultural, and psychological frameworks underlying victim rights law, as well as best practices for effective victim/survivor engagement across the American criminal justice system. Topics will include: 1) the history of victim rights and victim/survivor services in the United States, to include the violence against women and/or Mothers Against Drunk Driving movements, the array of state responses (funding, agency-



based direct service, correctional/institutional, etc.); 2) statutory, constitutional, evidentiary, and procedural schemes intended to protect and give voice to crime victims in both traditional and restorative criminal justice processes; 3) the psychology and brain science of trauma and how to competently address trauma in direct service/representation of victims; 4) ethical challenges; 5) interviewing techniques; and 6) theories and strategies for effectively managing vicarious/secondary trauma as a legal or restorative justice practitioner in the field.

RSJ7330.1 Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions (3 Credits - Residential)

This course explores how restorative justice approaches can provide important alternatives to more traditional responses to harm within educational settings. Restorative justice has three primary applications in school settings, which includes both K-12 schools and higher education. Restorative circles are commonly used to build and strengthen relationships between students and with their teachers. Restorative practices help develop “social-emotional learning.” Restorative conferences are used in response to conflict and misconduct. Cognizant of the “school to prison pipeline,” administrators are looking for more effective and less punitive response to school misconduct. Finally, when students are suspended, restorative circles of support and accountability assist with effective reintegration back into the classroom. The course will focus on the restorative justice movement in education, examining the theory behind restorative justice, its various practices, and evidence of effectiveness. The course will also consider the problems of racial bias in K-12 discipline and sexual and gender-based misconduct on college campuses.

RSJ7320.1 New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

This course will address how we respond to domestic and sexual violence, the shortcomings to our current approach, and explore meaningful alternatives to our current responses. The course will consider the political, cultural, and legal factors that are influencing shifting attitudes toward crimes of interpersonal violence.

Combining cases, with book chapters, law review articles, and online and other material, students will learn about the history of legal responses to crimes of interpersonal violence as well as the current prevailing approach and visions for future approaches.

RSJ7230.1 Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

This course will focus on how indigenous people from many countries and cultures respond to conflict and harm. The course will consider how contemporary restorative practices find roots in the approaches from indigenous people.

RSJ7250.1 Global Restorative Justice: Restorative Practices Around the Globe (3 Credits - Online)

This course will consider how other places and countries have adopted and utilized restorative practices to address systemic harm. The location or locations that form the basis of the semester will depend on the expertise of the professor. The initial time this course will be offered it will focus on “Recent Advances in Rwanda.”

RSJ7270.1 Clemency, Pardon, and Expungement (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

This course will examine clemency in full beginning with its historical development and interpretation by the U.S. Supreme Court. The class will analyze all facets of clemency: pardons, commutations, fines and forfeitures, reprieves, and amnesty, and engage in discussions about the applicability of clemency today. The discussions will



also compare and contrast the broad federal pardon power with the more limited pardon power given to the Governor in Vermont's Constitution.

CRI7319.1 Juvenile Justice (3 Credits – Residential)

This course will explore the historical and current administration of juvenile justice in the US, including the legal and policy justifications for having a separate system for young offenders, and whether this division continues to make sense today. This course will also explore contemporary alternatives to the more traditional juvenile justice responses to include the use of restorative practices.

RSJ7215.1 Narrative Writing Seminar (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

Today, being an advocate requires more than knowing how to write a brief. Fluency in a variety of written forms – memorandums, op-eds, letters, emails, blog posts – is all but required. This course will cover these forms and others. Students will be graded on regular written assignments and a final paper.

RSJ7325.1 Advanced Restorative Practices (2 credits - Residential)

The Advanced Restorative Practices course teaches students how to design, prepare for, and facilitate a variety of restorative practices. Students will learn from restorative justice experts and then design and lead simulated restorative practices on their own. Students will be graded on a High Pass, Pass, Low Pass, Fail basis. The Principles of Restorative Justice or Origins, Evolution and Critical Issues course (described above) is a prerequisite for this course.

RSJ7360.1 Advanced Victim Rights Seminar (3 credits – Online)

This course builds upon the foundation of Adversity, Trauma and Victimization to explore deeply the legal interplay between victim rights and the criminal justice system. Students will engage in detailed analysis of victim rights law and their juxtaposition with constitutional and other protections for criminal defendants. Students will contemplate fair statutory structures to ensure appropriate and inclusive victim input into justice systems and will develop a detailed proposal for establishing, safeguarding or expanding victim rights. Prerequisites: RSJ7210 or permission of instructor (professional experience or approved prior coursework)