

# 2016 Guide to Academic Planning

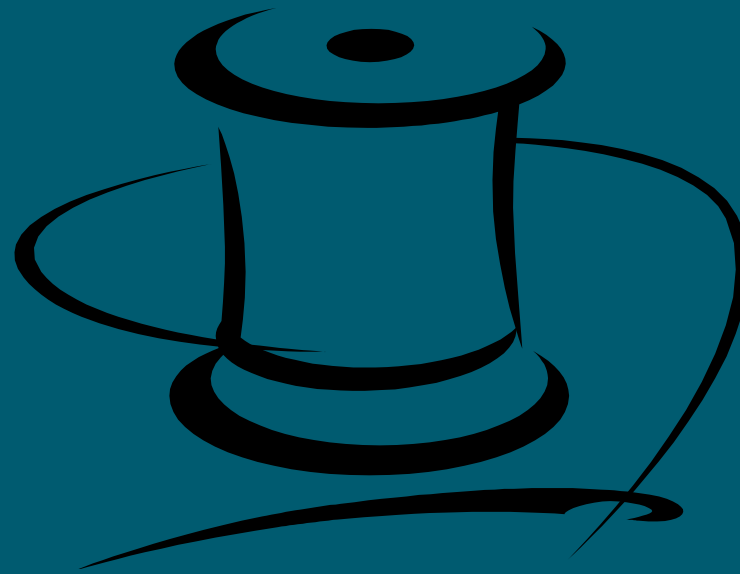


**UC HASTINGS**  
COLLEGE OF THE LAW

EST. 1878

# Graduation Requirements

- **Key Graduation Requirements** (beyond 1L courses & Moot Court)
  - 86 units
  - **S**kills Requirement
  - **E**thics Requirement
  - **W**riting Requirement



# Graduation Requirements

- **86 units** (Acad. Reg. 101)
  - ~14 units/semester (31 1L units → 55 units in 2L/3L year)
    - 12 min./semester (subject to exceptions). (Acad. Reg. 201-204)
    - 16 max./semester (17 units okay in one semester if  $\geq 2.7$  GPA) (Acad. Reg. 301-302)
  - 2.2 GPA minimum (Acad. Reg. 905)
  - Maximum of **\*\*\*20\*\*\*** non-classroom units (Acad. Reg. 1203)
    - E.g., clinic/externship *fieldwork*, independent study, TA, RA, competition team, journal
  - 6 semesters of full-time enrollment (Acad. Reg. 101)
    - Usually 12 units per semester

# Graduation Requirements

- **Skills Requirement** (Acad. Reg. 704)
  - C grade or better in a 2+ unit course “focusing on development of professional skills”
  - Examples:
    - Negotiation; Trial Advocacy; Clinic/externship fieldwork; Moot court competition; Community Economic Development Seminar
  - Identifying which courses
    - Professional skills course list in the course catalog
    - WebAdvisor/course catalog designation – “Satisfies professional skills requirement”

# Graduation Requirements

- **Ethics Requirement** (Acad. Reg. 702)
  - Legal Ethics (3 units)
  - Professional Responsibility (2 units)
  - Roles & Ethics in Practice (3 units)

**\*\*\* Ethics Requirement TIP\*\*\***

Consider taking the MPRE in (or right after) the semester in which you take your ethics class.

# Graduation Requirements

- **Writing Requirement** (Acad. Reg. 703)

- “Substantial research paper that demonstrates professional and scholarly proficiency in research, analysis, and writing.”
- C grade or better, faculty certification, and additional requirements in the regulations.
- How to satisfy:
  - Seminar that fulfills the requirement
  - 2-unit independent study (graded)
  - Be advised: Journal note ALONE does NOT satisfy the writing requirement.
- Identifying which seminars
  - WebAdvisor/course catalog designation – “Satisfies writing requirement”

**\*\*\* Writing Requirement TIP\*\*\***

Use the writing opportunity as a networking tool and as an opportunity to demonstrate your substantive expertise.

# How to Plan – Apply Lawyerly Skills

(Strategic & Creative Problem Solving Skills and Statutory Reading Skills)

Now that you know the basic rules . . . .

- Identify your **goals** for the rest of law school
- **Survey** the academic and extracurricular **opportunities**
- Determine which opportunities **best advance your goals** (and read & comply with the rules that apply to those opportunities)
  - Note: The rules include the Acad. Regs. & other Admin. announcements.
- Have **backup plans & be creative and flexible** in your planning

# How to Plan – Some Basics

## 2L/3L Bar Courses

- **Business Associations or Corporations**
- California Civil Procedure
- **Civil Procedure II**
- Community Property
- **Constitutional Law II**
- **Criminal Procedure**
- **Evidence**
- Remedies
- Wills & Trusts
- **Professional Responsibility/Legal Ethics**
- Critical Studies I & II

## Strongly Recommended Courses

- Administrative Law
- **Business Associations or Corporations**
- **Civil Procedure II**
- **Constitutional Law II**
- **Criminal Procedure**
- **Evidence**
- Federal Income Taxation
- Financial Basics for Lawyers
- At least one international course
- At least one perspectives course (i.e. one that offers a broad theoretical or historical view)
- At least one experiential course (i.e. a clinic or externship)





# How to Plan – Surveying Opportunities

- Classroom Work
- Non-Classroom Work
- Work at Other Schools
- Additional Opportunities



# How to Plan – Surveying Opportunities

## Classroom Work

- Lecture courses
- Seminars
- Non-GPA courses (mostly skills oriented)
- Fall, Spring, possibly Summer

## Non-Classroom Work

- Clinics
- Lawyers for America
- Startup Legal Garage
- Externships (Judicial or Legal)
- Independent Study
- Journal
- Interscholastic Competitions (e.g., moot court, trial team)
- Teaching Assistant
- Research Assistant

## Work at Other Schools

- Study Abroad
- Joint Degree
- Coursework at other law schools (including visits)
- Coursework at other grad. schools

## Additional Opportunities

- Concentrations
- Pro Bono
- UCH/UCSF Consortium
- Hastings to Haiti
- Student Organization Leadership
- And more....




# How to Plan – Surveying Opportunities

## Classroom Work

- Lecture courses
- Seminars
- Non-GPA courses  
(mostly skills oriented)
- Fall, Spring, possibly Summer

### \*\*\*TIPS\*\*\*

- ✓ Check course descriptions to see if a class satisfies one of the **SEW** grad requirements. 
- ✓ You can take 2 GPA lecture courses/seminars on a “CREDIT/NO CREDIT” basis. Reg. 1007.
  - ✓ Elect by Records deadline.
  - ✓ Once made, election is irreversible.
  - ✓ Some classes aren’t eligible. See WebAdvisor description.
- ✓ When choosing classes, consider:
  - ✓ Of course -- subject, prof., time/day
  - ✓ Also -- Assessment methodology
  - ✓ And -- Contribution to your key goals

# How to Plan – Surveying Opportunities

## Non-Classroom Work

- Clinics
- Externships (Judicial or Legal)

### **\*\*\*Clinic TIPS\*\*\***

- ✓ Most 4<sup>th</sup>+ semester. Some 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.
- ✓ Applications/registration is EARLY.
- ✓ Check out prerequisites.
- ✓ Comply with the regs. Reg. 2701-2704.
- ✓ For more info, contact Associate Dean for Experiential Learning Nancy Stuart.

### **\*\*\*Externship TIPS\*\*\***

- ✓ 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> semester ONLY.
- ✓ Judicial, government, and nonprofit placements ONLY.
- ✓ Must be arranged and approved BEFORE the start of the semester.
- ✓ As soon as you have a lead, contact Dean Stuart. Earlier is always better.
- ✓ Comply with the regs. Reg. 2801-2808.
- ✓ More info → Assoc. Dean Nancy Stuart

# How to Plan – Surveying Opportunities

## Non-Classroom Work

- Clinics; LFA; SLG
- Externships (Judicial or Legal)
- Independent Study
- Journal
- Interscholastic Competitions (e.g., moot court, trial team)
- Teaching Assistant
- Research Assistant

### **\*\*Ind. Study TIPS\*\***

- ✓ Have a clear idea about what you want to study before approaching a professor.
- ✓ Comply with the regs. Reg. 2401-2406.

### **\*\*\*Additional TIPS\*\*\***

- ✓ More information forthcoming later in the semester. Stay tuned!
- ✓ Check the regs for applicable rules.
  - ✓ Interscholastic Competitions -- Reg. 2501-2504.
    - ✓ More info → Assistant Dean Toni Young;
  - ✓ Journals -- Reg. 2601-2612.
    - ✓ More info → Director of Scholarly Publications Tom McCarthy.
  - ✓ Teaching Assistants -- Reg. 2875-2880.
  - ✓ Research Assistants – Reg. 2890-2894.

# How to Plan – Surveying Opportunities

## Work at Other Schools

- Study Abroad
- Joint Degree
- Coursework at other law schools (including visits)
- Coursework at other grad. schools

### **\*\*Study Abroad TIPS\*\***

- ✓ Deadlines are VERY EARLY.
- ✓ Comply with the regs. Reg. 2206, 2208, 2211, 2212.
- ✓ More info → Assoc. Dean for Int'l Programs

### **\*\*TIPS for Work at Other Schools\*\***

- ✓ Have a plan that advances your academic and professional goals.
- ✓ **Get approval IN ADVANCE.**
- ✓ Comply with the regs. Reg. 2201-2214.
- ✓ More info → Associate Academic Dean

# How to Plan – Surveying Opportunities

## Additional Opportunities

- Concentrations
- Pro Bono
- UCH/UCSF Consortium
- Hastings to Haiti
- Student Organization Leadership
- And more....



# How to Plan – Matching Goals & Opportunities

1. Learn more about the opportunities that interest you.
2. With your goals in mind, identify things you DEFINITELY want to do, MAYBE want to do, and feel you SHOULD do.
3. Work backward & forward.
4. Map out a tentative plan.
- 5. Prepare alternative plans so that you can be flexible.**
- 6. Revisit & reconsider your plan each semester.**



# Registration

- Course catalog available soon.
- Registration for fall will be in late June.
- Register using WebAdvisor, just like registration for statutory classes.
- Be prepared with your alternate plans because classes do fill up.
- Beware of holds on your record.



# Key Resources

- Checking Your Progress
  - Use “Program Evaluation” on WebAdvisor
- Academic Advising Resources
  - Student Services
  - Your faculty adviser (including at faculty advising mtgs later in the semester)
  - A faculty member you know and like
  - A faculty member in the area of law that interests you
  - Associate Academic Dean



# If You Feel Overwhelmed

- That's okay. That's perfectly normal.
- Don't try to do all of your planning at once.
- Start by spending some time over the next two months learning more about different academic and extracurricular opportunities.
- Flip through the course catalog when it comes out, and put a star next to courses/opportunities that seem interesting.
- Consider starting 2L year
  - with some bar courses/strongly recommended courses
  - by trying to get one or more SEW requirements out of the way
- Utilize academic advising resources.



**There is only ONE “right”  
UC Hastings experience.**

**YOURS**

**And we are here to help you make it everything you hoped law school could be.**

