

Class of 2020

Strategies on Selecting Classes & Opportunities: *Advice to Plan Your 2L & 3L Years*

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ESSENTIAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- **86 total units of coursework (AR101)**
 - Maximum of 20 units for non-classroom work (AR1203)
 - E.g., clinic/externship *fieldwork*, independent study, TA, RA, competition team, journal

- **Full-time enrollment for six semesters (AR101)**
 - 12 units each semester for full-time status (AR201; exceptions in AR202-204)
 - Students in final semester may petition for reduced course load (AR106)
 - Accelerated graduation in five semesters requires 12-16 units over two summer sessions (AR104)

- **Moot Court (AR701)**
 - Enroll in Spring of 2L year if Legal Analysis taken 1L year

- **Upper-Division Bar-Course requirements (AR705)**
 - Enroll and receive a passing grade in Constitutional Law II, Criminal Procedure, and Evidence

- **Ethics Requirement (AR702)**
 - Satisfying courses: Legal Ethics / Professional Responsibility / Roles & Ethics in Practice
 - Earn a grade of C or better

- **Writing Requirement (AR703)**
 - Substantial research paper demonstrating professional and scholarly proficiency in research, analysis, and writing
 - Satisfy with seminar or 2-unit independent study
 - Qualifying seminars identified in catalog & WebAdvisor
 - Earn a grade of C or better
 - Faculty certification required

- **Experiential Requirement (AR704)**
 - Six units of experiential courses
 - E.g., trial and appellate advocacy, ADR, counseling, interviewing, negotiating, problem solving, factual investigation, organization and management of legal work, legal drafting
 - Qualifying courses identified in course catalog & Webadvisor
 - Earn a grade of C or better, or CR if mandatory CR/NC
 - May not use same course to satisfy Writing requirement

Helpful tip: Use the “**My Graduation Requirements**” link on WebAdvisor to check your status towards graduation.

Academic Planning: Bar Preparedness

Awareness of the relationship between what the bar exam tests and the courses offered at UC Hastings will assist students with academic planning for the 2L and 3L years. Required UC Hastings courses are in **bold** in the chart below.

1. Courses that Cover Bar-Tested Subjects

Bar Subjects	UC Hastings Courses
Constitutional Law	Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, Constitutional Law II: Law and Process, Federal Courts
Contracts	Contracts I, Contracts II, Sales and Lease of Goods
Criminal Law and Procedure	Criminal Law I, Criminal Procedure, Criminal Procedure the Adjudicative Process
Evidence (Federal and California)	Evidence
Federal Civil Procedure	Civil Procedure I, Civil Procedure II, Civil Procedure II: Law and Process
Torts	Torts, Torts II: Law and Process
Real Property	Property
Business Associations	Business Associations, Introduction to Federal Securities Law
California Civil Procedure	California Civil Procedure
Community Property (California)	California Community Property, Community Property
Remedies	Remedies, Remedies: Law and Process
Wills (California) and Trusts	Wills and Trusts, Wills and Trusts: Law and Process
Professional Responsibility (California and ABA)	Professional Responsibility, Legal Ethics & the Practice of Law, Roles & Ethics in Law (only 1 req'd)

2. Courses that Reinforce Legal Analysis, Exam Writing, and Bar Test-Taking Skills

- a) **“Law & Process” Courses.** The “Law & Process” versions of select upper-division bar-tested doctrinal courses are designed to reinforce core academic skills, including especially legal analysis and exam writing. These courses are taught in a small, intimate setting (fewer than 30 students). Students receive frequent individualized feedback on their analytical writing and regularly tackle oral and written problems, providing repeated opportunities to work on enhancing students’ abilities to read and synthesize cases, formulate effective legal arguments, and write exam answers that adhere to the IRAC

organizational framework. **Open to 2Ls and 3Ls, but 2Ls have priority when registering.**

- b) *Advanced Legal Writing: Writing for Practice.*** The course focuses on practice-ready skills and provides the added benefit of familiarizing students with California Bar Examination performance test questions, which will be used as prompts for weekly writing projects that simulate typical professional legal writing tasks. For each project, students will prepare and receive feedback on a draft, incorporate that feedback, and produce a final document by the next week. The process of drafting, receiving feedback, and finalizing practice-oriented documents focuses on different writing techniques each week to refine the student's professional writing voice. **Open to 2Ls and 3Ls.**
- c) *Critical Studies courses.*** This suite of courses, which students can take in any combination or order, focuses explicitly on bar exam preparation and bar exam test-taking skills. **Open to 3Ls only.**
- **Critical Studies I: Writing Effective Bar Exam Essay and Performance Test Answers.** Emphasis will be on skills such as critical reading, issue prioritization, and fact identification and analysis. This course is taught in a small, intimate setting (fewer than 20 students), and provides students with regular individualized feedback.
 - **Critical Studies II: Multistate Bar Exam** introduces students to general and subject specific exam techniques for the MBE-tested subjects (Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts). The course will help students develop multiple choice exam techniques, including issue identification and fact analysis necessary to support outcome predictions. The course also gives students a substantive review of MBE-tested subjects.
 - **Critical Studies III: Substantive Review of CA Bar Exam Essay (Non-MBE) Subjects.** This course provides a substantive overview of the non-MBE-tested subjects (Business Associations, Community Property, Professional Responsibility, Remedies, and Wills & Trusts), as well as opportunities to write bar-exam-like essay answers and to receive individualized feedback.

Academic Planning: ABA Requirement re EXPERIENTIAL course load

The ABA recognizes what Hastings has long known: gaining practical experience is an essential component of your legal training! **All law students at ABA-accredited law schools must take at least 6 units of experiential coursework** to graduate. Many of you will want to take more than six units. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOUR FINAL SEMESTER!!!**

You can earn these units through three different types of courses: **clinics, field placements** (also known as externships), or **simulation courses**.

What should I know about Clinics?

- A **CLINIC** is an *on-campus law office* in which *students take lead responsibility* to serve real parties under the *supervision of a UC Hastings faculty member* and earn academic and fieldwork credit.
- **Why do a clinic?**
 - Clinics are designed to maximize your learning.
 - Cases are selected to give you *lead responsibility* and a *start-to-finish experience* within the semester.
 - Faculty supervisors are there to train and support you, to give you individualized feedback, and to guide you to develop your vision of the sort of lawyer you aspire to become.
 - You'll learn firsthand
 - how law is applied in the real world
 - how it feels to be responsible for a case and client
 - what it's like to develop and prove facts
 - the impacts of your work on people's and businesses' well-being.
- **What kinds of in-house clinics do we have at Hastings and what skills do they teach?**

We have eight in-house clinics that practice as a single law firm known as the Community Justice Clinics

 - You will do **policy advocacy** in our Community Economic Development Clinic.
 - You will learn to **litigate** (in court or before administrative judges) in our Individual Representation Clinic and our Refugee & Human Rights Clinic.
 - You will learn **transactional** skills in our Business Tax Practicum, our Medical Legal Partnership for Seniors, and our Social Enterprise & Economic Empowerment Clinic.
 - You will learn and apply **dispute resolution** skills in our Mediation Clinic.
 - In these clinics, you'll also learn interviewing, counseling, fact investigation, negotiating, persuasive storytelling, project planning, time management, and much more.
- **What if I don't plan to focus on the subject matter of any of the clinics?**
 - Don't let this stop you! **Skills** and ideas about lawyering that you refine in a clinic are **readily transferrable** to other areas of law. Any experience taking lead responsibility for lawyering tasks will reflect well on your resume and in interviews.
- **The Nitty Gritty**
 - You can take most clinics starting in your **3rd semester**.
 - Most are 6-8 units (20+ hours per week).
 - Many have a common application process that runs in April or November.

To learn more go to: <http://www.uchastings.edu/academics/clinical-programs/clinics/index.php>.

What should I know about Field Placements?

- In a **FIELD PLACEMENT** (also known as an externship), you will work on legal matters in an *outside law office, agency, or court* and earn credit for the experience. Your work is *supervised by a site supervisor* at the agency or court, and a faculty supervisor teaches an accompanying academic seminar.
- **Where can I extern?**
 - You can earn credit for working in a court or in a non-profit or government agency (in a practice area not covered by one of our clinics or *after* you have taken a clinic).
 - **Judicial field externships** include trial and appellate courts, at the state and federal level, as well as specialty courts (family law, immigration court) and agency courts.
 - **Legal externships** include non-profit and governmental agencies that cover nearly every subject matter area.
 - Some of our field placements have “Clinic” in their title:
 - **Criminal Practice Clinic** students work in a local District Attorney’s or Public Defender’s office – handling motions and evidentiary hearings or trials.
 - **Local Government Clinic** students work at a city attorney’s or county counsel’s office.
 - **Environmental Clinic** students work at a non-profit or government agency.
 - **Legislation Clinic** students work in Sacramento for a legislator or legislative committee.
 - UCDC is a program where you work in DC for a semester.
 - **Lawyers for America** enables you to work at an agency your third year and be paid to work there the year after graduation.
- **How are Field Placements different from Clinics?**
 - You get to see a busy, real-world court or law office – and learn from observing too.
 - You may have a start-to-finish experience or you may work on pieces of a case or project.
 - Your site supervisor will also be handling her/his/their own caseload.
- **The Nitty Gritty**
 - You can start earning credit for an externship starting in your **4th semester**.
 - Legal field placements are for 4-6 units; Judicial field placements are for 4-10 units.
 - The Criminal Practice Clinic, Lawyers for America, Legislation Clinic, and UCDC are close to full-time placements and provide 10-13 units of credit.
 - For most field placements, you apply as you would for a summer position. You can find job postings on Hastings Career Online or on specific websites.
 - Information on prior student experiences with specific judges and agencies can be reviewed in the Externship Office in Suite 350 of the Tower.

What should I know about Simulation Classes?

- In a **SIMULATION CLASS**, you will practice lawyering skills (e.g., appellate advocacy, contract-drafting, negotiation, taking depositions, witness examination) in **simulated settings** (often based on real cases).
 - You will receive training and feedback on your performance from instructors who are either full-time UC Hastings faculty or adjunct professors from practice.
 - Examples include:
 - Commercial Contract Drafting, Negotiation, Taking and Defending Depositions, Trial Advocacy I and II

All these clinics, field placements, and simulation classes are great ways to gain practical experience—by doing what lawyers do and learning from that experience. **Try all three kinds!**
AND DON'T WAIT!!!

The State Bar of California: Summary of Requirements¹

To be admitted to practice law in California, an applicant must:

- ✓ Complete the requisite general and legal education;
- ✓ Register with the Committee of Bar Examiners as a law student or attorney applicant;
- ✓ Pass or establish exemption from the First Year Law Student's Examination (students attending an ABA accredited law school are exempt from the First Year Law Student's Examination);
- ✓ File an application to take the California Bar Exam and after eligibility has been confirmed, take and pass the examination;
- ✓ File an application for a moral character determination and receive a positive moral character determination from the Committee of Bar Examiners;
- ✓ Take the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination, which is administered and graded by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (www.ncbex.org), and achieve a minimum scaled score as determined by the Committee of Bar Examiners;
- ✓ Be in compliance with California court ordered child and family support obligations; and
- ✓ Meet all admission requirements and take the attorney's oath of office no later than five years from the last day of administration of the California Bar Exam that the applicant passes.

Review the **1L, 2L, and 3L Timelines** on the **Bar Passage Support intranet page** for an overview of the steps that you should take each year of law school to prepare for the bar exam. The only step that should be completed by the end of your 1L year is **registering with the State Bar of California**. By the end of your 3L year, you will need to have signed up for a commercial bar review course, taken the MPRE, petitioned for disability accommodations, if needed, completed the moral character application, and signed up for the bar exam. Some of these tasks need to be completed earlier than others. For example, we recommend that students **take the MPRE in the 2L year**, if possible, and that **students who need to apply for accommodations on the bar exam begin that process in the 2L year**, as well.

The **Bar Passage Support Resources** page (<http://uchastings.edu/barsupport>) also includes a **California State Bar Admissions Checklist**. If you have questions, please contact Academic and Professional Success Lecturer Margaret Greer (mgreer@uchastings.edu)

¹ The full text of all requirements for admission are set forth in Title 4, Division 1, Chapter 4 of the Rules of the State Bar of California. For more information on admission requirements, refer to the State Bar of California's Admission Requirements webpage at <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov/Requirements.aspx>.

Separate and distinct applications are required for registration, a moral character determination, and the bar exam. All applications can be accessed online through the Admissions' portion of the State Bar of California's website <https://www.calbarxap.com>.

NOTE: Students applying to take the bar in another state should refer to the ABA's Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements to determine the rules and requirements for that state.