

XIV. COURSES, REQUIRED GRADES AND THE OPEN AND STRUCTURED CURRICULA

A. Courses

1. Required Courses

The curriculum of Chase College of Law includes 48 hours of Required courses, which all students must complete.

The Required courses are:

Basic Legal Skills I and II (5 hours)
Civil Procedure I and II (6 hours)
Constitutional Law I and II (6 hours)
Contracts I and II (6 hours)
Criminal Law (3 hours)
Criminal Procedure (3 hours)
Evidence (3 hours)
Legal Analysis and Problem Solving (1 hour)
Property I and II (6 hours)
Professional Responsibility (3 hours)
Torts I and II (6 hours)

Many of the Required courses must be taken in a regular sequence. However, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and Professional Responsibility need not be taken in any particular sequence once the first-year courses are completed.

2. Core Courses

The curriculum of Chase College of Law contains 27 hours of Core courses.

The Core courses are:

Administrative Law (3 hours)
Agency, Partnership, and LLC's (3 hours)
Corporations (3 hours)
Family Law (3 hours)
Remedies (3 hours)
Tax/Basic Income Tax Concepts (3 hours)
UCC: Payment Systems (3 hours)
UCC: Sales and Secured Transactions (3 hours)
Wills and Trusts (3 hours)

Students may schedule Core courses at any time so long as prerequisites are met. Note that the sequenced Required courses (Basic Legal Skills I and II, Civil Procedure I and II,

Contracts I and II, Property I and II, and Torts I and II) that are taught in first year for full- time students, and in the first and second years for part-time students, are foundation courses on which upper-level courses are based. Therefore, the sequenced courses are generally pre-requisites to all upper-level classes, including Core courses.

3. Elective Courses

Courses that are neither Required nor Core are Elective. A wide range of Elective courses including seminars, clinical opportunities, simulation and skills courses, and co-curricular courses is available each academic year.

Electives are not always offered in regular sequence and a particular Elective may not be offered every year. Therefore, a student who is seeking to fulfill the requirements of a Concentration Program is advised to take the necessary Electives at the earliest opportunity.

Students may enroll in any Elective so long as prerequisites (including completion of the sequenced foundation courses) are met and so long as seats are available. In general, completion of the sequenced Required courses is a prerequisite for all Electives.

B. Required Grades

1. Mandatory Minimum Grades in Certain Courses

A student must earn a minimum grade of D+ in certain Required courses. A student who earns a grade of D, D-, or F in the following Required courses must re-take the course a second time or until a grade above F is earned (see ** below):

Civil Procedure I, Civil Procedure II, Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, Contracts I, Contracts II, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Property I, Property II, Torts I, and Torts II.

A student who must re-take the course must re-take it at the earliest appropriate opportunity, which is usually the next time the course is offered. The student shall consult with the Associate Dean for Student Services to determine the earliest appropriate opportunity.

If the course which must be re-taken is the first semester of a sequenced two-semester, Required course, the student shall also consult with the Associate Dean for Student Services and with the professor who teaches the course about whether it is appropriate to take the second semester of the course without first re-taking the first semester of that course.

Once a student re-takes a course and earns a grade above F, the student may not re-take the course again.

** New for classes entering in the fall 2009 or after:

Professional Responsibility is included in the list of courses in which students must earn a grade of D+ or higher.

Students re-taking a required course must receive a grade of D+ or higher in order to satisfy the course requirement (regardless of how many times the student must re-take the course).

2. Mandatory Minimum Grades in Other Required Courses

A student must earn a final grade above F in every Required course. A student who does not earn a final grade above F in a Required course must re-take the course until a grade above an F is earned (See ** above for students in classes entering in the fall 2009 or after).

A student who earns a final grade above F in a Required course may not re-take the course unless the course is among those in which a minimum grade of D+ is required.

3. Mandatory Minimum Grade Requirement for Core Courses

A student must earn a final grade above F in every Core course he or she takes as a result of being placed on the Structured Curriculum. A Structured Curriculum student who earns a grade of F in such a course must re-take the course until he or she receives a grade of above an F.

4. Recording of Grades for Required and Core Courses with Minimum Grade Requirements

All final grades earned in taking and re-taking any course will be included in GPA calculations. Example: A student earns an F in a Required course and must re-take the course. When the student re-takes the course, the student earns a B. Both the F and B will be averaged into both the cumulative GPA for all courses and into the GPA for Core and Required courses.

5. Credit-Hours for Courses in Which Failing Grade is Earned / Failing a Pass / Fail Course

When a failing grade is earned in a course other than a course for which there are minimum grade requirements, the failing grade earned will be calculated into the appropriate GPA, and the credit-hours assigned to the course will count toward the 90 hours required for graduation.

In pass/fail Elective courses, the grade of F is not included in the calculation of the required GPA for all courses.

C. Re-Taking Courses

1. Re-Taking Courses - In General

A student may not re-take a course unless required to do so in Required courses or Core Courses (which would be “required” for students on the Structured Curriculum) for which there are minimum grade requirements (such as a D+ in certain Required courses, and a grade above an F in Core courses).

2. Credit-Hours for Courses That Must be Re-Taken

Where a student must re-take a Required or Core course under these policies, the credit-hours assigned to the course will be counted toward earned hours for graduation only once.

However, credit-hours for courses in which grades of D, D-, and F are earned will count for other purposes such as residency and tuition.

D. The Open and Structured Curriculum

1. The Open Curriculum

Students who have earned at least a 2.333 GPA by the end of the spring semester of the first year for full-time students, or by the end of the spring semester of the second year for part-time students, may follow the Open Curriculum, which requires the successful completion of 12 hours of Core courses.

However, students are advised of the importance of Core courses, which are often tested on the bar examination, and which, along with Required courses, constitute basic knowledge necessary for the practice of law.

2. The Structured Curriculum

Students who have earned less than a 2.333 overall cumulative GPA by the end of the spring semester of the first year for full-time students, or by the end of the spring semester of the second year for part-time students, are required to follow the Structured Curriculum, which requires successful completion of all 27 hours of Core courses.

Students on the Structured Curriculum should participate in available academic support and individual counseling from the Director of Student Success Initiatives, Professor Barbara McFarland, whose office is on the third floor of Nunn Hall.

Students on the Structured Curriculum who raise their cumulative GPA to a 2.333 or above after completing 60 or more hours of courses will be released from the Structured Curriculum and will be placed on the Open Curriculum.