

# ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

The following academic standards and regulations appear in alphabetical order.

## **Academic Good Standing**

All students are in good standing during their first semester. Subsequently, a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher is required for good standing for students who entered in 2014 or later. (See also “Academic Probation, Dismissal, and the Triggering of Additional Requirements” below). *Revised March 7, 2014.*

## **Academic Loads**

***Minimum Course Loads.*** After the fall semester of their second year, full-time students must take at least 10 credit hours per semester unless the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs has granted permission to take fewer hours. After the spring semester of their second year, part-time students must take at least 8 credit hours per semester unless the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs has granted permission to take fewer hours.

***Maximum Course Loads.*** A full-time student may not enroll in more than 16 credit hours per semester. A part-time student may not enroll in more than 10 credit hours per semester, except that a part-time student enrolled in Legal Analysis may enroll in 11 credit hours without permission. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant exceptions to these maximums; see the paragraph below on Course Overloads.

***Usual Course Loads.*** A full-time student will normally carry 14 to 16 credit hours per semester. A part-time student will normally carry 9 to 10 credit hours per semester. To graduate in 4 years, a part-time student must carry 10 hours for 8 semesters and 5 hours during each of two summer terms.

***Summer Course Loads.*** The maximum course load for summer sessions for full-time students is 8 credit hours and for part-time students is 5 credit hours. There are no minimum course loads for summer sessions except as necessary to qualify for financial aid.

***Course Overloads.*** The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant a course overload (enrollment in either 17 or 18 credit hours per semester for a full-time student and enrollment in either 11 or 12 credit hours per semester for a part-time student) upon written petition by the student. Relevant factors in determining whether to grant an overload include the student’s level of outside work (or other activities), the student’s prior academic performance, a need to coordinate the student’s academic calendar, and whether the overload would result in an over-accelerated course of study conflicting with accreditation standards. A student may not petition for a course overload for a semester in which he or she is enrolled in a clinic. The accreditation standards of the American Bar Association do not permit a student to be enrolled at any time in more than 18 credit hours.

***Coordination with Outside Employment.*** The School of Law has limits on students' outside employment (see "Outside Employment," below). The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant a workload exceeding those standards, upon written petition by the student. Relevant factors in determining whether to grant a work overload include the student's prior academic performance. A student may not petition for a work overload for a semester in which he or she is enrolled in a clinic. *Revised July 1, 2015.*

## **Academic Probation, Dismissal, and the Triggering of Additional Requirements**

*Upon completion of the student's first semester,* the student will be subject to the following academic standards:

**1. *Dismissal.*** Any first-year student, whether full-time or part-time, with a grade point average of 1.3333 or lower upon completion of his or her first semester shall automatically be dismissed from the School of Law.

**2. *Optional Fresh Start Program.*** Any first-year student, whether full-time or part-time, with a grade point average greater than 1.3333 but below 2.0 upon completion of his or her first semester may elect to withdraw from his or her second semester courses and participate in the fresh-start program. Such election must be made within two weeks after the Registrar has posted the grades from the first semester. The withdrawn student shall be enrolled during the next summer term in a course designated by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs upon the recommendation of the Director of Academic Achievement. If the student completes the summer-term course with a grade of C or higher, the student may retake the courses of his or her first semester of law school. If the student fails to complete the summer-term course with a grade of C or higher, the student shall automatically be dismissed from the School of Law. If the student may retake the courses of his or her first semester, the student shall not receive academic credit for his or her first attempt at the first semester of law school and the grades from the first attempt shall not be included in the student's cumulative grade point average; however, the student shall receive credit for the summer-term course and the grade in that course shall be included in the student's cumulative grade point average. The fresh-start semester shall be treated as the student's first semester of law school for purposes of this academic regulation about academic probation and dismissal, except that, if the student fails to attain a cumulative grade point average of 1.8 or higher at the end of the fresh-start semester, the student shall automatically be dismissed from the School of Law and may not again participate in the fresh-start program. *Added May 5, 2017.*

*Upon completion of the student's second semester and thereafter,* the student will be subject to the following academic standards:

**1. *Good Standing.*** A student is in good standing if he or she entered in 2014 or later and has a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. *Revised March 7, 2014.*

**2. Probation.** A student will be placed on probation for the next ensuing regular semester, either fall or spring, if paragraph 4 below does not apply and he or she entered in 2014 or later and has a cumulative GPA of 1.9175 or higher but below 2.0. However, a student placed on probation for fall, but who is enrolled in summer school and earns a grade point average lower than 1.6667 for the summer term, will be dismissed, with right of appeal. *Revised March 7, 2014.*

**3. Dismissal Generally.** A student will be automatically dismissed from the School of Law if he or she entered in 2014 or later and has a cumulative GPA lower than 1.9175. *Revised March 7, 2014.*

**4. Dismissal After a Return to Good Standing.** Any student who entered in 2014 or later, has been placed on probation and subsequently achieves good standing, but whose cumulative GPA again drops below 2.0 will be automatically dismissed. *Revised March 7, 2014.*

**5. Six Group A Courses Required for Certain Students.** Any student who entered in before 2018 and has a cumulative GPA of 1.9175 or higher but lower than 2.3333 after the completion of his or her second, third, or fourth semester, and any student who is automatically dismissed but then allowed to continue his or her studies by the Petitions and Retention Committee, must complete before graduation six (rather than three) of the courses in Group A (Administrative Law, Agency and Unincorporated Business Associations, Commercial Paper, Consumer Bankruptcy, Criminal Procedure, Income Tax Law, Sales and Leases, Secured Transactions, and Wills, Trusts, and Estates). The student's obligation to complete six of the Group A courses before graduation continues throughout his or her law school studies regardless of whether the student's cumulative GPA later increases to 2.3333. The Petitions and Retention Committee may not grant exceptions to this paragraph 5. *Revised March 7, 2014.*

**More About Probation.** A student on probation may continue his or her law school studies. A student on probation may not participate in law review, competitive moot court teams, clinics, or externships; may not enroll in or complete a Supervised Paper or Directed Research; may not serve as a class officer; and may not hold office in a student organization or in the Student Bar Association. Students who are placed on probation for the spring semester and first-year students who earn in the fall semester less than a 2.0 grade point average will not be permitted to enroll in the next summer term. *Revised March 7, 2014.*

Any student who receives notice that he or she is being placed on academic probation, is issued a written academic warning, or achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 but less than 2.3333 shall contact the Director of Academic Achievement within 10 calendar days to schedule a meeting. The Director will evaluate the student's circumstances and make recommendations for improvement, including, where appropriate, additional follow-up and participation in the Academic Achievement Department's programming. *Revised March 7, 2014.*

A student is removed from probation when he or she attains good standing. At the end of the first term on probation, a student either is removed from probation (if the student attains academic good standing) or is dismissed.

***Right of Appeal After Dismissal.*** A student who is automatically dismissed from the School of Law has the right of written appeal to the faculty Petitions and Retention Committee. The letter dismissing the student will inform the student of the deadline for filing an appeal; normally, it is within approximately ten days of the receipt of the letter.

On appeal from academic dismissal, the Petitions and Retention Committee may affirm the dismissal, continue the student on probation for one semester, or suspend the student for up to one year. Dismissal will be affirmed unless the student can demonstrate exceptional circumstances that in the opinion of the Committee contributed significantly to the unsatisfactory performance and that have been, or will be, corrected, and the Committee further determines that there is a strong probability of success in law school and on the bar exam if those circumstances are corrected. In the event that such exceptional circumstances may be corrected over a period of time not to exceed one year, the Committee may, in its discretion, suspend the student for that period. In applying this rule, the Committee exercises its discretion in determining whether the alleged circumstances are truly exceptional, whether those circumstances have been or can be timely corrected, and the probability of future success in law school and on the bar exam. If the student is continued on academic probation, or suspended, the Committee may impose additional requirements or conditions on the student's continued enrollment.

Pending the Committee's decision, the student may continue to attend classes during the fall or spring semester. Dismissals based on spring semester grades relate back to the end of that semester. **Students who are enrolled in the summer term who are academically dismissed based on spring semester grades may not continue to attend summer classes or to take summer exams, even if the student has appealed his or her dismissal to the Committee. This rule also applies if the student is studying abroad during the summer.** Grades that may have been earned in summer courses completed prior to the meeting of the Committee do not affect the dismissal and may be considered by the Committee, in its discretion, only as some evidence of probability of future success.

Decisions of the Petitions and Retention Committee are final and will not be reviewed further. The University Vice-President for Academic Affairs reviews dismissals for procedural errors only. The student must submit his or her request for review by the University Vice-President for Academic Affairs, if any, within 10 calendar days from the date of the decision of the Petitions and Retention Committee. *Revised on April 13, 2012.*

***Failure to Re-Enroll During Probation.*** Any student who does not enroll in, or who withdraws from, the term during which he or she is placed on academic probation (the fall semester for those placed on probation during the summer session) must apply for readmission before any subsequent enrollment will be permitted. The semester during which a student is placed on probation is the one in which the student is notified of probation based upon the academic work in prior semesters or summer terms. Any student who fails to return the first regular semester following academic suspension is automatically dismissed.

***Readmission After Dismissal.*** Readmission after dismissal shall be considered by the Faculty Admissions Committee according to the rules and regulations governing admission with advanced standing. A student will not be considered for readmission until at least two years have elapsed following the academic dismissal. These rules also apply to students academically dismissed from law schools other than OCU.

## **Accommodations for Pregnancy, Disability, or Other Situations**

Students seeking an accommodation for a disability should contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs as soon as possible. Disability accommodations are governed by the law school's Disability Policy And Guidelines For Law Students, which is available on the D2L site for the Law Registrar's Office.

Students seeking accommodations for pregnancy, military service, or other special conditions should contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs as soon as possible. Pregnant students have the right to share the same educational experience as their peers, and discrimination based on pregnancy is explicitly prohibited under the University Nondiscrimination Policy and Equity Resolution Process.

## **Attendance of Classes**

Because most law school classes are based on questioning and discussion, regular attendance is essential. Each student contributes to the learning process and provides a viewpoint for classroom dialogue. The common law tradition is based on advocacy, and each student sharpens his or her skills by analysis and articulation. A large part of legal education can be achieved only in the classroom.

Even if a student could pass the examination, it is impossible to certify that he or she has satisfactorily completed the course if there have been too many absences. Accordingly, regular and punctual attendance is required for the student to pass any course in the curriculum. The definition of what constitutes "regular attendance," and the penalty for failure to attend, is left to the discretion of each faculty member. Each professor should announce his or her attendance policy on the first day of class or in the syllabus.

Attendance policies vary among courses. Most courses require the student to attend a minimum of 80 percent of the classes of the course. Course instructors may have more stringent or more generous attendance policies. The penalty for excessive absences varies among the members of the faculty. A professor may lower a grade, drop a student from the course, or award an F for the student's failure to attend regularly. If the faculty's Special Accommodations Committee grants permission to a student to record classes, such permission does not affect the attendance policies in effect for that student. *Amplified November 4, 2016.*

A faculty member may take attendance by passing a roll sheet at each class meeting or the faculty member may take attendance from a seating chart, or by some other method. It is the responsibility of each student to make certain that he or she signs the roll sheet before leaving the

class, or to make certain that he or she is sitting in the correct seat. A professor has the discretion whether to allow a tardy student to either sign the roll sheet or to otherwise be marked present. Signing the roll sheet for any other student, or requesting that another student sign for oneself, is a violation of the OCU School of Law Student Conduct Code.

It is each student's responsibility to keep track of his or her absences in each course. As a courtesy, some faculty members will attempt to notify a student if he or she is approaching the maximum permissible absences in a course. However, the student has no entitlement to any such notice, and failure to receive notice will not affect the application of announced sanctions.

Several members of the faculty permit students to check their absences unofficially with the members of the Faculty Support Services Group. The Faculty Support Services Group from time to time posts its procedures for checking absences on the university's intranet.

In mandatory synchronous sessions (such as Zoom classes), the faculty member must be able to see whether a student is actively engaged in the enterprise. In other words, a student without video cannot be considered to be participating in the class. To be considered present for attendance purposes, a student must be visible on a Zoom or similar videoconference. This rule only applies if attendance at the Zoom session is a course requirement. If the synchronous session is optional, video participation is not required. One-time exceptions to this rule are acceptable where a student has an isolated technical difficulty. *Approved by the faculty 6/12/20.*

Each member of the faculty has the discretion to permit or not to permit a student to bring his or her child to class. The School of Law has not established a policy on the matter. *Added November 4, 2016.*

## **Auditing**

A current student may audit a course with permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the course instructor. For the audit to appear on the student's transcript, the same class attendance requirements apply as those for the course taken for credit. Required courses may not be audited, and courses that have been audited may not subsequently be taken for credit. Students initially enrolled in a course for credit may change to an audit only with permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the course instructor.

A person who is not currently enrolled at the School of Law may be permitted to audit a course, but permission ordinarily will be granted only to attorneys. Interested persons must obtain permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the course instructor teaching the course before registering and paying the audit tuition (which is slightly lower than regular tuition) and university fees. Should a non-degree student subsequently be admitted to the School of Law, no credit will be given for courses taken as a non-degree student.

Only in rare circumstances will anyone be granted permission to audit a skills-based or limited-enrollment course.

## **Certification for Bar Examination**

At the student's request, the Law Registrar's Office completes all forms necessary to certify the student to take his or her state bar examination.

**The School of Law will not certify any student who is taking summer courses towards his or her J.D. to take the bar examination in July of that summer,** even if the summer course is a concentrated course. If a student must take summer school classes to complete all credit hours towards the J.D., the earliest bar examination for which the School of Law will certify the student is the February bar of the following year. Students are urged to plan their schedules accordingly. The School of Law is not responsible for any fees the student may pay the state bar agency to take the July bar in violation of this policy or fees paid for bar review courses.

## **Changes in Courses or Class Schedule; Drop/Add**

***Required Courses.*** The first year curriculum is fixed and must be completed before other courses are taken.

Students may withdraw from a required course only with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs after the Associate Dean consults with the instructor in the course. Students who have not completed the writing requirement may withdraw from a seminar, Directed Research, or a Supervised Paper only with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs after the Associate Dean consults with the instructor. Except in extreme circumstances, permission will not be granted.

Unless granted an exception by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, students must take all their fixed, required courses in the section to which they were originally assigned. Transfers between sections of fixed, required courses are not permitted in the absence of extraordinary and compelling circumstances, the existence of which shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

***Elective Courses.*** A student wishing to change his or her class schedule after completing enrollment may do so online through the student portal or by making a request to the Law Registrar's Office. The change in class schedule becomes effective on the day the change is processed by the Registrar.

***All Courses.*** For information on withdrawing from a course or from the School of Law, please see "Withdrawals" below.

Students enrolled in a course for credit may change their enrollment to "audit" only with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the professor and subject to the academic requirements governing audited courses.

Students who add courses after classes begin should be aware that professors may count classes missed prior to enrollment against permitted absences. It is the student's responsibility to determine the professor's policy in this regard.

Unless permission is granted by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, courses may not be added after the last day to register. Permission will be granted only in extraordinary and compelling circumstances, the existence of which shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

A student who withdraws from a course after the drop/add date will not receive a refund on tuition.

## **Class Ranking**

Students are ranked by class at the end of each of the fall and spring semesters.

Transfer students are not assigned a class rank and do not affect the class rank of other students. Furthermore, the cumulative grade point averages of transfer students are calculated only on the basis of the courses they have taken at OCU. Upon request, the Law Registrar will notify a transfer student where the person's cumulative grade point average would rank the person in terms of a five-percentage point range (*e.g.*, academic standing between 15 percent and 20 percent or between 60 percent and 65 percent). A transfer student should be careful not to represent this range as an actual class rank. The Career Services office can assist transfer students with the wording on their resumes of this distinction between an actual class rank and a five-percentage point range for academic standing.

After the first year, a student's classification is determined by the time that has elapsed since the student matriculated and not by the number of credit hours the student might have completed.

Students are ranked in a cohort based on their matriculation date. Students who do not graduate after six semesters are thereafter ranked with the cohort that follows them. A student who does not graduate after eight semesters is ranked with the next following cohort. The addition of students to the original cohort may affect an individual third-year student's rank.

Class rankings will be available in the Law Registrar's Office no more than fourteen calendar days after grades are distributed.

## **Course Repetition**

No course may be repeated for credit unless the student has received the grade of F, or unless the Petitions and Retention Committee has required it as a condition of probation. If a course that the student fails is subsequently repeated, or if the Petitions and Retention Committee requires, as a condition of probation, the repeating of a course for which a passing grade has been given, both grades will be taken into account in determining the student's cumulative grade point average, unless the Petitions and Retention Committee directs otherwise in advance. This policy does not apply if a student is re-admitted to the School of Law on the condition that the student start over.



A student who has not been required to repeat a course may do so only with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. In such cases the second grade will not be taken into account in determining the cumulative grade point average.

## **Determination of Credit Hours for Coursework**

The School of Law determines the credit hours it awards for coursework by using the definition of a credit hour found in ABA Standard 310. The standard provides that a credit hour is an amount of work that reasonably approximates:

- (1) Not less than fifty minutes of classroom or direct faculty instruction and not less than two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
- (2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in (1) above for other academic activities as established by the School of Law, including simulation, field placement, clinical, co-curricular, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

## **Distance Learning Courses**

A student may not take more than four credit hours in any term of distance learning courses nor may a student take more than a total of 12 credit hours of distance learning courses. No student may enroll for credit in a distance learning course until that student has completed 28 credit hours toward the J.D. degree. These rules shall be interpreted in accordance with ABA Standard 306 and its interpretations.

The Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association has granted the School an emergency variance from from the credit-hour limitations of Standard 306(e) for the 2020-2021 academic year, based on the Council's conclusion that the COVID-19 pandemic satisfies the extreme hardship requirements set forth in Standard 107(a)(1). The variance is limited to the expected duration of the extraordinary circumstances on the basis of which it was granted. Should the COVID-19 pandemic subside prior to the start of the spring 2021 semester, the Council may terminate this variance.

## **Enrollment**

A student must enroll every semester to maintain his or her status as a current law student. If a student fails to enroll or seek a leave of absence before the first day of class of the semester in question, the student in the absence of extraordinary circumstances must re-apply to the School of Law for admission as a new student.

## **Examinations**

***Exam-Taking.*** A student wishing to type an in-class final examination must use a laptop computer that will support the exam-taking software provided by the School of Law and must use that software. Subject to the decisions of the school's Accommodations Committee, individual instructors may deny students in their courses permission to type an in-class final examination.

During in-class exams, students may have only their computer (if allowed by the professor), eyeglasses, and writing implements (such as pens, pencils, and highlighters) with them at their desks. All scratch paper and blue books will be provided by the professor. Any additional items at students' desks must be specifically authorized by the professor prior to the start of the exam (such as supplements or casebooks). Other items brought into the exam room, including all electronic devices, must be deposited at the front of the exam room prior to the start of the exam.  
– *Added by the faculty on March 2, 2012.*

***Late Administration of an Exam.*** Except as provided below, examinations must be taken on the date scheduled by the School of Law. ***No*** examination shall be given to a student ***prior*** to the scheduled date for that examination under any circumstances.

Permissions to take an examination ***late*** shall be granted only for reasons of physical impossibility or extreme personal emergency. Such permission shall only be granted by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and only on the basis of such documentation as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may require. Except in an unusual emergency, the student must obtain this permission prior to the examination. If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs refuses to grant such permission, the failure to take an examination when scheduled will result in a grade of F.

If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs grants such permission, the student must ordinarily take an examination for the course at the time of the next regularly scheduled examination for that course (regardless of whether the instructor is the same as the instructor the student had). The Registrar shall enter an I (incomplete) for the course on the student's transcript until the examination is graded. If the examination is not taken at the next regularly scheduled time, the Registrar shall change the grade to an F.

If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the instructor agree, the student may instead take the original examination but only in such manner as preserves the integrity of the examination process and the anonymity of grading and at such time subsequent to its scheduled date that permits the instructor to grade the examination before grades are due. The instructor in his or her sole discretion may require the student to take a substitute examination in lieu of the original examination. If either the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the instructor refuses his or her consent, the Examination Integrity Monitor, who shall be a tenured faculty member elected at the September faculty meeting of each academic year by all faculty members eligible to vote, shall decide. The decision of the Examination Integrity Monitor shall be made in accordance with the foregoing standard and shall be final.

## **Full-Time and Part-Time Students Defined**

A full-time student is one who devotes substantially all working hours to the study of law. Unless the student has chosen the Sunset scheduling option, full-time students are expected to be able to attend classes at any time from Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A student qualifies as a full-time student in any semester only if he or she has no more than 15 hours per week of outside employment (see the specific limits on outside employment set forth in the section “Outside Employment” below). A part-time student includes any student working in excess of 20 hours per week during the semester. A student who works more than 15 hours per week but no more than 20 hours per week with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is a full-time student; if the student does not have such permission, the student is part-time.

## Grades

Grades generally are awarded, and academic standing determined, on a 4-point scale:

A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
D-	0.67
F	0

***Credit/No Credit Grading.*** A professor, with the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, may designate a course as using a grading system of CrH (credit with honors), Cr (credit), and NC (no credit). If the professor does so, that fact will be announced at the beginning of the course. The faculty may also designate certain courses to be graded on a Cr (credit)/NC (no credit) basis.

***Incompletes.*** In compelling circumstances, with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, a course instructor may give a student an “I” (Incomplete). The student must satisfactorily complete the course within a reasonable time (and no more than one year), or the “I” will be changed to F, W, WF, or WU (see below).

***Grading Requirements for Required Courses (Excluding Legal Research and Writing).*** Grades in fixed required courses must comply with the following policy:

1. All fixed required courses, excluding Legal Research and Writing, with more than 25 students shall have a class average between 2.5 and 2.835.
2. Between 10 percent and 35 percent of all students in fixed required courses, excluding Legal Research and Writing, with more than 25 students shall receive a letter grade of C or below.

3. The term “fixed required courses” is defined as those courses ordinarily taken by full-time students in their first year, Evidence, Legal Profession, and Constitutional Law I and II.
4. Arithmetical remainders shall be rounded where necessary to produce a whole number of students. For example, in a class of 54 students, there must be a minimum of five grades of C or below. In a class of 55 students, there must be a minimum of six grades of C or below.
5. When more than one section of the same course is taught by the same faculty member, the faculty member shall have the option to decide whether the curve should be applied to each of the sections separately or to all the sections combined into a single group.
6. Individual faculty may only deviate from the above requirement upon permission from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for good cause shown. At the end of each academic year, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall report to the faculty the requests he or she received from faculty for variances from this policy, the reasons given by the faculty member for the requested variance, the action taken by him or her, and the reasons for his or her decisions.
7. A faculty member’s grades are not considered officially submitted unless they conform to the requirements above. *Revised May 2021.*

***Grades in Summer Abroad Courses Co-Sponsored With Stetson University College of Law.*** The rules governing transfer credits generally apply to credit hours earned in the summer abroad programs that the School of Law co-sponsors with Stetson University College of Law (Stetson) and that are administered by Stetson. A student must receive the grade of 2.0 or better in Stetson’s 4-point grading scale in a course in a Stetson summer abroad program in order to receive credit for the course. (Stetson does not award letter grades, but uses only a numerical grading scale.) The grade will not be taken into account in the computation of the student’s cumulative grade point average. *Revised February 28, 2014 and October 1, 2014.*

***Grades for LLM-in-American-Law Degree Candidates.*** In general, the grading scale for LLM-in-American-Law degree candidates consists of the grades of High Honors, Honors, Pass, and Fail. However, the grading scale for the required courses for the LLM degree in American Law (Introduction to the American Legal System and American Legal Research and Writing) consists of the grades of Credit and No Credit. Because of this grading system for LLM-in-American-Law degree candidates, their coursework may not be applied toward the JD degree. The presence of LLM-in-American-Law degree candidates in a JD course does not affect the application of the mandatory grading policy for first-year required courses to the JD students in the course and need not affect the instructor’s grade distribution for the JD students in the course. LLM-in-American-Law degree candidates should identify their exams and other work to be graded as that of an LLM candidate. *Added May 1, 2015.*

***Grade Appeals.*** Grade appeals are rare and should only be pursued in the unusual circumstances given below. A grade appeal is permitted only if a student has reasonable grounds to believe that his or her final grade or a final academic judgment made with respect to him or her was based on a violation of established university or law school policy, procedure, or regulation;

substantial error; bias; or a miscarriage of justice. The student bears the burden of proof in establishing the violation, substantial error, bias, or a miscarriage of justice.

No grade appeal is permitted in a course that uses anonymous grading and has an enrollment of ten or more students. Courses that use anonymous grading include (without limitation): (i) any course the final examination of which is graded anonymously, regardless of whether the course syllabus permits grade adjustments for class preparation, class participation, or other course requirements and regardless of whether the clerical entries for those adjustments are made by the instructor as long as those adjustments meet the requirements given in the course syllabus as it may be amended from time to time in writing; and (ii) any Legal Research and Writing course that uses anonymous grading for each assignment worth at least twenty percent of the course grade.

In all time periods below, the date of the student's receipt of the grade in question is presumptively the date on which the Registrar's office has completed entering all final grades for the semester in question and made such grades generally accessible to students over the internet, whether or not the student in question was able to access the internet on that particular day. (This frequently is four school days after the faculty are required to submit their grades to the Registrar.) "School days" are defined as Monday through Friday when classes are in session, excluding breaks, final exam periods, and University holidays. All time periods apply equally to students temporarily attending programs outside the United States.

Within five school days after receipt of the grade in the course, the student shall notify the course instructor that he or she wishes to discuss the grade. If reasonably possible, within 10 school days after this notification by the student, the instructor shall either meet with or confer with the student by telephone or e-mail in an attempt to resolve the issue.

If the student cannot resolve the issue with the course instructor within 15 school days after receipt of the grade in the course (either because the student was not satisfied with the communications with the instructor or because the instructor was unavailable despite the student's notification), the student may file a written grade appeal with the Dean of the School of Law. (If the Dean taught the course in question, the student may file the written grade appeal with the university's Provost, in which case all references below to the Dean shall refer to the Provost instead). The grade appeal must be filed with the Dean within 30 school days after receipt of the grade in the course.

The written grade appeal to the Dean shall be in as much detail as possible, stating all aspects of the issue that the student feels pertinent. Grounds for review by the Dean are limited to a showing by the student of a violation of established university or law school policy, procedure, or regulation, substantial error, bias, or a miscarriage of justice. Copies of pertinent material in the student's possession or access should be included in the written appeal as appropriate.

The Dean shall, within 15 school days after receipt of the written appeal, determine if the student has established a prima facie case of a violation of established university or law school policy, procedure, or regulation, substantial error, bias, or miscarriage of justice. In making that determination, the Dean may take into account his or her administrative and teaching experience

and may discount assertions for which the student has failed to furnish either documentary evidence or corroboration from third persons.

If the Dean determines that the student has not established a prima facie case, the Dean shall notify the student that he or she is dismissing the grade appeal. The Dean's decision is final and not subject to further review by any University official.

If the Dean determines that the student has established a prima facie case, then the Dean shall, within five school days of this determination, provide a copy of the written appeal to the instructor and shall request a written response that details as completely as possible the position or opinion of the instructor on all issues pertaining to matters for which the Dean has determined that the student has established a prima facie case. The instructor shall respond within 10 school days after receipt of the Dean's request.

The Dean shall promptly forward a copy of the instructor's response to the student. If the student so desires, the student may provide additional written comments to the Dean within five school days of receipt of the instructor's response.

The Dean shall render a final decision on the appeal within 15 school days after receiving all materials and responses (or within ten school days after the expiration of the time periods within which such materials and responses should have been filed). The Dean must determine that the student has established a violation of established university or law school policy, procedure, or regulation, substantial error, bias, or a miscarriage of justice, or the Dean shall deny the appeal. The Dean's decision is final and not subject to further review by any University official.

***Grade Changes for Mechanical or Clerical Error.*** The course instructor's grades are presumptively correct and generally final. Once a grade has been awarded, the course instructor cannot change it except in the case of mechanical or clerical error, and then only with the consent of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

***Grades Upon Withdrawal.*** Students withdrawing from courses (see "Withdrawals," below) are assigned a grade of F, W, WF, or WU. The grade of W denotes satisfactory performance prior to the date of withdrawal. The grade of WF (withdrawal when failing) may be given in a course graded on the basis of letter grades under the following circumstances:

1. The student has exceeded the limit on absences established by the professor on the first class day of the semester or in the course syllabus; or
2. The student has performed in the classroom in a failing manner by being unprepared, failing to complete assignments, failing quizzes, or failing to satisfy, in any manner, the specific and articulated academic requirements set by the professor that ordinarily would be considered in determining the student's grade in the course.

The grade of WU (withdrawal while performing unsatisfactorily) may be given in any course that is not graded on the basis of letter grades, under the same circumstances that would authorize a WF grade if the course were graded on the basis of letter grades.

**Grade Deadlines.** Grades are due at 9:00 a.m. on the first business day thirty (30) days after the last day of the examination period. Summer grades are due at 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Monday following the last day of the examination period. Grades will be made available no later than the Friday following the grade deadline if all grades are received by the deadline.

**Grade Deadlines for Seminar Papers, Directed Research, and Supervised Papers.** Grades are due for these courses no later than the regular deadline for turning in semester grades. However, at the discretion of the professor, if additional time is needed for timely rewrites of papers, a grade of Incomplete (I) may be awarded. A final grade must be submitted no later than the end of the next regular semester (that is, excluding the summer term) following the semester in which the student enrolled in the course; except that the professor may, in writing submitted to the School of Law Registrar, further extend the completion time to a date certain. If no final grade is submitted within these time periods, the Incomplete will be converted automatically to an F (in a letter-graded course) or NC (in a credit/no-credit course). Prior to the removal of the Incomplete, the professor shall be notified of the Incomplete and the upcoming deadline.

## Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for conferral of the Juris Doctor degree, a student must:

1. Satisfactorily complete all required courses, including the upper-class writing requirement;
2. Be in good standing upon the satisfactory completion of not less than 90 credit hours;
3. Complete the prescribed course of study no earlier than 24 months (and no later than the maximum time for completion set forth below) after a student has begun law study at OCU School of Law or any law school from which OCU School of Law has accepted transfer credit; and
4. If a transfer student, complete the last 45 credit hours at OCU School of Law.

**Maximum Time for Completion of Degree Requirements.** A full-time student must complete the requirements for the Juris Doctor degree within the four years following commencement of his or her legal studies. A student who qualifies as a part-time student during any semester must complete the requirements for the Juris Doctor degree within a period of five years following commencement of his or her legal studies. Extensions of these time periods may be granted in the discretion of the Petitions and Retentions Committee, subject to ABA standards.

## Honors

**Graduation With Honors.** The faculty awards the Juris Doctor degree *cum laude* to students graduating in the top 20 percent of their graduating class, the Juris Doctor degree *magna cum laude* to students graduating in the top 10 percent of their graduating class, and the Juris

Doctor degree *summa cum laude* to students graduating in the top 5 percent of their graduating class.

**Dean's List.** The Dean's List for a semester consists of all students ranking in the top 25 percent of their class (or the top 25 percent of their section, if first-year students) for that semester on the basis of their term GPA.

**Faculty Honor Roll.** The Faculty Honor Roll for a semester consists of all students who complete at least eight hours, achieve a 3.0 grade point average for that semester, and rank in the top ten percent of their class for that semester on the basis of their term GPA.

**Phi Kappa Phi.** Law students of sound character who have completed a minimum of 60 law school credit hours or the equivalent, of which at least 30 credit hours have been earned at Oklahoma City University, and who rank scholastically in the top 10 percent of their class, will be invited to join Phi Kappa Phi.

## Leaves of Absence

An upper-class student in good standing may apply to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for a leave of absence before or during the semester to which the leave is applicable. The application must be in writing, include the reason for the requested leave of absence, be dated, and be signed by the student. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant the requested leave of absence only if (a) there is a reasonable expectation that the student will return to the School of Law, (b) the number of days in the approved leave of absence, when added to the number of days in all other approved leaves of absence for that student, does not exceed 180 days in any 12-month period, and (c) if the student is a title IV, HEA program loan recipient, the university has explained to the student, prior to the granting of the leave of absence, the effects that the student's failure to return from a leave of absence may have on the student's loan repayment terms, including the exhaustion of some or all of the student's grace period. The preceding requirements are intended to qualify the leave of absence as an approved leave of absence under federal student loan regulations; see 34 CFR § 668.22 (2013). The failure of the leave of absence to qualify as an approved leave of absence under those regulations may result in the characterization of the student's leave of absence as a withdrawal from the School of Law for purposes of federal student loan regulations. *Revised March 31, 2014*

Requirements regarding maximum time in which to complete a degree still apply. A student not in good standing is not entitled to a leave of absence, but one may be granted by the Petitions and Retention Committee upon petition by the student and recommendation by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for compelling circumstances.

First-year students will be granted leaves of absence only for extraordinary circumstances. If the leave is granted for the spring semester by the Petitions and Retention Committee, it will be conditional on the first-year student having a GPA of at least 2.0 and being in good standing after the first semester, unless the Petitions and Retention Committee expressly waives that requirement. *Revised as of March 7, 2014*



A student is not in good standing if he or she is not in academic good standing. In addition, for purposes of this section, a student is not in good standing if he or she receives a notice of disciplinary probation, suspension, or dismissal, or if the student withdraws during a pending disciplinary action.

**Limitations on Credit for Certain Categories of Courses**

A student may earn no more than seven credit hours from individualized writing and advocacy courses. For purposes of this rule, the “individualized writing and advocacy” courses are:

- Directed Research
- Supervised Paper
- Law Review
- Interscholastic moot court teams approved for academic credit

A student may earn no more than nine credit hours toward graduation requirements from externships and clinical courses. For purposes of this rule, the “externship and clinical courses” are:

- Corporate Counsel Externship
- Government Practice Externship (but only the two credit hours for fieldwork)
- Judicial Externship
- Litigation Practice Externship
- Native American Legal Externship
- American Indian Wills Clinic (but only the two credit hours for fieldwork)
- Innocence Clinic (but only the three credit hours for fieldwork)
- Norick Municipal Law Research Clinic (but only the two credit hours for fieldwork)
- Any advanced clinic (all credit hours allocated to the advanced clinic)
- Any other clinic or externship offered for academic credit

A student may earn no more than thirteen credit hours toward graduation requirements from individualized writing and advocacy courses and externship and clinical courses combined.

**Outside Employment**

Student course loads must be consistent with the following schedule:

<b>Maximum Hours of Employment (Paid or Unpaid) Per Week</b>	<b>Maximum Course Load per Semester (the Maximum Course Load for a Summer Term is half the Maximum Course Load per Semester)</b>
0 to 15 hours	13 to 16 credit hours

More than 15 and up to 20 hours	11 to 12 credit hours
More than 20 and up to 40 hours	8 to 10 credit hours
Over 40 hours	By petition

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant a workload exceeding these standards, upon written petition by the student. Relevant factors in determining whether to grant a work overload include the student’s prior academic performance. A student may not petition for a work overload for a semester in which he or she is enrolled in a clinic. *Revised July 1, 2015.*

Each semester, each student must furnish the Office of Law Registrar with a Work Statement/Employment Verification form, signed by both the student and the student’s employer (if the student has outside employment). “Outside employment” includes paid and unpaid legal work or other volunteer work. The form includes the type of work done and the number of hours worked per week. The student must submit a new statement for each semester in which he or she plans to register for classes. Failure to submit a work statement will result in a “hold” on the student’s account. The student must also resubmit the form any time his or her workload changes in any way. *The student violates the OCU School of Law Student Conduct Code if he or she fails to provide accurate information or fails to update the information required should the work load change.*

Based upon the experience of this and other law schools, the School of Law recommends that a full-time student not have any outside employment during the first year.

## Multiple Choice Testing in Required Courses

In any section of a course that is (a) a **required first-year course for full time law students**, (b) a fixed **required second-year course for full-time law students**, (c) a floating required course, or (d) a Group A course or a Core Course, at least **one-half** (50%) of the aggregate point values of all the graded assessments used in the course must be based on written student work, not multiple choice testing. This rule applies to all sections of a course that is a fixed required second-year course for full-time students, even if the section is being taught to part-time third-year students.

## Recording of Classes

Making either an audio or video recording of class is prohibited unless permission has been granted by the instructor or the Special Accommodations Committee. See the full recording policy on page 45.

## Summer Courses

***Ineligibility to Enroll.*** A first-year student whose grade point average is lower than 2.0 at the end of his or her first semester is not eligible to enroll in the next summer session, except as provided in the fresh-start program. Any student (first-year or not) who is placed on probation

after fall semester grades is not eligible to enroll in the next summer session. *Revised on May 5, 2017.*

***First-Year Part-Time Students.*** Part-time students who have completed their first two semesters, and who are eligible to enroll in summer term courses, may enroll only in those summer courses designated by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

***Academic Dismissal During the Summer Term.*** See the section entitled “Academic Probation, Dismissal, and the Triggering of Additional Requirements.”

## **Summer Courses at Another Law School**

Students who are in academic good standing may apply to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for permission to take up to two courses (or the equivalent) during the summer at or through another ABA-approved law school. However, transfer students may not attend summer school at another law school within their last 45 hours.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs applies the same standard to a petition to take summer courses at another law school as the Petitions and Retention Committee applies to a petition to take courses during the academic year at another law school. Accordingly, the Associate Dean follows the School of Law’s policy that no student pursuing a J.D. degree may have visiting student status at another law school, unless there are special, compelling, and unforeseen circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the student. The Associate Dean may also make exceptions to the general policy when the student can demonstrate a specific need to take courses in a specialized field that are not offered by the School of Law but are offered and available to the visiting student at another ABA-approved law school.

Students may not take required courses at another law school. Rules governing transfer credits apply to summer credit hours. Those rules include the following: no credit will be given for any course in which the student earned a grade of C- or lower; no credit will be given for any ungraded course; course credit transferred from another school will be reported on the student’s transcript as "Cr"; and grades earned at other schools will not be calculated in the student’s grade point average.

The number of credits that will be accepted for transfer is the number of credits awarded by the other school, even if a similar course at OCU is allotted a different number of credits.

The form for requesting approval to take summer courses at or through another law school is available in the Law Registrar’s Office. Students must provide descriptions of the specific courses requested. A reference to a web site is insufficient; the student must print out the applicable portions of the other law school’s web site and attach them to his or her request for approval.

## **Transcript Requirements**

A new student must provide an official final transcript showing his or her eligibility to enroll by October 10 (or the next following business day) of the academic year in which he or she first enroll in the School of Law. *Please see page 47 for complete policy.*

## **Transfer Students and Transfer Credit**

To receive the J.D. degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law, students who have transferred from another law school must complete at least 50 percent of their total academic credits and all uncompleted required courses for the J.D. degree in residence at the law school, regardless of circumstances. Transfer students must complete their last forty-five hours at OCU. Summer work taken at another institution during these last 45 hours will not transfer.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will determine the number of transfer hours to be credited toward the degree and may establish a time for completion of degree requirements. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will also determine whether specific courses taken prior to transfer will satisfy OCU required course requirements, and what additional courses, if any, must be taken to satisfy the requirements for the J.D. degree.

No transfer credit will be given for any course in which the student earned a grade of C- or lower. No transfer credit will be given for any ungraded course (including any course graded on a pass/fail or satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis). Course credit transferred from another school will be reported on the student's transcript as "Cr," and grades earned at other schools will not be calculated in the student's grade point average.

The number of credits that will be accepted for transfer is the number of credits awarded by the other school, even if a similar course at OCU is allotted a different number of credits. Students transferring to OCU should request a ruling as to whether another school's course will satisfy a specific course requirement at OCU.

Upon completion of course work at another school, it is the student's responsibility to see that the other school's registrar provides the Law Registrar's Office with an official copy of that school's transcript for work taken at that school, as well as an official statement of the number of weeks in the school session, the number of class meetings per week, and the length of each class meeting.

## **Visiting Status at Another Law School**

Students enrolled in the School of Law are generally required to complete all of their course work in residence at OCU. It is the policy of the Law School that no student pursuing a J.D. degree may have visiting student status at another law school, unless there are special, compelling, and unforeseen circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the student. Authority to grant visiting status is vested in the faculty Petitions and Retention Committee, which shall determine, in its discretion, whether such special, compelling, and unforeseen circumstances exist based on the student's written petition and any required reasonable proof. The Petitions and Retention Committee may also make exceptions to the general policy, in its discretion, where the student can

demonstrate a specific need to take courses in a specialized field that are not offered by the School of Law but are offered and available to the visiting student at another ABA-approved law school.

If visiting student status is granted, courses taken while a visiting student must be approved in advance by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The rules relating to transfer credits apply to courses completed while visiting at another law school. No credit will be given for a course that constitutes a required course in the OCU School of Law curriculum. (This rule does not apply to courses taken by transfer students prior to their matriculation at the School of Law.)

## **Visiting Status at OCU School of Law**

Law students enrolled in ABA-approved law schools may request permission to take courses at Oklahoma City University School of Law as a visiting student. Submitting the request is a two-step process. First, the student must request the registrar at his or her current institution to submit a letter of good standing and an official transcript to the OCU Law Registrar. Second, the student must submit a written request for visiting status to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The Associate Dean will not consider any request until the Registrar has received the letter of good standing and the official transcript. The student's written request should include the academic term(s) for proposed enrollment, the name of the course(s) he or she desires to take, and the reasons for requesting visiting student status.

If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs approves the request for visiting student status, the non-OCU student will be required to pay the regular tuition and fees then in effect for the academic term(s) attended. The student must abide by all applicable OCU School of Law regulations and standards regarding student conduct, attendance, examinations, work load, and the like.

## **Withdrawals**

***Withdrawal from a Course.*** In all courses, consent of the professor is required for withdrawals after the seventh week of classes (or the third week for the summer term), unless the professor has established an earlier deadline. In granting the required consent, the professor shall determine whether a W, WF, or WU will be recorded on the student's transcript (see rules regarding such grades under "Grades Upon Withdrawal"). The professor has the discretion not to allow withdrawal after the date established, because of excessive absences, tardiness, or unsatisfactory performance. In cases of a withdrawal required by the professor, the professor shall determine whether a W, WF, or WU will be recorded on the student's transcript. In the absence of extenuating circumstances and approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, a student may not withdraw from a course once classes have ended. Except as provided above, any withdrawals will result in the grade of F being entered on the student's transcript.

***Withdrawal from the School of Law.*** The failure to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal from the School of Law. Failure to comply with the procedures for withdrawal stated below will result in Fs being entered for all courses. These grades will severely hinder the student's chances of re-admission to this law school or admission to any other law school in the future.

A student withdrawing from the School of Law must obtain a Withdrawal Form from the Law Registrar's Office. The withdrawal becomes effective on the date the action is validated in the Cashier's Office. Refunds are calculated according to the University's schedule and are based on the official date of registration and the date of withdrawal. In no event is the tuition deposit for a first year student refunded. Unless the withdrawal is pursuant to an authorized leave of absence, a student who voluntarily withdraws from the School of Law must apply for readmission. Readmission shall be considered by the faculty Admissions Committee according to the rules governing admission with advanced standing.

See also the sections above entitled "Grades upon Withdrawal" and "Leave of Absence."