Degree Requirements & the Degree Audit Report (DAR)

The Degree Audit Report (DAR) is an application on [Wolverine Access](https://wolverine.umich.edu) that is available to students under the “Student Business” tab. It outlines a student’s progress toward his/her degree. Students should take some time to review the DAR to track their progress. Questions? Contact the Office of Student Records (lawrecords@umich.edu; 734.763.6499; 300 Hutchins Hall), Dean Baum (dbaum@umich.edu; 734.764.0516), or Director Nealy (dnealy@umich.edu; 734.764.0516).

READING THE DAR
There are three classifications for the degree requirements: Satisfied, Not-Satisfied, and Pending Satisfied/In Progress. They are color-coded throughout the document so that you can easily see what requirements you have met, still need to meet, and are in the process of meeting (through your current enrollment).

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
*Key: Matriculation occurs on the J.D. student’s first day of class of their first academic term.*

A student who matriculated before May 2013 must complete with a passing grade (D or better) the following:

- **During the first year:** Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, Introduction to Constitutional Law, Torts, and Legal Practice I, II, and Skills.
- **After the first year:** At least one course with a rigorous writing component.
- **During the third or fourth term:** Transnational Law.
- **At some point before graduation:** At least one professional responsibility course.

A student who matriculated between May 2013 and May 2015 must complete with a passing grade (D or better) the following:

- **During the first year:** Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, Legislation and Regulation, Torts, and Legal Practice I, II, and Skills.
- **After the first year:** At least one course with a rigorous writing component.
- **During the third or fourth term:** Transnational Law and Introduction to Constitutional Law.
- **At some point before graduation:** At least one professional responsibility course.

A student who matriculated in May 2015 or September 2015 must complete with a passing grade (D or better) the following:

- **During the first year:** Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, Legislation and Regulation, Torts, and Legal Practice I, II, and Skills.
- **After the first year:** At least one course with a rigorous writing component.
- **During the third or fourth term:** Introduction to Constitutional Law.
- **At some point before graduation:** At least one international or comparative law course of two or more credit hours, and one professional responsibility course.
A student who matriculated in or after May 2016 must complete with a passing grade (D or better) the following:

- **During the first year**: Civil Procedure, Contracts, Criminal Law, Introduction to Constitutional Law, Torts, the Legal Practice writing course for one credit hour, and the Legal Practice experiential courses for four credits.
- **During the second semester (for fall starters only)**: One elective course of three or four credit hours.
- **After the second semester**: At least one course with a rigorous writing component.
- **At some point before graduation**: At least one international or comparative law course of two or more credit hours, one statutory or regulatory course of three or more credit hours, one course in professional responsibility of two or more credit hours, and two credit hours of experiential learning.

**64 Rule**: ABA accreditation standards require that all law school JD graduates must have earned a minimum of 64 credit hours in “regularly scheduled law classes.” First-year required courses (except Legal Practice Skills), upper class courses, law courses taken outside of Michigan Law, seminars, and most clinical law courses count toward fulfilling this requirement. Independent Research (LAW 900), Advanced Clinical Law (LAW 980), the field component of externships, externship research papers, study abroad papers, and non-law courses do not count. (Note: This is not an exhaustive list. Check with the Office of Student Records if you are unsure whether credits earned in a particular class count.) If you completed or plan to enroll for an externship, are a dual degree student, are taking three or more non-law courses and/or a number of the other types of classes on the "do not count" list, you might have difficulty fulfilling this requirement.

**Law Residence Terms**: Students must complete six full-time terms (or their equivalent) in order to graduate from law school. A full-time term requires carriage throughout the term and completion of at least 10 credit hours with a grade of a “D,” or better.

**Limited Grade Option Limit**: Up to two times during your law school career, you may convert a letter grade of "C" or better to a "P" (which means "Pass") in an upper-level (non-first-year) course. This is what the Law School refers to as “Conversion of a Letter Grade to a ‘Pass.’” Please see [Part One, Section VI. B. of the Academic Regulations for J.D. Students](#) for specific rules and limitations concerning this option.

**Law 5 Year Limit**: All degree requirements must be completed within five years from the first day of the term the student began law school.

**76 (for pre-May 2015 matriculants) or 77 (for students who matriculated in May 2015, or thereafter) Non-Research Units are Required**: LAW 778 (Law and Development Research), LAW 900 (Independent Research), LAW 942 (Law Practicum Research), and LAW 992 (Research: Special Projects) are the only “courses” at this time that do not count toward this rule. If you are doing or plan to do a lot of research for credit, then you should pay close attention to this and the 64 rule.
70 (for pre-May 2015 matriculants) or 71 (for students who matriculated in May 2015, or thereafter) **Law Units are Required:** During their time in Law School, students may take non-law courses that, if approved, can be applied to their total number of credits for graduation. In order to receive credit, students must receive prior approval from Dean Baum (see the online Registration Instructions for specific information about how to get approval) and successfully complete the course [with a B- (minus), or better grade]. Please note that an “NDC” (Not for Degree Credit) will appear on your unofficial transcript next to the course until the Office of Student Records has had a chance to review your grade and remove the “NDC” flag. This typically takes place after all Law School grades are posted for the previous term.

76 (for pre-May 2015 matriculants) or 77 (for students who matriculated in May 2015, or thereafter) **Units Must Be Taken While Enrolled at U of M Law School:** You are permitted a maximum of six (6) hours of credit for coursework taken at another ABA accredited law school. Prior approval for this coursework from Dean Baum is necessary. (See the online Registration Instructions for information about how to get approval.) Note: These six credits are included in the 12 you are permitted to take outside of Michigan Law. Therefore, if you plan to take some non-law credits at Michigan, and take some law credits elsewhere, make sure to check with the Office of Student Records or Dean Baum.

**Total Units Needed to Graduate:**

- **82 total credits are required:** for students who matriculated prior to May 2015
- **83 total credits are required:** for students who matriculated in May 2015, or thereafter

**Cumulative GPA:** A minimum grade point average of 2.0 is required to graduate from law school (for pre-May 2015 matriculants) and 2.3 (for a student who matriculated in May 2015, or thereafter).

**Graded Units for Honors Eligibility:** The first step to being eligible to receive honors is to complete 62 (for pre-May 2015 matriculants) or 63 (for students who matriculated in May 2015, or thereafter) graded for honors credits. Additional requirements can be found at the “Honors Eligibility” link on the Office of Student Records’ webpage.

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