

This letter is to serve as an explanation of the terms used in your degree audit report. The degree audit form provides you with a snapshot look at your progress toward your J.D. If you disagree with anything on the audit report, then I strongly suggest that you come to see me (Jack) or Dean Baum at the Registrar's Office.

You can find your DAR on-line through Wolverine Access (<http://wolverineaccess.umich.edu/>), under Student Business.

The graduation requirements changed beginning with the May, 2005 entering cohort. **Therefore, if you entered law school (UM or elsewhere) in 2005, then this letter is applicable to you. If you entered law school prior to 2005, then please refer to the letter that applies to you. If you don't remember when you entered law school, then you might want to consider joining the circus.**

The report outlines all of the degree requirements one by one. If you have not yet met the requirement, then the requirement will be written in **bold** type. With the exception of the first year requirements, most students meet their requirements in their fifth or sixth semester, so DON'T PANIC if you see a lot of bold headings! The key thing, at this time, is to make certain that your course load will lead you to meeting those requirements. Courses that are in progress will be noted on the report, but the credits will not be factored into the totals.

Although every effort has been made to present the DAR information in as clear a manner as possible, there is still no small number of students who need help navigating through it; either that or they find me charming (or they like to talk baseball). **If you feel that you need assistance, then please come visit me at the Registrar's office (300 Hutchins Hall) and I will be happy to walk you through your requirements. I do ask that you first read this document and then make an attempt at reading your DAR.**

One important note:

Incomplete work is NOT factored into the credit hour totals or other degree requirements. Please refer to the Academic Regulations for the rules on incompletes.

First year requirements:

Civil Procedure; Introduction to Constitutional Law; Contracts; Criminal Law; Property; Torts; Legal Practice (I and II), Legal Practice Skills

A first year elective is required of Fall Starters, but not of Summer Starters.

Additional Requirements:

Professional Responsibility: One course is required. These are easily identified on the course schedule as they will have a "3" in the "Footnotes" column.

Seminar: One seminar is required. These are at the 800 level in the course schedule.

Six full-time terms: You must complete six full-time terms or their equivalent in law school. A full-time term requires carriage throughout the term and completion of at least 10 credit hours with a grade of "D" or better. This category appears in the current version of the DAR under "Residence Terms."

Limited Grade Option (Pass/Fail), final term limit: In your final term, you are permitted to take no more than two courses ELECTIVE pass/fail, providing that you have enough pass/fail credits to use (more on that in a bit). There is no limit on MANDATORY pass/fail courses, although it is strongly suggested that, if you plan to graduate with honors, you keep an eye on your total pass/fail (combining mandatory and elective) count. Honors eligibility requirements are covered at the end of this document.

Upper Class Writing Requirement: This may be met through a number of means: a two credit seminar designated to meet the requirement (most do, but check the footnotes first!); a two credit course requiring a substantial research paper or other writing requirement (again, check first); a three credit paper connected to either a study abroad or externship, or; a two credit independent research paper with a substantial writing requirement. Please note that you cannot fulfill this requirement until after you have completed your second semester of law school.

Cumulative GPA: A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required to graduate from law school.

82 total credits are required: pretty self-explanatory!

Transnational Law (Law 606): Required of all students entering UM Law School. No exceptions, even if you have no interest in international law, and even if you have taken other international law-related courses.

64 Rule: By ABA rules, all law school graduates must have 64 credit hours in "regularly scheduled law classes." First year courses, upperclass courses, law courses taken outside of UM Law, seminars and most clinical law courses count toward fulfilling this requirement. Independent research, externships, and non-law courses do not. *If you took/plan to take an externship and/or are a joint degree student, then you should pay special attention to this rule.*

76 non-research credits are required: Assuming you graduate with exactly 82 credits, you are permitted a maximum of six (6) research (aka independent study, Law 900) credits while in law school. This count represents your total of non-research credits.

70 law credits are required: Assuming you graduate with exactly 82 credits, you are permitted a maximum of twelve (12) hours of credit for coursework taken outside of UM Law School. These are ordinarily courses taken at another UM department. Prior approval for this coursework is necessary.

76 credits must be taken while enrolled at UM Law School: Assuming you graduate with exactly 82 credits, you are permitted a maximum of six (6) law credits from another ABA approved law school. Again, prior approval is necessary. These six credits are included in the twelve you are permitted to take outside of UM Law School.

67 graded credits are required: Assuming you graduate with exactly 82 credits, you are permitted a maximum of 15 ELECTIVE credit hours taken under the limited grade option (aka "pass/fail"). In other words, these are credits for which you would ordinarily receive a traditional letter grade ("A," "B," etc.), except that you indicated to the Registrar's Office that you wanted to limit your grade to a "P" for a grade of "C" or better. For those who are NOT going to graduate with honors (GPA of 3.400 or higher, no rounding off), there is no limit on mandatory pass/fail hours, provided that all other graduation requirements (in particular, the "64 rule") are met.

62 graded credits for honors eligibility: Assuming you graduate with exactly 82 credits, you are permitted a maximum of 20 TOTAL pass/fail hours to be eligible for honors. Total pass/fail

hours combines elective pass/fail (which appear as "P" on your transcript and are described in the previous paragraph) and mandatory pass/fail ("S" on your transcript). Mandatory pass/fail courses are those in which the Law School requires you to read a grade of "S" for a grade of "C" (and in the case of clinical law courses, "C+") or better. Examples of mandatory pass/fail courses are Legal Practice, Clinics, Externships (but not the paper), and non-UM law courses (be they non-law courses, or law courses taken elsewhere). For those who are NOT going to graduate with honors (GPA of 3.400 or higher, no rounding off), there is no limit on mandatory pass/fail credits, provided that all other graduation requirements (in particular, the "64 rule") are met. If you are granted permission to be a visitor at another law school for compelling and unusual personal reasons (See Part One, Section II of the Academic Regulations), the credits you earn at that law school do not count against the 20 total pass/fail credits.

HONORS ELIGIBILITY

The GPA rules are applicable to everybody, but there is some variation in the pass/fail requirements, so please read carefully those which pertain to you. *Please bear in mind that there is no rounding off for honors.* The GPA rules are as follows:

Summa Cum Laude:	GPA of 4.000 or higher
Magna Cum Laude:	GPA of 3.700 to 3.999
Cum Laude:	GPA of 3.400 to 3.699

GOOD LUCK,

Jack Atkinson
Law School Registrar