For all JD students who matriculated prior to May, 2012 who are applying to take the New York bar:

You might have read information on the NY Board of Law Examiners (BOLE) web site that shows two eligibility requirements that differ from the Law School’s graduation requirements: 1) a “stand alone” ethics course, and 2) 83 total credits.

First and foremost, note that these new requirements apply only to those who entered law school in May 2012 and after (the language on the web site is a bit misleading), so you are not affected by them.

The course(s) you took to satisfy the Law School’s professional responsibility requirement will be accepted by NY BOLE. If you did not take a “stand alone” ethics course here (namely, Law 731, Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility; Law 797, Model Rules and Beyond; 723, Corporate Lawyer: Law & Ethics; or 402/002, Ethics Colloquium (two-credit section only)), then in response to the question on the NY Bar application inquiring about how many credits you earned in “stand alone” law courses, enter a “0.” The New York BOLE staff will recognize that you matriculated prior to May 2012.

The “83 credits” requirement requires a bit more explanation. New York BOLE (like our accreditors, the American Bar Association) requires that each credit hour represent 700 minutes of class time. The Law School requires 715 minutes of class time per credit hour; accordingly, both the ABA and NY BOLE have recognized that 82 Michigan Law credits are sufficient. The bottom line is that if you graduate with only 82 credits, this will satisfy both the New York BOLE and the ABA.

For all JD students who matriculated in May 2012 and thereafter who might possibly apply to the New York bar at any time in their professional careers:

You will need to take a “stand alone” ethics course. Courses that fulfill this requirement (including Law 731, 797, 723, and 402/002, listed above) appear in the class schedule with a footnote 54 designation. Eighty-two (82) credits will continue to satisfy the NY BOLE’s credit requirement for the reasons described above.

In addition to these requirements, the NY BOLE has also established a 50-hour “pro bono” service requirement. You can learn more about this requirement and how to fulfill it on the Office of Career Planning’s web pages, specifically at http://www.law.umich.edu/careers/probono/Pages/NYbarrequirement.aspx