ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

The official version of the Academic Regulations is posted on the Vermont Law School Network at k:Course Info/Academic Regulations. Any revisions made during the year will be posted at that site. Revisions to paper copies of the regulations, including the student handbook, will be made at the beginning of each academic year.

Amended May 13, 2011
Amended February 2, 2012
Amended May 4, 2012
Amended June 28, 2013
Amended October 29, 2013
ACADEMIC REGULATIONS


I. INTRODUCTION

A. GENERAL

These regulations apply to all persons taking courses at, or through, Vermont Law School. They apply to students who are candidates for degrees, to students taking courses for credit, and to students auditing courses. All students taking courses at, or through, Vermont Law School are deemed to have notice of these regulations.

B. NOTICE

The official version of the academic regulations is posted on the Vermont Law school network at k:\course info\academic regulations. Any revisions made during the year will be posted at that site. The Academic Regulations are also included in the student handbook and course catalog and posted online. Those will be revised at the beginning of each academic year.

C. AMENDMENT

1. General

Except as provided in the following paragraph, amendments to these regulations may be made by a majority of the voting faculty at a regular or special faculty meeting provided a notice of the proposed amendment has been given to each individual member of the voting faculty at least seven calendar days before the meeting.

2. Conforming Amendments

The Registrar, in consultation with the Committee on Standards, may amend these regulations without faculty approval whenever necessary to conform these regulations to the addition or deletion of courses from the curriculum, to changes in course names, and to changes in title and position of faculty, staff, or administration. The Registrar may also amend these regulations without faculty approval to correct punctuation, grammar, spelling, typographical errors, and inconsistencies between approved amendments and existing regulations.

II. JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE (JD)

A. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

1. General

The degree of Juris Doctor (JD) is granted for regular attendance and satisfactory completion of the prescribed course of study which includes a minimum of eighty-seven \(1\) semester hours and a cumulative grade point average of 2.20. \(2\)

2. Course Requirements

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\(1\) The increase to 87 credits from 84 credits is effective for students entering the JD program in or after August 2005. Students who began the JD program before August 2005 are required to satisfactorily complete 84 credits.

\(2\) The requirement of a 2.20 cumulative grade point average is effective for students who matriculate into the JD program after July 1, 2007. For students who matriculated into the JD program before this date, the required cumulative grade point average is 2.00.
(a) Of the 87 semester hours required for the degree, satisfactory completion of the following courses is required: Appellate Advocacy; Civil Procedure I and II; Constitutional Law and Public Law; Contracts; Criminal Law; Evidence; Legal Profession; Legal Analysis and Writing I, Legal Research; Legal Writing II: Theory & Practice; Property; and Torts.

Satisfactory completion of two of the following courses is also required: Corporations, Criminal Procedure (either Constitutional Criminal Procedure or Criminal Practice and Procedure), Estates, Family Law or General Practice Program I: Domestic Relations, Remedies, and Sales.

Except as noted in subsections b, c, and d of this regulation and in regulation II.D.5.b., all other courses are elective.

(b) Each student is also required to satisfactorily complete one perspective course. Perspective courses substantially and systematically expose students to the broader foundations of law, including its social, cultural, historical, philosophical, comparative, or scientific contexts. The courses which satisfy this requirement change from time to time; a list of courses which currently satisfy this requirement is published each year the registration handbook.

(c) Each student must also satisfactorily complete at least one course that focuses on the development of skills and their application to the solving of actual or simulated problems. A list of the courses which currently satisfy this requirement is also published each year the registration handbook.

(d) Satisfactory completion of the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement (AWR) is also a graduation requirement. A student must submit a written project which a regular faculty member determines would receive a grade of C or better were it the sole basis of grading in a course for two or more credits. The student may submit a project:

   (1) In satisfaction of any written requirement in any course or Independent Research Project which a regular faculty member has certified as meeting the provisions of the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement; or in completion of any project, whether or not submitted for academic credit, which a regular faculty member has certified as meeting the provisions of the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement.

   (2) In advance of the start of each student’s fifth semester, the student must notify the Registrar in writing as to (1) whether the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement has been met, (2) how the student plans to satisfy the requirement, or (3) if no decision has been made as to how to satisfy the requirement, the fact that the student has spoken with a member of the faculty to discuss ways of satisfying the requirement, in

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3 For students who matriculated before April 2013, the required coursework is as follows: Appellate Advocacy; Civil Procedure I and II; Constitutional Law I and II; Contracts; Criminal Law; Evidence; Legal Profession; Legal Analysis and Writing I, Legal Research; Legal Writing II: Theory & Practice; Property; and Torts. Students who matriculated before April 2013 and did not complete Constitutional Law I and II before the end of the 2012-2013 academic year will received a waiver allowing them to satisfy the requirement through completion of Constitutional Law and Public Law.

4 Evidence is required for students who matriculate into the JD program after July 1, 2007.

5 These courses are required for students who matriculate into the JD program after July 1, 2007.

6 Guidelines for Independent Research Projects are found at regulation II.C.

7 The usual period of study to obtain the JD degree is six semesters extended over three academic years. Regulation II.A.5.b. For students pursuing an accelerated or extended scheduling option or for students in certain joint or dual degrees, the term “sixth semester” as used throughout these regulations means the student’s final semester in the JD program at the end of which the student is awarded the JD degree. The term “fifth semester” means the preceding the final semester in the JD program.
which case the statement must be signed by the faculty member. In addition, every student must either satisfy the requirement prior to the beginning of the student’s sixth semester or file with the Registrar a statement approved by a regular faculty member setting forth the particulars of the project which the student intends to complete to satisfy the requirement.

(3) PURPOSE: The purpose of the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement is to provide each student with an opportunity to enhance his or her writing skills on a more sophisticated project than is afforded in the first year and appellate advocacy writing programs, preferably in an area of law of his or her choosing, and with the assistance of detailed and individualized feedback from a member of the faculty. Close interaction between student and instructor is considered essential to the success of this program, the focus of which should include the substantive content of the student's work, the quality of his or her writing, and the process by which the student organizes and develops ideas, conducts research, and writes.

GENERAL GUIDELINES: The following guidelines set forth the criteria to be used generally in designing a student's project and in structuring faculty supervision of the project. Both faculty and students are urged to abide by these guidelines except where special circumstances, which allow the goal of the AWR program to be served in some other way, justify variance from them. In this connection, the fact that an AWR project is written in conjunction with a seminar does not, without more, justify departure from these guidelines.

(a) **Genre**: A project need not culminate in any particular genre of legal writing to be satisfactory. Such diverse projects as law review articles, advanced moot court briefs, seminar papers, proposed statutes with comment, or other projects might serve as appropriate vehicles for demonstrating one's competence for Advanced Legal Writing. The determinative criteria are the project's requirements for research, analysis, and writing.

(b) **Length**: No particular length is required, although most projects have been in the range of 20 to 30 pages. In any event, the length should be such that the student is required to demonstrate such fundamental writing skills as grammar, syntax, organization, clarity of expression, and ability to present fully the message of the project in a well-reasoned fashion.

(c) **Drafts**: Each project should require, in addition to the final draft, at least one detailed outline and one preliminary draft, or two preliminary drafts of the final product. In addition, the student and the faculty supervisor should complete a written evaluation at the end of the term, focusing on the quality of the student’s work, on improvement in the student’s skills, and on the quality of the learning process. Outlines, if required, and preliminary and final drafts should be reviewed and critiqued by the certifying faculty member. The final product should reflect consideration of the comments and critiques of the faculty member.

(d) **Collaborative Efforts**: Some projects may involve the collaborative efforts of two or more students. In such instances, the individual student must be able to identify his or her contributions to the research, analysis, and writing incorporated in the drafts and final project. The certifying instructor should take such steps as he or she deems necessary to insure that each student within the group has demonstrated competence in research, analysis, and writing.

(e) **Meeting**: Every faculty supervisor and student may expect each other to be available for a minimum of four face-to-face meetings during the semester to discuss the student's project.
(f) **Supervision:** Faculty supervision should be directed at improving the student’s skills in the following areas, the attention paid to each item to be a function of the student's individual needs: (i) fundamentals of writing (grammar, syntax, organization, and clarity of expression), (ii) legal analysis, (iii) legal research and (iv) capacity for self-reflection and self-evaluation on both the quality of the student’s work and the process of learning involved in the project.

(g) **Supervision by Adjuncts:** Adjunct faculty may not supervise an advanced legal writing project unless (1) the project is done in satisfaction of course requirements in a course taught by the adjunct that the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs has approved in advance of the semester in which it is offered as appropriate for advanced legal writing credit or (2) the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs approves the specific project in advance of commencement of the project. In all such cases, the student must draft, and the adjunct faculty supervisor and the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs approve, a contract for the project containing the information required for independent legal research projects. See regulation II.C.3.

(e) **Non-JD Courses**

Except as noted below, JD students may enroll in only one non-law course. Credits so earned will be applied toward the 87 semester hours required for the Juris Doctor degree.

JD students may enroll in non-law courses in any joint or dual degree program or exchange program as approved by the faculty or the Committee on Standards. 8

(f) **Credits toward JD degree from VLS study abroad programs**

In accordance with ABA regulations, the total number of credits that may be applied to the JD degree from courses taken in study abroad programs shall not exceed one third of the credits required for that degree, i.e. 29 credits.

3. **Course Load**

The following restrictions apply to all JD students. No exceptions are allowed without prior written approval of the Committee on Standards.

The minimum course load is 10 hours per semester, and the maximum course load is 17 hours per semester. 9

Although there is no per semester "classroom hour" requirement, students must in the course of six semesters complete a minimum of 65 credits of course work requiring attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions. For purposes of calculating attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions, all work done in connection with enrollment in the South Royalton Legal Clinic (SRLC) and the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC) is considered to be in regular class sessions, whether in a classroom or not.

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8 The number of credits of non-law courses may be different depending on the joint or dual degree or exchange program. Students pursuing any of these programs should consult with the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs or the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs.

9 Students who must complete only 84 credits for the JD degree are limited to a maximum course load of 16 JD hours per semester. The maximum course load of 17 credits is mandated by the American Bar Association and may not be waived.
Courses taken through exchange and dual degree programs with the University of Cergy-Pontoise Faculty of Law, the Renmin University of China School of Law, the University of Trento Faculty of Law, the University of Seville, and the McGill University Faculty of Law are also counted toward satisfying the requirement of 65 credits of course work requiring attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions.

Academic credits awarded in following do not count toward satisfying the requirement of 65 credits of course work requiring attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions:

a. Courses taken at academic institutions, other than A.B.A. accredited schools, including courses taken at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Science, Carnegie Mellon University, the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and the University of Cambridge.

b. Independent Research Projects

c. Practicum portion of an externship

d. Practicum portion of Dispute Resolution, Criminal Law, and Land Use Clinic

e. Legislative Clinic

f. Vermont Law Review and the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law

4. Employment

A student may not be employed more than 20 hours per week in any week in which the student is enrolled in more than twelve class hours.

5. Residence Requirement

a. Three years “residence” (six semesters) is required for the JD degree. To receive residence credit for a particular semester, the student must receive credit for at least 10 hours (the minimum course load).

b. The usual period of study to obtain the JD degree is three years (six semesters). ¹⁰

(1) A student may extend this time period to four years (eight semesters) by taking a reduced course load or pursuing an extended scheduling option.

(2) A student may also extend this time period by requesting a leave of absence. The Registrar may grant leaves of absence, other than medical leaves of absence, for two semesters; all other requests for leaves of absence must be addressed to the Committee on Standards. Under no circumstances will the Committee on Standards grant a request for a leave of absence, including a medical leave of absence, that extends the period of study beyond seven years.

(3) A student pursuing the accelerated scheduling option must also complete a minimum of six semesters. (For purposes of this regulation, a summer session will count as one semester.)

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¹⁰ For students pursuing an accelerated or extended scheduling option or for students in certain joint or dual degrees, the term “sixth semester” as used throughout these regulations means the student’s final semester in the JD program at the end of which the student is awarded the JD degree. The term “fifth semester” means the preceding the final semester in the JD program.
(f) To obtain the degree from Vermont Law School, a student must be in residence at Vermont Law School, or at a school with which Vermont Law School has an exchange program, for the last four semesters.

A student pursuing the accelerated scheduling option must also be in residence for the last four semesters. (For purposes of this regulation, a summer session will count as one semester.)

No exceptions will be made except for an unforeseeable change of circumstance of an emergency nature.

(1) A desire to enroll in an academic program not offered at Vermont Law School (or its exchange program) is not considered an unforeseeable change of circumstance of an emergency nature.

(2) A desire to avoid separation from a spouse or partner will not ordinarily be considered an unforeseeable change of circumstances of an emergency nature.

d. No residence credit is granted for Vermont Law School’s summer sessions or for attendance at another law school unless part of an exchange program as provided under 5.c. above or unless the student is pursuing the accelerated scheduling option.

6. Accelerated Scheduling Option

Vermont Law School offers a flexible scheduling option that will allow JD students to accelerate graduation. This option allows a limited number of students to complete the JD degree in five semesters plus at least one summer session or in four semesters and two summer sessions.

a. Eligibility:

(1) Interested students should apply after completing their first semester of law school and no later than during the fall semester of their second year. After that, admission to the program will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, upon petition to the Committee on Standards.

(2) Applicants must be in the upper half of the class at the time of application.

(3) There is an enrollment limit of 50 students.

(4) Preference will be given to students in VLS’s dual degree programs.

(5) Applicants must obtain financial counseling, career services counseling and academic counseling. Application without the signatures of the designated counselors will be rejected.

b. Tuition: summer sessions will be billed at the same rate as fall and spring semesters. Thus, the overall tuition cost for the accelerated option is the same as the regular JD program.

c. Impact on academic standing: students in the accelerated option will not receive a class rank and will not be eligible for the Learned Hand Award (granted to the student graduating with the highest grade point average at the end of the fifth semester).

d. Impact on extra-curricular activities: students in the accelerated option will not be eligible for participation in Law Review, VJEL, and extra-mural moot court competitions.

7. Extended Scheduling Option

Vermont Law School offers a flexible scheduling option that will allow JD students to extend the JD program over 8 semesters.
a. Eligibility: Interested students should apply prior to the commencement of their first year in the JD program. After that, admission will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, upon petition to the Committee on Standards.

b. The minimum course load for participants in the extended scheduling option is 10 credits. No exceptions are allowed without prior written approval of the Committee on Standards. The maximum load is 12 credits. The maximum load restriction may be modified by the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs or the Assistant Dean’s designee.

c. The extended schedule course modifies the standard schedule as follows:
   - First Year: Torts; Contracts; Property; Criminal Law; Legal Reasoning, Writing, and Research; and Legal Writing II.
   - Second Year: Constitutional Law and Public Law; Civil Procedure I and II; plus upper level courses. Students cannot enroll in Appellate Advocacy until completion of Constitutional Law and Public Law, except with prior approval of the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs and the Director of Legal Writing.

d. Tuition: students agreeing to remain enrolled in the extended scheduling option for 8 semesters will be billed 80% of the standard tuition fee each semester.

e. Impact on academic standing: students in the extended scheduling option will be ranked only after completion of their second year.

f. Impact on extra-curricular activities: students in the extended scheduling option will be eligible for participation in Law Review, VJEL and extra-mural moot court competitions only after completion of their second year.

8. Transfer of Credit and Credit for Summer Courses

   a. A student accepted for transfer to Vermont Law School may receive equivalent course and residence credit for work at another ABA-approved law school. No more than one year’s residence credit may be transferred and only courses for which the student has received a grade of C or better will transfer. The courses taken, grades, and credit earned at the prior law school will be noted on the Vermont Law School transcript but not included in the student’s Vermont Law School grade point average.

   If a student has not been enrolled in an ABA-approved law school within the two years preceding application to Vermont Law School, the student will not be accepted as a transfer student. Students who do not qualify as transfer students under this paragraph may apply for admission as first-year students.

   b. A student at Vermont Law School who takes courses at another ABA-approved law school or programs of such school may be granted credit provided the courses do not duplicate courses taken at Vermont Law School and meet the Vermont Law School grade and academic standards provided in these academic regulations. The courses taken, grades, and total credits earned will be recorded on the student’s Vermont Law School transcript, but course grades will not be included in the student’s Vermont Law School grade point average. The student must provide the Registrar with an official transcript showing the grades earned at the other institution. Students are strongly encouraged to consult the Registrar before enrolling in courses at another ABA-approved law school to ensure compliance with this regulation.

   c. A student at Vermont Law School will be granted hour credit for summer courses satisfactorily completed at Vermont Law School. Grades for such courses are noted on the Vermont Law School transcript and are included in the grade point average. No residence credit is granted except as provided in regulation II.A.6.
d. A student will not be granted credit for courses completed prior to the student’s matriculation as a candidate for the JD degree at an ABA-approved law school.

B. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS

1. A student may participate in an externship in his or her fourth, fifth semester or sixth semester. Ordinarily, a student with a GPA below 2.4 will not be allowed to enroll. The externship program director has the discretion to deny admission to any student not prepared to enroll in the program.

2. Students are permitted to enroll in clinical courses in the fourth, fifth, or sixth semester.

3. All clinics and externships are limited enrollment courses with enrollment procedures established for each program. Details are included in the web-based registration materials.

4. A student may not:
   a. Enroll in more than one clinic or externship course in any one semester;
   b. Enroll in a clinic or externship course that substantially repeats the experience gained in the same or another clinic or externship course;
   c. Except for a part-time JD externship, enroll in the same experiential course more than once;
   d. Enroll in an externship program with the same field supervisor or mentor or at the same site at with which the student has been placed as an extern, had an employment relationship or has worked as a volunteer unless the program will provide a qualitatively different or broader learning experience than the student has had as a volunteer or an employee; or
   e. Receive a salary for an externship course for which academic credit is granted. (Remuneration for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses related to the field placement is permitted.
   f. Externship mentors must have a law degree (or be admitted through clerkship in Vermont). This applies whether the mentor is working in a governmental agency, nonprofit organization, private law firm, for-profit corporation, or as a judge.
   g. Joint-degree and dual-degree students must receive prior approval from the joint-degree or dual-degree program director, or the director’s designee, in addition to the full-time externship program director’s approval, before enrolling in a full-time externship program.
   h. The number of credits available for a part-time externship shall be determined by the faculty sponsor in consultation with the field supervisor at the time of approval of the externship. Any number of credits from four to six may be set, depending upon the amount of student time required by the project, such credit to be figured at the rate of three hours of student time per week per credit. Credits greater than six require approval of the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs (after consultation between said Dean and the part-time externship program director). Such approval shall not ordinarily be granted.

C. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. Goals
   a. To allow the participating student to engage in intensive research in an area of the law in which the participating student has a particular interest.
   b. To give the participating student experience in completing a major piece of legal writing.
c. To encourage a faculty-student learning experience on a highly individualized basis by providing close supervision of the participating student by a faculty member in both the research and writing stages.

2. Basic Eligibility Requirements

a. Any student may undertake an Independent Research Project in any semester during his or her second or third year of studies.

b. In order to be eligible to undertake an Independent Research Project a student must find a faculty member willing to sponsor the student’s project. The decision to sponsor a student’s Independent Research Project is solely within the faculty member’s discretion. In this exercise of his or her discretion, a faculty member may take into account, but is in no way limited to, the following criteria:

   (1) The student’s record in regularly structured classroom courses,
   (2) The student’s record in previously completed written work, and
   (3) The student’s total number of credits for non-classroom work in the current and prior semesters.

   (a) Non-classroom credits include Independent Research Projects, the Vermont Law Review, the Legislative Clinic, Mediation Field Work, the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law, the part-time JD externship program, and the practicum (11 credits) of the full-time JD externship programs (the Semester in Practice, the Environmental Semester in Washington, the Judicial Externship) and courses taken at academic institutions other than A.B.A. accredited law schools, including the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Science, Carnegie Mellon University, the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and the University of Cambridge. (Courses taken through exchange and dual degree programs with the University of Cergy-Pontoise Faculty of Law, Renmin University of China School of Law, the University of Trento Faculty of Law, the University of Seville, and the McGill University Faculty of Law are, however, considered “classroom hours.”)

   (b) The ABA requires a minimum of 65 credits of classroom work requiring actual attendance at regularly scheduled sessions.

(A faculty member willing to sponsor a student’s Independent Research Project is hereinafter referred to as a sponsor.)

3. Procedures for Developing Independent Research Projects

a. In consultation with his or her sponsor, the student must prepare a contract.

b. The contract shall be a typewritten document prepared by the student in consultation with the sponsor setting forth the obligations and expectations of each party. It shall include, as far as possible, the following provisions:

   (1) a description of the nature of the project;
   (2) the goals which the student seeks to achieve by undertaking this particular project;
   (3) a brief description of the research resources necessary for this project;
(4) a summary of the preliminary work already undertaken;

(5) an estimate of the amount of time the student will spend undertaking the Independent Research Project;

(6) a statement of expectations regarding the amount of time and effort the sponsor will devote to aiding the student in carrying out the project;

(7) a timetable for completion of various stages of the project;

(8) a description of the estimated size and scope of the final work product;

(9) a statement as to the mode of evaluation of the final work product (see regulation II.C.5. below);

(10) a statement as to the number of credits to be received (see regulation II.C.6. below);

(11) a listing of the student’s credits for non-classroom work in the current and prior semesters. (Non-classroom work is defined above at regulation II.C.2.b.(3)(a).)

c. Requirements of filing a form for the contract are as follows:

(1) A copy of the contract, bearing the signature of the student and the faculty sponsor, shall be filed in the Registrar’s Office by the student no later than the deadline for adding courses to student schedules for the semester. If a student fails to file the contract with all required signatures by this deadline, the Registrar will delete the independent research project from the student’s registration.

(2) Contracts without a sponsor currently holding the rank of assistant professor, associate professor, professor, assistant professor of legal writing, associate professor of legal writing, or professor of legal writing of the law school must be approved in writing in advance of the commencement of the project by the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs.

(3) If the sponsor determines that there is good cause, a revision of a contract may be made after the deadline for adding courses, provided that:

   (a) the revision will not violate any other provision of the Academic Regulations, and

   (b) a copy of the revised contract, signed by the student and the faculty sponsor is submitted to the Registrar prior to the last day of classes for the semester in which the independent study is to be completed.

4. Requirements Concerning the Independent Research Paper

   a. A student taking part in the Independent Research Program is required to submit a paper based on the student’s research.

   b. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, this paper shall in substance and form be the equivalent of a scholarly piece of legal writing.

   c. The student and faculty sponsor may agree to the submission of a different sort of final written product, provided that the substituted written work product itself clearly sets forth the underlying legal research engaged in by the student.

5. Evaluation
a. The mode of evaluation is to be decided by the student and the faculty sponsor and incorporated in the contract. The following modes of evaluation are acceptable:

(1) by the sponsor and/or one or more other members of the faculty;

(2) by one or more members of the faculty and a highly qualified individual in the field of research covered by the Independent Research Project.

b. The Independent Research Project shall be graded with a letter grade unless agreed to by the sponsor and incorporated into the contract that the project be evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If graded with a letter grade, the grade shall be included in the student’s grade point average. The minimum acceptable grade shall be 1.67.

Notwithstanding an agreement not to grade an Independent Research Project, if a student elects to satisfy the AWR with an Independent Research Project, the sponsor must still determine that the written product would receive a grade of C or better were it the sole basis of grading a course for two or more credits in order for the student to satisfy the AWR requirement.  

6. Credit

a. The normal procedure shall be for a student to contract for a three-credit Independent Research Project. Such a project should involve at least the same amount of time in research and writing as a student would spend in class and in preparation for class in a three-credit course.

b. If a student and a sponsor agree that a project has merit, but will in their estimation involve less than or more than the amount of work normally devoted to a three-credit course, they may contract for fewer or more than three credits.

c. The normal procedure shall be for a student to complete an Independent Research Contract in the academic semester. The Independent Research paper shall be due no later than the end of the last week of the examination period.

d. If the student feels that he or she will be unable to complete his or her paper by this deadline, or if the student’s paper does not meet the minimum standard set out in regulation II.C.5.b., he or she may petition his or her sponsor for an extension of time. A student may petition his or her sponsor only once for an extension, and the extension shall not exceed one additional academic semester. Such petition must be made by the end of the fourteenth week of the semester in which the project was initiated.

e. Approval of the extension is solely in the sponsor’s discretion. A faculty member may only grant one extension, and may not grant an extension which extends beyond the student’s sixth semester. Extensions for more than one semester or that extend beyond the student’s sixth semester require the approval of the Committee on Standards. If approval is granted, it is the responsibility of the student to transmit immediately to the Registrar, the sponsor’s or the Committee’s written approval of such extension.

f. Upon receipt of such written approval, the Registrar shall enter an I (Incomplete) on the student’s transcript. If the student fails to submit a satisfactory paper within the time limit permitted by the extensions, the I (Incomplete) will be changed to F-Wd.

g. If the student and sponsor agree that the proposed project has merit, but that it will be difficult for the student to complete the proposed project in one semester, the student and sponsor may

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11 Guidelines for the Advanced Legal Writing Requirement are found at regulation II.A.2.d.
make special provision in the contract for a two-semester project. The student bears the responsibility of bringing this special provision to the Registrar’s attention.

h. The credits for such a two-semester project will accrue to the student during the second semester of the project. The Registrar shall enter a grade of Y on the student’s transcript after the first semester.

i. If the student fails to present a satisfactory paper at the end of the second semester or his or her paper is not yet complete, the same provisions for extension which exist for one-semester papers shall apply.

D. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

1. Grading System

Each student’s academic standing is determined at the end of each semester and at the end of the academic year in accordance with the following grading system:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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Pass-Honors (no effect on average) ....................... P-H
Pass (no effect on average) ................................. P
Low-Pass (no effect on average) ......................... L-P
Unexcused absence from examination ....................... FAbs
Unexcused failure to complete other course requirement including attendance, papers, etc .................. F-Wd

The passing grade in an individual course is ............... D (1.000)

2. Designations

Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement I
[The student must complete the required work by the end of the spring semester in the case of a fall semester course, by the beginning of the fall semester in the case of a spring semester course, or by the end of the fall semester in the case of a summer session course or an additional grade of F-Wd will be entered.]

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12 These are the course grades; grade point averages are rounded off to two decimal places.

13 If the faculty member submits the grade within this time period, the I designation will be removed from the transcript and the grade entered for the semester in which the student was originally registered for the course. Class rank, Dean’s List, and other honors will not be changed for that semester.

If the student receives an extension or the faculty member does not submit the grade within this time period, the I designation will remain on the transcript and the grade will be entered for the semester in which the work was actually completed.
Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course........... Wd
Year-long course........................................................... Y
Administrative Delay................................................... AD

3. The following courses are graded Pass-Honors/Pass/Low-Pass/Fail:
   Advanced Bar Studies
   Deans Fellows
   Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic
   Legal Analysis and Writing I
   Mediation Field Work
   South Royalton Legal Clinic

4. The following courses are graded Pass/Fail:
   Conservation Law Foundation Internship
   Environmental Semester in Washington practicum
   Part-Time JD Externships
   Judicial Externship practicum
   Law Review
   Legislative Clinic
   Semester in Practice practicum
   Trial Practice
   Vermont Journal of Environmental Law

5. Probation and Dismissal

   1. A student will be placed on academic probation if, at the end of the first semester, the student’s cumulative average is between 1.5 and 2.20, or, at the end of other semesters, between 1.90 and 2.20.

   2. A student who is on academic probation at the end of the first semester is required to take Legal Methods in place of one doctrinal class in the second semester. The student must meet with the

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14 This regulation applies to students who matriculate into the JD program after July 1, 2007. For students enrolled in the JD program prior to July 1, 2007, the following regulation applies:

   5. Probation and Dismissal

       a. To be in good academic standing, a student must have an overall average of at least 2.00.

       b. Probation: A student will be placed on academic probation if, at the end of the first semester, the student’s cumulative average is between 1.33 and 2.00, or, at the end of other semesters, between 1.67 and 2.00.

       c. Academic Dismissal: A student will be dismissed from the law school if:

           (1) the student has failed a total of eight credit hours in two consecutive semesters: no more than four credit hours of F from the first year, first semester will count in the application of this rule; or

           (2) the student’s cumulative average at the end of the first semester is at or below 1.33; or

           (3) the student’s cumulative average at the end of the second, third, fourth, or fifth semesters is below 1.67; or

           (4) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.00 at the end of any semester and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or

           (5) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.00 at the end of the student’s final semester.

   d. In unusual cases, exceptions to parts 1-5 of this regulation may be granted by the Committee of Standards. No exception will be made absent a clear showing by a student that extraordinary circumstances, beyond the student’s control and unlikely to recur, prevented the student from meeting minimum academic standards.
Academic Dean, the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, the Director of Academic Success, or the Assistant Director of Academic Success to determine what course to omit in the second semester.

3. A student who is on academic probation at the end of the second or third semester is required to take the following courses to obtain the JD degree: Corporations, Criminal Procedure, Estates, and Sales. The student’s course schedule and any changes to it must be approved by the Academic Dean, the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, the Director of Academic Success, or the Assistant Director of Academic Success.

4. Academic dismissal: A student will be dismissed from the law school if:

   (1) the student has failed a total of eight credit hours in two consecutive semesters: no more than four credit hours of F from the first year, first semester will count in the application of this rule; or

   (2) the student’s cumulative average at the end of the first semester is at or below 1.50; or

   (3) the student’s cumulative average at the end of the second, third, fourth, or fifth semesters is below 1.90; or

   (4) the student has a semester grade point average of less than 1.67 in any two semesters; or

   (5) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of any semester and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or

   (6) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of the student’s final semester.

   d. A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 5.c.(5) will be allowed to continue for a second semester on academic probation if the student’s grade point average for the first semester on academic probation, if repeated for the second semester on academic probation with a credit load of 12 credits, is sufficient to achieve the required cumulative average of 2.20 at the end of the second semester on academic probation. A student who is continued on academic probation is required to take the courses designated in regulation II.D.5.b.(3) above.

   e. A student who is academically dismissed may not petition the Committee on Standards for readmission earlier than one year after the date of academic dismissal. The Committee will grant readmission only if it finds that the student has satisfactorily addressed the factors that contributed to the academic dismissal. If the Committee grants a petition for readmission, it may impose any conditions such as retaking some or all of the first-year courses, taking a reduced course load, or taking specific courses.

6. Degrees and Honors

   a. Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and winter and at the commencement held annually at the end of the spring semester. Students successfully completing degree requirements at other times may request a certificate of completion prior to the receipt of a diploma.

   b. Vermont Law School grants degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These degrees are awarded as follows:

      - cum laude ............................................. 3.25
      - magna cum laude ................................. 3.50
      - summa cum laude ............................... 3.75
Honors are determined at the end of either the final semester or the semester immediately preceding the final semester. If a student achieves a grade point average sufficient for honors at the end of the semester immediately preceding the final semester, the student will receive those honors even if the student’s grade point average decreases in the final semester.

III. MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMS

A. MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY DEGREE (MELP)

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

a. General

(1) The degree of Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) is granted for regular attendance and satisfactory completion of the prescribed course of study. A minimum of 30 credits is required for the MELP degree. These credits must be selected from courses approved for the MELP program. A cumulative average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the MELP degree.

(2) MELP students must satisfy the following requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy the Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Law</td>
<td>REQ7180 Public Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Law</td>
<td>ENV5115 Environmental Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership</td>
<td>ENV5122 Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) In addition to the above, each student must satisfactorily complete at least three of the following five core courses:

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15 In most situations, the student’s “final semester” is the sixth semester so that honors may be earned either at the end of the fifth of the sixth semester.

16 Students who matriculated in the MELP program prior to May 2013 must satisfy the following requirements: Environmental Law, Administrative Law, Science for Environmental Law, an Environmental Ethics/Philosophy distributional requirement, and a Dispute Resolution distributional requirement. Students who matriculated in the MELP program prior to August 2012 may satisfy the Science for Environmental Law requirement with any of the following courses: ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law, ENV5430 Ecology, or ENV5110 Ecology of Food and Agriculture.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy the Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources Law</td>
<td>ENV5235 Natural Resources Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science for Environmental Law</td>
<td>ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Economics and Markets</td>
<td>ENV5220 Environmental Economics and Markets (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Ethics (minimum of 2 credits)</td>
<td>DIV7628 Indian Tribes as Governmental Stewards of the Environment (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5406 Animal Rights Jurisprudence (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5307 Animals and the Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5302 Animal Law (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5305 Environmental Ethics Seminar (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5446 Environmental Justice (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5521 Earth Law (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JUR7330 Moral Philosophy for Professionals (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JUR7307 Culture &amp; the Environment (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispute Resolution (minimum of 2 credits)</td>
<td>ADR6410 Alternative Dispute Resolution (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADR6415 Environmental Dispute Resolution (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADR6425 Interviewing, Counseling &amp; Negotiation (only JD/MELPs) (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADR6405 Arbitration (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADR6412 Mediation (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADR6420 Negotiation (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ADR6450 Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLI9405 Dispute Resolution Clinic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any MELP student having completed a JD degree or enrolled in a JD degree program may have the Public Law requirement waived. Although the requirement may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

(4) Any remaining electives may be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the following list of approved courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADR6405</td>
<td>Arbitration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADR6410</td>
<td>Alternative Dispute Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADR6412</td>
<td>Mediation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADR6415</td>
<td>Environmental Dispute Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADR6420</td>
<td>Negotiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADR6425</td>
<td>Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation (JD students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADR6450</td>
<td>Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADR6450</td>
<td>Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUS6262</td>
<td>Social Enterprise Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUS6305</td>
<td>Nonprofit Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUS6350</td>
<td>Nonprofit Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLI9302</td>
<td>Env &amp; Natural Resources Law Clinic (JD or LLM students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLI9405</td>
<td>Dispute Resolution Clinic I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLI9450</td>
<td>Land Use Clinic (JD or LLM students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIV7620</td>
<td>Native Americans &amp; the Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIV7628</td>
<td>Indian Tribes as Gov'l Stewards of the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5570</td>
<td>Feeding a Hot and Hungry Planet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5105</td>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5110</td>
<td>Ecology of Food &amp; Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5112</td>
<td>Science for Environmental Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5115</td>
<td>Environmental Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5125</td>
<td>Land Use Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5205</td>
<td>Air Pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5209</td>
<td>CERCLA Law &amp; Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5212</td>
<td>Climate Change &amp; the Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5220</td>
<td>Environmental Economics &amp; Markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5226</td>
<td>Energy Law &amp; Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5227</td>
<td>American Environmentalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5228</td>
<td>Energy Regulation, Markets &amp; the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5235</td>
<td>Natural Resources Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5239</td>
<td>Land Transactions &amp; Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5245</td>
<td>Water Resources Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5246</td>
<td>Water Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5250</td>
<td>Watershed Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5302</td>
<td>Animal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5303</td>
<td>Advanced Energy Writing Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5304</td>
<td>Comparative Environmental Law Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5305</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5310</td>
<td>Environmental Health Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5335</td>
<td>Extinction &amp; Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5342</td>
<td>Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5346</td>
<td>New Frontiers in Environmental Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5349</td>
<td>Regulating the Marine Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5356</td>
<td>Scientific Controversies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5365</td>
<td>Climate Change: the Power of Taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5380</td>
<td>Food Regulation &amp; Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5404</td>
<td>Green Marketing Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5405</td>
<td>Ecosystem Conservation Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5406</td>
<td>Animal Rights Jurisprudence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5423</td>
<td>Ocean and Coastal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5430</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5446</td>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5462</td>
<td>Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5468</td>
<td>Oil and Gas Production and the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5474</td>
<td>Land Conservation Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5476</td>
<td>Nuclear Power and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5490</td>
<td>Renewable Energy and Other Alternative Fuels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5498</td>
<td>America’s Energy Crisis</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV5500</td>
<td>Environmental Aspects of Business Transactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5510</td>
<td>Three Essentials of the Electric Grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5521</td>
<td>Earth Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5540</td>
<td>Public Health Implications of US Ag &amp; Food Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5560</td>
<td>Envl Protection &amp; the Law of Armed Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5561</td>
<td>Environmental Enforcement and Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPP7819</td>
<td>GPP Envl Issues in Business Transactions (JD students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT7421</td>
<td>International Environmental Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT7440</td>
<td>Comparative US-China Environmental Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT7446</td>
<td>International Trade and the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUR7307</td>
<td>Culture &amp; the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUR7330</td>
<td>Moral Philosophy Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUB7510</td>
<td>Legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUB7525</td>
<td>Legislative Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REQ7180</td>
<td>Intl Investment Arbitration &amp; the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRI7344</td>
<td>Adv Legal Research (JD or LLM students only, must be env'l topic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRI7380</td>
<td>Advanced Environmental Legal Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Credits and Course Load

1. MELP-only Students:
   a. To satisfy the 30-credit requirement, a student must take a minimum of 24 credits at Vermont Law School. A MELP student may take a maximum of 36 credits selected from courses approved for the MELP program for completion of the degree; however, if a student has reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.
   b. The minimum course load is six credits per semester for full-time students. The maximum course load is 14 credits per semester. The maximum course load for summer session is 11 credits. No exceptions are allowed other than with the prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

2. Joint-Degree Students

   See regulation IV below.
(3) Dual Degree Students

See regulations VI and VII below.

(4) Transfer of Credits

A student enrolled in the MELP program may be granted credit for summer or regular semester courses satisfactorily completed at an ABA-approved law school or at another accredited graduate school. A student may transfer a maximum of six such credits to the MELP program with the approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee. Before granting such approval, the Director or his or her designee must determine that the course is offered at the graduate level and that the course is relevant and important to the student’s overall program of study. Courses eligible as transfer credit include only those courses with specific environmental substance. The Registrar must receive an official transcript showing that the course has been completed and that a grade of C or better (as defined in the Academic Regulations) has been awarded. Transcripts from a foreign institution must be accompanied by a WES or AACRAO evaluation. Grades from transferred courses will be noted on the student’s transcript but will not be used in computing the student’s grade average. Once a student has enrolled as a degree candidate, prior approval must be obtained from the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee to obtain credit for courses taken at another institution. No transfer credit will be given for a course completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation into the MELP program.

(5) Courses taken Prior to Enrollment

Students wishing to take a course previously taken at a law school or college or graduate school, may register for the course with the prior approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or Director’s designee, upon showing that the student would benefit from taking the course at Vermont Law School. Students may not take Administrative Law at Vermont Law School if they have taken it at another law school within the previous five years.

c. Duration of Program

(1) To obtain the MELP degree, a student must complete the degree requirements within a period of five years from matriculation.

(2) Students may usually enter the MELP program in the summer or fall semesters only. The Director of the Environmental Law Center shall have the discretion to allow students to enter the MELP program in the summer or spring semesters.

2. EXTERNSHIPS

The Masters Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their environmental law, policy, management, and /or science knowledge and skills.

a. Threshold Requirements for a MELP Externship

The Masters Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their environmental law, policy, management, and /or science knowledge and skills and as such, the following requirements must be met:

(1) Students must work primarily on site at the MELP Externship. Students may not receive MELP externship credit if their work is done by telecommuting.

(2) MELP externships are by definition environmental in their subject focus, so students must assure that their work on-site relates to environmental issues.
(3) Externships cannot be substituted for distributional requirements or required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

(4) The maximum number of credits a student may earn in one or more MELP externship(s) is ten credits.

(5) The minimum number of credits a student may earn in a MELP externship is four credits.

b. Eligibility Requirements

(1) Students in good academic standing may elect to enroll in a MELP externship.

(2) Students may not earn JD credit through an MELP externship.

(3) Students will not be allowed to enroll in an externship where they have previously worked as a volunteer or an employee unless the externship will provide a qualitatively different or more in depth learning experience.

(4) Without prior approval from the Director of the Masters Externship Program, students enrolled for six or more credits in a MELP or JD externship during a given semester may not subsequently continue in that placement and receive credit toward a MELP externship as a consequence of that extended placement. Students seeking to extend such long-term experiences shall petition the Director of the Masters Externship Program in writing with supporting materials that demonstrate the following:

The student’s experience during the subsequent MELP externship will be substantially different from the experience as a consequence of additional (and more difficult) responsibilities, new subject areas, or new skills to be developed.

c. Procedures for Enrolling in an MELP Externship

(1) Fill out in its entirety, including all signatures, the contract form available at www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships.

(2) Submit the fully executed contract to the Director of the Masters Externship Program for approval of the externship opportunity.

(3) All fully executed contracts must be submitted to the Director of the Masters Externship Program by the first day of classes of the semester in which the student will be doing her or his externship.

1. The contract, once submitted to the Director of the Masters Externship Program, will be copied and distributed to the Mentor and the Faculty Supervisor.

2. Students who do not submit final, signed contracts by this deadline will not be enrolled in the MELP externship and will not receive credit for their work.

(4) The Director of the Masters Externship Program may decline any MELP externship contract or opportunity described therein that does not conform to these regulations.

d. Grades

(1) All MELP externships are pass/fail.
(2) Faculty Supervisors assign the grade based on the student’s journals, the Mentor’s letter of evaluation and other information such as work product, emails, telephone conversations and/or meetings and site visits with the student and Mentor.

3. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

a. Students who elect to undertake independent research projects shall follow the guidelines set forth in regulation II.C.

b. Independent research projects cannot be substituted for distributional requirements or required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

4. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

a. Grading System

Each student’s cumulative grade-point average is initially determined after completion of the first semester of course work, in accordance with the following grading system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pass-Honors (no effect on average) ...................................... P-H
Pass (no effect on average) .................................................. P
Low-Pass (no effect on average) ......................................... L-P
Unexcused absence for examination .................................... F-Abs
Unexcused failure to complete other course requirements including attendance, papers, etc ................................. F-Wd
The passing grade in an individual course is ....................... D (1.000)

b. Designations

Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement .......... I

[The student must complete the required work by the end of the spring semester in the case of a fall semester course, by the beginning of the fall semester in the case of a spring semester course, or by the end of the fall semester in the case of a summer session course or an additional grade of F-Wd will be entered.] 18

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17 These are the course grades; grade point averages are rounded off to two decimal places.

18 If the faculty member submits the grade within this time period, the I designation will be removed from the transcript and the grade entered for the semester in which the student was originally registered for the course. Class rank, Dean’s List, and other honors will not be changed for that semester.

If the student receives an extension or the faculty member does not submit the grade within this time period, the I designation will remain on the transcript and the grade will be entered for the semester in which the work was actually completed.
c. The following course is graded Pass-Honors/Pass/Low-Pass/Fail:
   Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic

d. The following courses are graded Pass/Fail:
   MELP Externships
   Vermont Journal of Environmental Law

e. Probation and Dismissal

   (1) To be in good academic standing, a student must have an overall average of at least 2.20.

   (2) Probation: A student will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of the first semester of course work, the student’s cumulative average is between 1.90 and 2.20.

   (3) Academic dismissal: A student will be dismissed if:

      (a) the student has failed six credit hours upon completion of the first semester of course work;
      or

      (b) the student’s cumulative average is below 1.90 at the end of any semester;

      (c) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of any semester and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or

      (d) the student's cumulative average is below 2.20 at the completion of the program.

   (4) A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 5.c. (3) will be allowed to continue for a second semester on academic probation if the student’s grade point average for the first semester on academic probation, if repeated for the second semester on academic probation with a credit load of 12 credits, is sufficient to achieve the required cumulative average of 2.20 at the end of the second semester on academic probation.

   (5) A student who is academically dismissed may not petition the Committee on Standards for readmission earlier than one year after the date of academic dismissal. The Committee will grant readmission only if it finds that the student has satisfactorily addressed the factors that contributed to the academic dismissal. If the Committee grants a petition for readmission, it may impose any conditions it deems appropriate.

f. Degrees and Honors

   (1) Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and spring and at the commencement held annually at the end of the spring semester.

   (2) Vermont Law School grants degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These degrees are awarded as follows:

      cum laude.......................... 3.25
      magna cum laude ................. 3.50
      summa cum laude ............... 3.75

19 For purposes of this regulation, the summer session shall be considered as a "semester."
B. MASTER OF ENERGY REGULATION AND LAW DEGREE (MERL)

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

a. General

(1) The degree of Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) is granted for regular attendance and satisfactory completion of the prescribed course of study. A minimum of 30 credits is required for the MERL degree. These credits must be selected from courses approved for the MERL program. A cumulative grade point average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the MERL degree.

(2) MERL students must satisfy the following requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy the Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy Regulation</td>
<td>ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets, and the Environment (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Economics</td>
<td>ENV5220 Environmental Economics and Markets (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Law</td>
<td>REQ7180 Public Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project/Writing Requirement</td>
<td>ENV5303 Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independent Research Project on an energy topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MERL Externship (4–10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participation in the Institute for Energy and the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>research associate program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Electives (minimum of 6 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5498 America’s Energy Crisis (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5476 Nuclear Power and Public Policy (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5468 Oil &amp; Gas Production &amp; the Environment (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5490 Renewable Energy &amp; Other Alternative Fuels (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance &amp; Development (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5510 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Engineering (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5511 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Business (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5512 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Legal (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives (minimum of 3 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5105 Administrative Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5205 Air Pollution Law &amp; Policy (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>any dispute resolution course (2-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5209 CERCLA Law &amp; Policy (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5212 Climate Change and the Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5365 Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5115 Environmental Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5125 Land Use Regulation (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PUB7550 National Security Law (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) Any remaining electives may be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the list of approved courses in section III.A.1.a. (4).

(4) The Director of the Environmental Law Center or Director’s designee has the authority to waive any of these course requirements provided the student has had comparable experience or course work. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

b. Credits and Course Load
(1) MERL-only Students:

(a) To satisfy the 30-credit requirement, a student must take a minimum of 24 credits at Vermont Law School. A MERL student may take a maximum of 36 credits selected from courses approved for the MERL program for completion of the degree; however, if a student has reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.

(b) The minimum course load for full-time enrollment is six credits per semester. The maximum course load is 14 credits per semester. The maximum course load for summer session is 11 credits. No exceptions are allowed other than with the prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

(2) Transfer of Credits

A student enrolled in the MERL program may be granted credit for summer or regular semester courses satisfactorily completed at an ABA-approved law school or at another accredited graduate school. A student may transfer a maximum of six such credits to the MERL program with the approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee. Before granting such approval, the Director or his or her designee must determine that the course is offered at the graduate level and that the course is relevant and important to the student’s overall program of study. Courses eligible as transfer credit include only those courses with specific environmental or energy substance. The Registrar must receive official transcript showing that the course has been completed and that a grade of C or better (as defined in the Academic Regulations) has been awarded. Grades from transferred courses will be noted on the student’s transcript but will not be used in computing the student’s grade average. Once a student has enrolled as a degree candidate, prior approval must be obtained from the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee to obtain credit for courses taken at another institution. No transfer credit will be given for a course completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation into the MERL program.

(3) Courses taken prior to Enrollment

Students wishing to repeat a course previously taken at a law school or college or graduate school, may register for the course with the prior approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or Director’s designee, upon showing that the student would benefit from taking the course at Vermont Law School. Students may not take Administrative Law at Vermont Law School if they have taken it at another law school within the previous five years.

c. Duration of Program

(1) To obtain the MERL degree, a student must complete the degree requirements within a period of five years from matriculation.

(2) Students may usually enter the MERL program in the summer or fall semesters only. The Director of the Environmental Law Center shall have the discretion to allow non-JD students to enter the MERL program in the summer or spring semesters.

2. EXTERNSHIPS

The MERL Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their energy law and policy knowledge and skills.
a. Threshold Requirements for a MERL Externship

The MERL Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their energy law and policy knowledge and skills and as such, the following requirements must be met:

(1) Students must work primarily on site at the MERL Externship. Students may not receive MERL externship credit if their work is done by telecommuting.

(2) MERL externships are by definition energy-related, so students must assure that their work on-site relates to energy issues.

(3) Externships cannot be substituted for required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

(4) The maximum number of credits a student may earn in one or more MERL externship(s) is ten credits.

(5) The minimum number of credits a student may earn in a MERL externship is four credits.

b. Eligibility Requirements

(1) Students in good academic standing may elect to enroll in a MERL externship.

(2) Students may not earn JD credit through a MERL externship.

(3) Students will not be allowed to enroll in an externship where they have previously worked as a volunteer or an employee unless the externship will provide a qualitatively different or more in-depth learning experience.

(4) Without prior approval from the director of Masters Externship Program, students enrolled for six or more credits in a MERL or JD externship during a given semester may not subsequently continue in that placement and receive credit toward a MERL externship as a consequence of that extended placement. Students seeking to extend such long-term experiences shall petition the director of Masters Externship Program in writing with supporting materials that demonstrate the following:

The student’s experience during the subsequent MERL externship will be substantially different from the experience as a consequence of additional (and more difficult) responsibilities, new subject areas or new skills to be developed.

c. Procedures for Enrolling in an MERL Externship

(1) Fill out in its entirety, including all signatures, the contract form available at www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships.

(2) Submit the fully executed contract to the director of Masters Externship Program for approval of the externship opportunity.

(3) All fully executed contracts must be submitted to the director of Masters Externship Program by the first day of classes of the semester in which the student will be doing her or his externship.

(a) The contract, once submitted to the director of Masters Externship Program, will be copied and distributed to the Mentor and the Faculty Supervisor.
(b) Students who do not submit final, signed contracts by this deadline will not be enrolled in the MERL externship and will not receive credit for their work.

(4) The director of Masters Externship Program may decline any MERL externship contract or opportunity described therein that does not conform to these regulations.

d. Grades

(1) All MERL externships are pass/fail.

(2) Faculty Supervisors assign the grade based on the student’s journals, the Mentor’s letter of evaluation and other information such as work product, emails, telephone conversations and/or meetings and site visits with the student and Mentor.

3. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

a. Students who elect to undertake independent research projects shall follow the guidelines set forth in regulation II.C.

b. Independent research projects cannot be substituted for required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

4. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

a. Grading System

Each student’s cumulative grade-point average is initially determined after completion of the first semester of coursework, in accordance with the following grading system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.333</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pass-Honors (no effect on average) ........................................ P-H
Pass (no effect on average) ................................................... P
Low-Pass (no effect on average) ............................................ L-P
Unexcused absence for examination ......................................... FAbs
Unexcused failure to complete other course requirements
including attendance, papers, etc ............................................ F-Wd
The passing grade in an individual course is ....................... D (1.000)

b. Designations

Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement .......... I

20 These are the course grades; grade point averages are rounded off to two decimal places.
The student must complete the required work by the end of the spring semester in the case of a fall semester course, by the beginning of the fall semester in the case of a spring semester course, or by the end of the fall semester in the case of a summer session course or an additional grade of F-Wd will be entered.21

Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course.........................Wd
Year-long course.................................................................Y
Administrative Delay.........................................................AD

c. The following course is graded Pass/Fail:
   MERL Externship

d. Probation and Dismissal

(1) To be in good academic standing, a student must have an overall average of at least 2.20.

(2) Probation: A student will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of the first semester of course work, the student’s cumulative average is between 1.90 and 2.20.

(3) Academic dismissal: A student will be dismissed if:
   (a) the student has failed six credit hours upon completion of the first semester of course work;
   or
   (b) the student’s cumulative average is below 1.90 at the end of any semester;
   (c) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of any semester and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or
   (d) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the completion of the program.

(4) A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 5.c. (3) will be allowed to continue for a second semester22 on academic probation if the student’s grade point average for the first semester on academic probation, if repeated for the second semester on academic probation with a credit load of 12 credits, is sufficient to achieve the required cumulative average of 2.20 at the end of the second semester on academic probation.

(5) A student who is academically dismissed may not petition the Committee on Standards for readmission earlier than one year after the date of academic dismissal. The Committee will grant readmission only if it finds that the student has satisfactorily addressed the factors that contributed to the academic dismissal. If the Committee grants a petition for readmission, it may impose any conditions it deems appropriate.

e. Degrees and Honors

(1) Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and spring and at the commencement held annually at the end of the spring semester.

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21 If the faculty member submits the grade within this time period, the I designation will be removed from the transcript and the grade entered for the semester in which the student was originally registered for the course. Class rank, Dean’s List, and other honors will not be changed for that semester.

If the student receives an extension or the faculty member does not submit the grade within this time period, the I designation will remain on the transcript and the grade will be entered for the semester in which the work was actually completed.

22 For purposes of this regulation, the summer session shall be considered as a “semester.”
Vermont Law School grants degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These degrees are awarded as follows:
- cum laude: \[3.25\]
- magna cum laude: \[3.50\]
- summa cum laude: \[3.75\]

IV. JOINT DEGREES

A. JOINT JD/MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY (MELP) DEGREE

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

   a. General

      (1) The JD and MELP degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the MELP program. The regulations in sections II and III above apply to joint degree students. 23

      (2) A joint-degree student may share credits between the two degree programs. A joint-degree student must take a minimum of 21 non-shared MELP credits at Vermont Law School. A joint-degree student may take a maximum of 35 MELP credits for completion of the MELP degree; however, if a student has reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded. All credits must be selected from the list of courses approved for the MELP program.

      (3) A joint-degree student’s course load may not exceed a total of 18 credits during the fall and spring semesters.

      (4) No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

B. JOINT JD/MASTER OF ENERGY REGULATION AND LAW (MERL) DEGREE

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

   a. General

      (1) The JD and MERL degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the MERL program. The regulations in sections II and III above apply to joint degree students.

      (2) A joint-degree student may share credits between the two degree programs. A joint-degree student must take a minimum of 21 non-shared MERL credits at Vermont Law School. A joint-degree student may take a maximum of 35 MERL credits for completion of the MERL degree; however, if a student has reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.

      (3) A joint-degree student’s course load may not exceed a total of 18 credits during the fall and spring semesters.

23 Students who matriculated in the MELP program prior to May 2013 must satisfy the following requirements: Environmental Law, Administrative Law, Science for Environmental Law, an Environmental Ethics/Philosophy distributional requirement, and a Dispute Resolution distributional requirement. Students who matriculated in the MELP program prior to August 2012 may satisfy the Science for Environmental Law requirement with any of the following courses: ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law, ENV5430 Ecology, or ENV5110 Ecology of Food and Agriculture.
(4) No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

C. JOINT JD/LLM IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW DEGREE

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
   a. General
      (1) The JD and LLM in Environmental Law (LLM) degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the LLM program. The regulations in sections II (JD) and VIII (LLM in Environmental Law) apply to joint degree students.
      (2) JD/LLM students must finish all requirements for the JD degree before beginning the LLM degree.
      (3) A JD/LLM student may transfer up to nine credits from the JD program to the LLM program. A JD/LLM student must take a minimum of 21 LLM credits at Vermont Law School. All credits must be selected from the list of courses approved for the LLM program. All credits to be transferred must be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.
      (4) No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

D. JOINT JD/LLM IN ENERGY LAW DEGREE

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
   a. General
      (1) The JD and LLM in Energy Law (LLM) degrees are awarded for the satisfactory completion of a program which includes the requirements of the JD program as well as those of the LLM program. The regulations in sections II (JD) and VIII (LLM in Energy Law) apply to joint degree students.
      (2) JD/LLM students must finish all requirements for the JD degree before beginning the LLM degree.
      (3) A JD/LLM student may transfer up to nine credits from the JD program to the LLM program. A JD/LLM student must take a minimum of 21 LLM credits at Vermont Law School. All credits must be selected from the list of courses approved for the LLM program. All credits to be transferred must be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.
      (4) The Energy Electives and General Electives requirements shall not be waived for courses completed prior to matriculation in the LLM program. All LLM candidates must take four credits of Energy Electives and nine credits of General Electives from the above list provided they do not duplicate prior course work. If an LLM candidate is unable to fulfill this requirement without duplicating prior coursework, the candidate must submit an alternative coursework plan to be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

The Project requirement shall not be waived because of prior completion of one of the listed options. LLM candidates who have completed one of the listed projects as part of a prior program must choose a different project to meet the LLM requirement.
V. DUAL DEGREES - JD PROGRAM

Vermont Law School, in conjunction with other institutions, offers the following dual degree options for JD students:

- JD/MEM (Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies)
- JD/Master II-DJCE (Université de Cergy-Pontoise (Cergy))
- JD/MBA (Thunderbird School of Global Management)
- JD/MS or MA (Thunderbird School of Global Management)
- JD/Master in Spanish Constitutional Law (Universidad de Sevilla)
- JD/MPhil (University of Cambridge)

Students are required to satisfy the graduation requirements of both institutions. The JD degree requirements, as described in regulation II. above, govern except as modified by this regulation.

A. ADMISSION

Each program has different criteria for admission. See Program Requirements, below.

The first school that the applicant applies to will be termed the “domicile” of the student, and the original admissions documents will be filed at that school. The other school will be termed the “secondary school” for that student. Vermont Law School and its partner institutions have agreed to share supporting documentation, such as transcripts, L.S.A.T. and G.R.E. reports, letters of recommendation, writing samples, personal statements, and the like. Photocopies of those documents, certified by the Registrar of the institution holding the original documents, will be deemed adequate for admissions purposes.

B. REGISTRATION AND RECORDS

The Registrar of each school will register dual degree candidates for courses taken at that school according to the academic schedule of each school. Each Registrar will also certify completion of courses and the assignment of credit. Transcripts of students in the program will bear a notation that the student is enrolled in the dual degree program.

Students are entitled to attend graduation at both schools. Students will receive separate diplomas.

C. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

Students are required to satisfy the graduation requirements of both institutions. The Vermont Law School JD degree requirements govern except as modified by each program’s specific regulation. See below.

D. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

Regulation II.A.5.c. requires that a student must be in residence at Vermont Law School for the last four semesters of the JD degree. For purposes of this regulation, one semester at the partner institution will count towards satisfaction of this residence requirement. Students enrolled in the JD/Master’s program with the University of Seville and in the dual degree programs with the University of Cergy-Pontoise may apply two semesters towards satisfaction of this requirement.

E. ACCELERATED SCHEDULING OPTION

Participants in dual degree programs are eligible for the accelerated scheduling option, which allows students to accelerate graduation by using a full summer session in lieu of a regular semester. See Reg
II.A.6. Participants must follow the application procedures detailed therein. Dual degree applicants must meet with the dual degree advisor and must receive counseling on the academic and financial consequences of participating in the accelerated scheduling program.

F. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT

A candidate for a dual degree is expected to comply fully with all academic and other applicable requirements of both Vermont Law School and the partner institution, even if they are different. Issues concerning academic performance or student conduct will be subject to the regulations and procedures of the school where the matter arose. See regulation II.D. above and regulations XI. and XII. below.

Students must be in good academic standing at both schools to remain in the program.

G. WITHDRAWAL FROM A DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Except as provided by Regulations V.H.2.c. and V.H. 5c., if a student leaves a dual program or fails to complete the program requirements for the degree at the partner institution, the student will no longer be considered a dual degree student. As a result, the student will be required to meet the residence requirements of regulation II.A.4. above. Credits earned at the partner institution will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript.

H. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. DUAL JD/MEM

Vermont Law School and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies offers a dual JD/MEM program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a four year period.

a. ADMISSION

A candidate for the dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by, both Vermont Law School and the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Management (Yale). Information on application requirements and procedures for admission to the Yale School of Forestry & Management are available from Yale. Each school will admit students according to its own criteria for admission. Joint applications may be discussed and coordinated by admissions officials at both schools.

b. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

The JD requires 87 credits. A candidate for the dual JD/MEM degree must satisfactorily complete all the requirements for the JD degree as described in regulation II. above. A dual degree candidate may share a total of 12 (twelve) credits between the JD and MEM programs. This means that a Vermont Law School candidate for a dual JD/MEM degree may apply the equivalent of 12 (twelve) Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Yale to the JD degree, thereby reducing to 75 the number of JD credits taken at Vermont Law School required for the JD degree.

A dual-degree candidate may not satisfy the perspective requirement and the skills requirement with courses taken at Yale without the prior permission of the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

No credit toward the JD degree will be given for courses taken at Yale prior to the student’s matriculation into the JD program at Vermont Law School.

2. DUAL JD/MASTER I and JD/MASTER II-DJCE DEGREE
Vermont Law School and l’Université de Cergy-Pontoise (Cergy) offer to students from both institutions a dual JD/MI and JD/MII -DJCE degree program in the law of business organizations. The program enables students to earn the JD/Master I concurrently over a three-year period and the JD/Master I and JD/MII-DJCE over a four-year period. Graduates of the program will be able to sit for the bar examination in the United States and France, according to each country’s requirements.

a. ADMISSION/ELIGIBILITY

(1) Vermont Law School students must begin the dual degree program at Vermont Law School.

(2) Vermont Law School applicants must be in the top half of their class at the end of the semester preceding their application to the program and continue to be in the top half of their class through the completion of the semester prior to taking courses at Cergy.

(3) Students must have a sufficient mastery of French to take courses and examinations in French. Level of competence in French will be determined by oral and written examination to the satisfaction of the Director of International and Comparative Programs.

(4) A maximum of four Vermont Law School students will be admitted to either program during any one academic year.

b. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

1. The JD requires 87 credits. A candidate for a dual JD/MI or JD/MII-DJCE degree may apply to the JD degree up to the equivalent of one third or 29 Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Cergy, thereby reducing to 58 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School. The total credits that may be applied to the JD degree from study abroad is governed by regulation II.A.f.

2. A dual-degree candidate may satisfy the perspective requirement during study at Cergy.

3. Program participants beginning their studies at Vermont Law School must satisfactorily complete the following courses at Vermont Law School before beginning course work in France:

   (a) Corporations

   (b) At least one course in each of the following categories:

   • Corporate Finance or Securities Regulation


   • Income Taxation or Business Taxation

(4) Program participants beginning their studies at Vermont Law School must also satisfactorily complete courses that include the following subjects before matriculating in France:
(a) A course in Introduction to the French Legal System, the French Civil Code, or French Legal Method

(b) French Corporate Law

Courses satisfying these requirements may be offered at Vermont Law School or at Cergy. These requirements may, with the prior permission of the Director of International and Comparative Programs, also be satisfied by summer study at another ABA-approved law school.

Other appropriate courses may be substituted for the courses listed in subpart (3)(b) of this regulation with the prior permission of the Director of International and Comparative Programs.

(5) Program participants beginning their studies at Cergy will be admitted to the Vermont Law School JD degree program with advanced standing. Advanced standing and credit hours granted for foreign study may not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total credits required by Vermont Law School for its JD degree (i.e., 29 credits). Courses that qualify for application to the JD degree for these students shall be determined by the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at Vermont Law School in consultation with the Director of International and Comparative Programs.

Program participants beginning their studies at Cergy will ordinarily be required to complete the required first-year JD curriculum at Vermont Law School. Exceptions will be granted by the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at Vermont Law School in consultation with the Director of International and Comparative Programs.

c. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

If a student leaves the program or fails to complete the program requirements for either the Vermont Law School JD degree or the Cergy Master I or Master II-DJCE degree, the student will no longer be considered a dual-degree student. As a result, the student will be required to meet the residence requirements of regulation II.A.5. above. Credits earned at Cergy will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript unless the student has earned a Cergy Master I “Droit spécialité Business Law” or unless the credits may be transferred according to the usual rules applicable to transfer of foreign credits earned by participation in Vermont Law School study abroad programs. In advance of withdrawal, Vermont Law School students should consult with the Vermont Law School Office of Financial Aid to determine the impact of withdrawal on financial aid awards.

3. DUAL JD/LLM IN FRENCH AND EUROPEAN UNION LAW

Vermont Law School and the Université de Cergy-Pontoise (Cergy) offer this dual degree program which enables VLS students to earn both a JD and LLM degree in French and European Law.

a. ADMISSION/ELIGIBILITY

(1) Vermont Law School students must begin the dual degree program at Vermont Law School.

(2) Vermont Law School applicants must be in the top half of their class at the end of the semester preceding their application to the program and continue to be in the top half of their class through the completion of the semester prior to taking courses at Cergy.

(3) Vermont Law School students must apply for admission to this program through Vermont Law School.
b. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

(1) The JD requires 87 credits. In accordance with ABA regulations, students may apply to the JD degree the equivalent of one third, or 29 Vermont Law School credits, from course work successfully completed at foreign law institutions, thereby reducing to 58 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School.

(2) A dual degree candidate in this program may satisfy the perspective requirement through courses taken in the LLM portion of the program of study.

(3) Program participants must satisfactorily complete the following course work at Vermont Law School before beginning course work at Cergy:

- Comparative Law: Comparative Legal Systems; or
- Both French Legal Method and French Corporate Law

Other appropriate courses may be substituted for the courses listed above with the prior permission of the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs.

c. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

If a student leaves the program or fails to complete the program requirements for either the Vermont Law School JD degree or the Cergy LLM degree, the student will no longer be considered a dual-degree student. As a result, the student will be required to meet the residence requirements of regulation II.A.5. Credits earned at Cergy will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript unless the credits may be transferred according to the usual rules applicable to transfer of foreign credits earned by participation in Vermont Law School study abroad programs. In advance of withdrawal, Vermont Law School students should consult with the Vermont Law School Office of Financial Aid to determine the impact of withdrawal on financial aid awards.

4. DUAL JD/MBA

Vermont Law School and the Thunderbird School of Global Management offer a dual JD/MBA degree program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently, generally over a four year period.

a. ADMISSION

A candidate for the dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by, both Vermont Law School and Thunderbird School of Global Management. Information on application requirements and on procedures for admission to the MBA program is available from Thunderbird. Each school will admit students according to its own criteria for admission. Joint application may be discussed and coordinated by admissions officials at both schools.

b. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

The JD requires 87 credits. A candidate for the dual JD/MBA degree may apply to the JD degree the equivalent of 15 Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Thunderbird, thereby reducing to 72 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School. Thunderbird will accept 15 JD credits toward the completion of the MBA, thus reducing the number of required credits from 60 to 45.

No credit toward the JD degree will be given for courses taken at Thunderbird prior to the student’s matriculation into the JD program at Vermont Law School.
A dual-degree candidate may not satisfy the perspective requirement and/or the skills requirement with courses taken at Thunderbird without the prior permission of the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

VLS will not accept in transfer credit any credits earned for internships, in language classes, or in courses that duplicate offerings at VLS.

5. DUAL JD/MA or JD/MS

Vermont Law School and the Thunderbird School of Global Management offer two additional dual degree programs: a JD/MA and JD/MS program. Each program enables students to earn their JD and Master’s degree concurrently over a four year period.

a. ADMISSION

A candidate for the dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by, both Vermont Law School and Thunderbird School of Global Management. Information on application requirements and on procedures for admission to the MA or MS programs is available from Thunderbird. Each school will admit students according to its own criteria for admission. Joint application may be discussed and coordinated by admissions officials at both schools.

b. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

The JD requires 87 credits. A candidate for the dual JD/MA or MS degree may apply to the JD degree the equivalent of 15 Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Thunderbird, thereby reducing to 72 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School.

No credit toward the JD degree will be given for courses taken at Thunderbird prior to the student’s matriculation into the JD program at Vermont Law School.

A dual-degree candidate may not satisfy the perspective requirement and/or the skills requirement with courses taken at Thunderbird without the prior permission of the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

VLS will not accept in transfer credit any credits earned for internships, in language classes, or in courses that duplicate offerings at VLS.

6. DUAL JD/MASTER IN SPANISH CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Vermont Law School and the University of Seville (Spain) offer this dual degree program which enables VLS students to earn both a JD and a Master’s degree in Spanish Constitutional Law over six semesters. Students from the University of Seville will earn an LLM in American Legal Studies or an LLM in Environmental Law.

a. ADMISSION/ELIGIBILITY

Vermont Law School students must begin the dual degree program at Vermont Law School. A Vermont Law School candidate wishing to enroll in the program must apply in writing to the Director of International and Comparative Programs by the fall semester of the candidate’s second year of law school.

(1) Vermont Law School applicants must be in the top half of their class at the end of the semester preceding their application to the program and continue to be in the top half of their class through the completion of the semester prior to taking courses at Seville.
(2) Students must have a sufficient mastery of Spanish to take courses and examinations in Spanish. Competence in Spanish will be determined by oral and written examination to the satisfaction of the Director of International and Comparative Programs.

(3) Students will be notified of acceptance before the conclusion of the fall semester in which they apply. A maximum of two Vermont Law School students will be admitted to the program during any one academic year. Applications may be discussed and coordinated by admissions officials at both schools.

b. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

(1) The JD requires 87 credits. A candidate for the dual JD/Master’s degree may apply to the JD degree the equivalent of one third, or 29 Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Seville, thereby reducing to 58 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School. The total credits that may be applied to the JD degree from study abroad is governed by regulation II.A.f.

(2) Program participants beginning their studies at Vermont Law School must satisfactorily complete the following courses at Vermont Law School before beginning course work in Seville:

- Constitutional Law and Public Law.
- Administrative Law.
- Comparative Law.
- Constitutional Criminal Procedure or Criminal Procedure and Practice.
- Spanish Constitutional Law Seminar.
- At least one course in each of the following categories:
  - Election Law, Civil Rights Seminar, Race and the Law, Sexual Orientation and the Law, Women and the Law
  - Other appropriate courses may be substituted for the courses listed in subparts b.-f. of this regulation with the prior permission of the Director of International and Comparative Programs.

(3) Participation in this program satisfies the perspective requirement. Students cannot satisfy the skills requirement with courses taken at Seville.

(4) Program participants beginning their studies at Vermont Law School must attend Seville during the fall and spring semesters of their third year.

(5) Program participants beginning their studies at the University of Seville will be admitted to the Vermont Law School LLM degree program of their choice. LLM students must commence their studies at Vermont Law School in the fall semester.

c. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

If a student leaves the program or fails to complete the program requirements for either the Vermont Law School JD degree or the Seville Master’s degree, the student will no longer be considered a dual-degree student. As a result, the student will be required to meet the residence requirements of regulation II.A.4. above, unless a sufficient number of credits may be transferred according to the rules applicable to exchange programs. Credits earned at Seville will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript unless the credits may be transferred according to the usual rules applicable to transfer of foreign credits earned by
participation in Vermont Law School study abroad programs. In advance of withdrawal, Vermont Law School students should consult with the Vermont Law School Office of Financial Aid to determine the impact of withdrawal on financial aid awards.

7. DUAL JD/M.Phil

Vermont Law School and the University of Cambridge offer this dual degree program which enables VLS students to earn both a JD and a Master’s degree in one of the following fields: Real Estate Finance; Environmental Policy; and Planning, Growth and Regeneration.

a. ADMISSION/ELIGIBILITY

a. Vermont Law School students must begin the dual degree program at Vermont Law School. A Vermont Law School candidate wishing to enroll in the program must apply in writing to the Director of the Environmental Law Center during the fall semester of the candidate’s second year of law school.

b. Vermont Law School applicants must be in the top half of their class at the end of the semester preceding their application to the program and continue to be in the top half of their class through the completion of the semester prior to taking courses at Cambridge.

c. Students will be notified of acceptance before the conclusion of the fall semester in which they apply. A maximum of two Vermont Law School students will be admitted to the program during any one academic year. Applications may be discussed and coordinated by admissions officials at both schools.

b. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

(1) The JD requires 87 credits. A candidate for the dual JD/Master’s degree may apply to the JD degree the equivalent of 14 Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Cambridge, thereby reducing to 73 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School. The total number of credits that may be applied to the JD degree from study abroad is governed by regulation II.A.f.

VI. DUAL DEGREES – MELP PROGRAM

A. ADMISSION

A candidate for a dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by, both Vermont Law School and the school conferring the second degree. Students may apply for admission to these dual degree programs at any time prior to the awarding of the degrees.

Each school will admit students according to its own criteria for admission. Joint applications may be discussed and coordinated by admissions officials at both schools.

The first school that the applicant applies to will be termed the “domicile” of the student, and the original admissions documents will be filed at that school. The other school will be termed the “secondary school” for that student. Vermont Law School and its partner institutions have agreed to share supporting documentation, such as transcripts and G.R.E. reports, letters of recommendation, writing samples, personal statements, and the like. Photocopies of those documents, certified by the Registrar of the institution holding the original documents, will be deemed adequate for admissions purposes.
B. REGISTRATION AND RECORDS

The Registrar of each school will register dual degree candidates for courses taken at that school, according to the academic schedule of each school. Each Registrar will also certify completion of courses and the assignments of credit. Transcripts of students in the program will bear a notation that the student is enrolled in the dual degree program.

Credits and grades for courses taken at the secondary school will appear on the Vermont Law School transcript; however, grades will not be included in the computation of the Vermont Law School grade point average.

Students are entitled to attend graduation at both schools. Students will receive separate diplomas.

C. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

Students are required to satisfy the graduation requirements of both institutions. The Vermont Law School MELP degree requirements govern except as modified by each program’s specific regulation. See below.

D. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT

A candidate for a dual degree is expected to comply fully with all academic and other applicable requirements of both Vermont Law School and the partner institution, even if they are different. Issues concerning academic performance or student conduct will be subject to the regulations and procedures of the school where the matter arose.

Students must be in good academic standing at both schools to remain in the program.

E. WITHDRAWAL FROM A DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

If a student leaves a dual program or fails to complete the program requirements for the degree at the partner institution, the student will no longer be considered a dual degree student. Credits earned at the partner institution will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript, except as allowed by regulation III.A.2.d. above.

F. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. DUAL MELP/MBA (Tuck School of Business)

Vermont Law School and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College offer a dual MELP/MBA degree program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently.

The MELP is a 30 credit degree. A dual degree candidate may share a total of nine credits between the MELP and MBA programs. This means that a Vermont Law School candidate for a dual MELP/MBA degree may apply the equivalent of nine Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Tuck to the MELP degree, thereby reducing to 21 the number of credits required for the MELP degree.

Tuck courses that are relevant and important to the MELP candidate’s overall course of study may be applied to the MELP degree. Courses that qualify for application to the MELP degree shall be determined by the Director of the Environmental Law Center, in consultation with the Dean of the Tuck School. A list of approved courses is available from the Environmental Law Center. A MELP candidate may request approval of a Tuck course that is not on the list by demonstrating how the course will enhance the candidate’s course of study.
2. DUAL MELP/MS (Natural Resources)

Vermont Law School and the University of Vermont School of Natural Resources offer a dual MELP/MS degree program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently.

The MELP is a 30 credit degree. A dual degree candidate may share a total of nine credits between the MELP and MS (Natural Resources) programs. This means that a Vermont Law School candidate for a dual MELP/MS (Natural Resources) degree may apply nine credits of course work successfully completed at the University of Vermont School of Natural Resources, thereby reducing to 21 the number of MELP credits required for the MELP degree.

University of Vermont courses that are relevant and important to the MELP candidate’s overall course of study may be applied to the MELP degree. Courses that qualify for application to the MELP degree shall be determined by the Director of the Environmental Law Center, in consultation with the program coordinator at the University of Vermont School of Natural Resources. A list of approved courses is available from the Environmental Law Center. Upon petition to the Director of the Environmental Law Center, or the Director’s designee, an MELP candidate may seek approval of a University of Vermont course that is not on the list by demonstrating how that course will significantly enhance the candidate’s course of study.

3. DUAL MELP/MBA (Thunderbird School of Global Management)

Vermont Law School and the Thunderbird School of Global Management offer a dual MELP/MBA degree program to students from both institutions. The program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently, generally over a four year period.

The MELP requires 30 credits. A candidate for the dual MELP/MBA degree may apply to the MELP degree up to 9 credits of course work successfully completed at Thunderbird. Thunderbird will accept 15 MELP credits from approved courses toward the completion of the MBA, thus reducing the number of required credits from 60 to 45.

VLS will not accept in transfer credit any credits earned for internships, in language classes, or in courses that duplicate offerings at VLS.

4. DUAL MELP/MA or MELP/MS (Thunderbird School of Global Management)

The Vermont Law School and the Thunderbird School of Global Management dual degree program enables students to earn two Master degrees concurrently, generally over a two year period.

The MELP requires 30 credits. A candidate for the dual degree may apply to the MELP degree the equivalent of 9 Vermont Law School credits of course work successfully completed at Thunderbird, thereby reducing to 21 the minimum number of credits that must be completed at Vermont Law School.

VLS will not accept in transfer credit any credits earned for internships, in language classes, or in courses that duplicate offerings at VLS.

VII. DUAL JD/MELP DEGREE PROGRAMS WITH OTHER LAW SCHOOLS

A. ADMISSION

A candidate for a dual degree must apply separately to, and be accepted by, both Vermont Law School and the school conferring the second degree.
B. REGISTRATION AND RECORDS

Registration for dual degree students at either school is according to the academic schedule of each school.

An official from each school must be provided to the Registrar of the other school. Credits and grades for courses taken at the other school will appear on the Vermont Law School transcript; however, grades will not be included in the computation of the Vermont Law School grade point average.

Students are entitled to attend commencement at both schools. Students will receive separate diplomas.

C. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

Students are required to satisfy the graduation requirements of both institutions. The Vermont Law School MELP degree requirements govern except as modified by each program’s specific regulation. See below.

D. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCT

A candidate for a dual degree is expected to comply fully with all academic and other applicable requirements of both Vermont Law School and the partner institution, even if they are different. Issues concerning academic performance or student conduct will be subject to the regulations and procedures of the school where the matter arose.

Students must be in good academic standing at both schools to remain in the program.

E. WITHDRAWAL FROM A DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

If a student leaves a dual program or fails to complete the program requirements for the degree at the partner institution, the student will no longer be considered a dual degree student. Credits earned at the partner institution will not be transferred to the Vermont Law School transcript, except as allowed by regulation III.A.1.b.4 above.

F. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. DUAL JD/MELP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Vermont Law School and the University of South Carolina School of Law offer a dual JD/MELP degree program that enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a three-year period.

a. Students are required to begin the dual degree program at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

b. A candidate for the dual JD/MELP degree must satisfactorily complete all the requirements for the MELP degree as described in regulation III above. A dual degree candidate may transfer a total of 9 (nine) credits from his/her JD program to the MELP program.

c. Vermont Law School will accept 9 (nine) credits of course work completed in the JD program at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Courses taken at U.S.C. that are to be applied toward the MELP degree must be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee. Courses taken at U.S.C. will not be applied toward the MELP degree if they substantially duplicate a course that may be taken at Vermont Law School.

d. The total maximum number of credits a student enrolled in this dual degree may earn toward a MELP Externship is ten credits.
e. The courses taken, the grades awarded, and the credits earned for courses transferred from the University of South Carolina School of Law will be noted on the Vermont Law School transcript, but the course grades will not be included in the student’s Vermont Law School grade average. All passing grades (i.e., a grade of D or better) will be accepted.

2. DUAL JD/MELP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Vermont Law School and the University of South Dakota School of Law offer a dual JD/MELP degree program that enables students to earn both degrees concurrently over a three-year period.

a. Students are required to begin the dual degree program at the University of South Dakota School of Law.

b. A candidate for the dual JD/MELP degree must satisfactorily complete all the requirements for the MELP degree as described in regulation III above. A dual degree candidate may transfer a total of 9 (nine) credits from his/her JD program to the MELP program.

c. Vermont Law School will accept 9 (nine) credits of course work completed in the JD program at the University of South Dakota School of Law. Courses taken at U.S.D. that are to be applied toward the MELP degree must be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee. Courses taken at U.S.D. will not be applied toward the MELP degree if they substantially duplicate a course that may be taken at Vermont Law School.

e. The total maximum number of credits a student enrolled in this dual degree may earn toward a MELP Externship is ten credits.

f. The courses taken, the grades awarded, and the credits earned for courses transferred from the University of South Dakota School of Law will be noted on the Vermont Law School transcript, but the course grades will not be included in the student’s Vermont Law School grade average. All passing grades (i.e., a grade of D or better) will be accepted.

3. DUAL JD/MELP WITH NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

a. Through a combination of transfer credits and an environmental law co-op work placement that provides internship credit, Northeastern University School of Law (Northeastern) and Vermont Law School (VLS) will allow students who meet degree requirements at both schools to receive a dual degree of Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) within the three year term of the JD degree.

b. Students are required to begin the dual degree program at Northeastern.

c. A candidate for the dual JD/MELP degree must satisfactorily complete all the requirements for the MELP degree as described in regulation III above. A dual degree candidate may transfer a total of 9 (nine) credits from his/her JD program to the MELP program.

d. Vermont Law School will accept 9 (nine) credits of course work completed in the JD program at Northeastern School of Law toward completion of the MELP. Courses taken at Northeastern that are to be applied toward the MELP degree must be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee. Courses taken at Northeastern will not be applied toward the MELP degree if they substantially duplicate a course that may be taken at Vermont Law School.

e. Northeastern will accept 12 credits toward the completion of the JD.
f. MELP Externships and Co-op Work Quarters: Students may use one of Northeastern co-op experience as an MELP externship. Students must follow both Northeastern co-op and VLS Externship guidelines and application deadlines.

g. The total maximum number of credits a student enrolled in this dual degree may earn toward a MELP Externship is ten credits.

h. The courses taken, the grades awarded, and the credits earned for courses transferred from the Northeastern University School of Law will be noted on the Vermont Law School transcript, but the course grades will not be included in the student’s Vermont Law School grade average. All passing grades (i.e., a grade of D or better) will be accepted.

VIII. MASTER OF LAWS (LLM) DEGREE PROGRAMS

A. MASTER OF LAWS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW DEGREE (LLM)

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

a. General

(1) The degree of Master of Laws in Environmental Law (LLM) is granted for regular attendance and satisfactory completion of the prescribed course of study. A minimum of 30 credits is required for the LLM degree. These credits must be selected from courses approved for the LLM program. A cumulative grade point average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the LLM degree.

(2) Each student must satisfy the following requirements for the LLM degree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy the Requirement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>ENV9606 LLM Graduate Seminar (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Law</td>
<td>ENV5115 Environmental Law (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
<td>ENV5105 Administrative Law (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee, an LLM candidate may waive Environmental Law or Administrative Law if the candidate has successfully completed equivalent course work in a JD program at an ABA accredited law school or comparable international academic institution. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

(3) Any remaining electives may be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the list of approved courses in section III.A.1.a. (4).

(4) Optional LLM Thesis or Project

(a) Thesis

An LLM candidate may choose to write a thesis. Six credits will be given for the satisfactory completion of an LLM thesis. The thesis must be a substantial piece of written work of publishable quality. A 10-15 page thesis proposal must be approved.

24 Students who matriculated in the LLM in Environmental Law program prior to May 2013 must satisfy the following requirements: the LLM Graduate Seminar, Environmental Law, Administrative Law, Science for Environmental Law, and Natural Resources Law. Students who matriculated in the LLM program prior to August 2012 may satisfy the Science for Environmental Law requirement with any of the following courses: ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law, ENV5430 Ecology, or ENV5110 Ecology of Food and Agriculture.
by the LLM candidate’s faculty supervisor and the Director of the Environmental Law Center before the thesis is begun.

A student will have three terms to complete the thesis. A student will register in the term in which the thesis project is begun. A student who writes a thesis must make an oral presentation to the Vermont Law School community of the thesis work and must deposit a copy of the thesis in the Vermont Law School Library. The grade will be entered on the transcript in the semester the thesis is completed. Ordinarily, an LLM student will begin the thesis in the spring semester. If a student extends the thesis project beyond three terms, regulation X.C.2 (below) “Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement” applies.

(b) Teaching Project

An LLM candidate may choose to undertake a teaching project. A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 credits will be given for a teaching project. To receive credit for teaching, a candidate must satisfactorily complete a teaching practicum under the guidance of a faculty supervisor and the appropriate number of hours of actual teaching in the classroom. A five-page teaching project proposal must be approved by the LLM candidate’s faculty supervisor and the Director of the Environmental Law Center before the project is begun.

(c) An LLM candidate who is a Fellow of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC) may elect to undertake a second teaching project with the approval of the ENRLC Director. Each teaching project will be for a minimum of 4 credits and a maximum of 6 credits. The second teaching project must provide a qualitatively different experience from the first. The ENRLC Fellow must satisfactorily complete all aspects of each teaching project in accordance with the teaching project plan, subject to the ENRLC Director's approval.

(d) Research Project

An LLM candidate may choose to undertake a research project, either alone or as part of a joint effort with other LLM candidates. A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 credits will be given for a research project. An LLM project must be a substantial undertaking, involving significant legal and policy research. A five-page research project proposal must be approved by the LLM candidate’s faculty supervisor and the Director of the Environmental Law Center before the project may be commenced. Students engaged in a joint project will be graded on their individual contribution to the project and on their teamwork skills.

A student will have two terms to complete the research project. A student will register in the term in which the project is begun. The grade will be entered on the transcript in the semester the project is completed. If a student extends the research project beyond two terms, regulation X.C.2 (below) “Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement” applies.

b. Credits

(1) Credit Requirements and Course Load

(a) A minimum of 30 credits is required for the LLM degree. An LLM candidate may take a maximum of 36 credits from courses approved for the LLM degree; however, if a student has reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.
(b) The minimum course load for full-time LLM students is 6 credits per semester. The maximum course load in the fall or spring semester is 14 credits per semester. The maximum course load in the summer program is 11 credits. No exceptions are allowed other than with the prior approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

(2) Transfer of Credits - Non-Vermont Law School JD Graduates

A student enrolled in the LLM program may be granted credit for courses satisfactorily completed in an LLM program at an ABA-approved law school or at the graduate level of a comparable international academic institution. A student may transfer a maximum of 6 such credits to the LLM program with the approval of the Director or the Director’s designee. Before granting such approval, the Director of the Environmental Law Center or his or her designee must determine that the course is relevant and important to the student’s overall program of study. Only courses with environmental content are eligible for transfer credit. The Registrar must receive an official transcript showing that the course has been completed and that a grade of B minus or better (as defined in regulation VIII.C.1.) has been awarded. Transcripts from a foreign institution must be accompanied by a WES or AACRAO evaluation. Grades from transferred courses will be noted on the student’s transcript but will not be used in computing the student’s grade average. Once a student has enrolled as an LLM candidate, prior approval must be obtained from the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee to obtain credit for courses taken at another institution. No transfer credit will be given for a course completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation into the LLM program.

(3) Transfer of Credits - Vermont Law School MELP Graduates

An LLM candidate who received the Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) degree from Vermont Law School may transfer a maximum of 6 credits of Vermont Law School environmental course work to the LLM degree with the approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee. Before granting approval, the Director or his or her designee must determine that the course is relevant and important to the student’s overall program of study. Only courses with environmental content are eligible for transfer of credit. The student must have achieved a grade of B minus or better (as defined in regulation X.C.1. below) for the course. Grades from transferred courses will be noted on the student’s transcript but will not be used in computing the student’s grade average. Once a student has enrolled as an LLM candidate, prior approval must be obtained from the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee to obtain credit for courses taken at another institution. No transfer credit will be given for a course completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation into the LLM program.

c. Duration of Program

(1) To obtain the LLM degree, a student must complete the degree requirements within a period of 5 years from matriculation.

(2) Students may enter the LLM program in either summer or fall semester.

2. EXTERNSHIPS

The LLM in Environmental Law Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their environmental law, policy, management, and/or science knowledge and skills.

a. Threshold Requirements for an LLM Externship
The LLM Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their environmental law, policy, management, and/or science knowledge and skills, and as such, the following requirements must be met:

1. Students must work primarily on site at the LLM externship. Students may not receive LLM externship credit if their work is done by telecommuting.

2. LLM externships are by definition environmental in their subject focus, so students must assure that their work on site relates to environmental issues.

3. Externships cannot be substituted for distributional requirements or required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

4. LLM externships must be supervised by an attorney.

5. The maximum number of credits a student may earn in one or more LLM externships is ten credits.

6. The minimum number of credits a student may earn in an LLM externship is four credits.

b. Eligibility Requirements

1. Students in good academic standing may elect to enroll in an LLM externship.

2. Students will not be allowed to enroll in an externship where they have previously worked as a volunteer or an employee unless the externship will provide a qualitatively different or more in depth learning experience.

3. Without prior approval from the Director of the Masters Externship Program, students enrolled for six or more credits in an LLM or JD externship during a given semester may not subsequently continue in that placement and receive credit toward an LLM externship as a consequence of that extended placement. Students seeking to extend such long-term experiences shall petition the Director of the Masters Externship Program in writing with supporting materials that demonstrate the following:

   The student’s experience during the subsequent LLM externship will be substantially different from the experience as a consequence of additional (and more difficult) responsibilities, new subject areas, new skills to be developed, or other evidence that the additional credit hours will be equivalent to taking an “advanced course” after taking an introductory course.

c. Procedures for Enrolling in an LLM Externship

1. Fill out in its entirety, including all signatures, the contract form available at www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships.

2. Submit the fully executed contract to the Director of the Masters Externship Program for approval of the externship opportunity.

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25 Students who matriculated into the LLM program prior to May 2012 may earn a minimum of two and a maximum of nine LLM externship credits.
(3) All fully executed contracts must be submitted to the Director of the Masters Externship Program by the first day of classes of the semester in which the student will be doing her or his externship.

(a) The contract, once submitted to the Director of the Masters Externship Program, will be copied and distributed to the Mentor and the Faculty Supervisor.
(b) Students who do not submit final, signed contract by this deadline will not be enrolled in the LLM externship and will not receive credit for their work. Students must petition the Committee on Standards for an exception to this rule.

(4) The Director of the Masters Externship Program may decline any LLM externship contract or opportunity described therein that does not conform to these regulations.

d. Grades

(1) All LLM externships are pass/fail.

(2) Faculty Supervisors assign the grade based on the student’s journals, the Mentor’s letter of evaluation and other information such as work product, emails, telephone conversations and/or meetings and site visits with the student and Mentor.

3. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

a. Grading System

Each student’s cumulative grade-point average is initially determined after completion of the first semester of course work, in accordance with the following grading system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pass-Honors (no effect on average) P-H
Pass (no effect on average) P
Low-Pass (no effect on average) L-P
Unexcused absence from examination FAbs

Unexcused failure to complete other course requirements including attendance, papers, etc F-Wd

The passing grade in an individual course is D (1.000)

b. Designations

Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement I

---

26 These are the course grades; grade point averages are rounded off to two decimal places.
beginning of the fall semester (in the case of a spring semester course), or by the end of the fall semester (in the case of a summer session course) or an additional grade of F-Wd will be entered.\(^\text{27}\) (See regulation X..A.1.(c) for the rules applicable to the thesis and research projects.)

Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course...Wd
Year-long course .................................. Y
Administrative Delay ............................. AD

c. The following course is graded Pass-Honors/Pass/Low-Pass/Fail:
   - Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic

d. Probation and Dismissal

   (1) Good standing: To be in good academic standing, an LLM candidate must maintain an overall average of at least 2.20.

   (2) Probation: an LLM candidate will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of 6 credits of coursework, the student’s cumulative average is between 1.90 and 2.20.

   (3) Academic dismissal: An LLM candidate will be dismissed if:

      (a) the student has failed 6 credit hours of course work; or

      (b) the student’s cumulative average is below 1.90 at any time after the completion of 6 hours of course work;

      (c) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of any semester and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or

      (d) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the completion of the LLM program.

   (4) A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 5.e.(3). will be allowed to continue for a second semester\(^\text{28}\) on academic probation if the student’s grade point average for the first semester on academic probation, if repeated for the second semester on academic probation with a credit load of 12 credits, is sufficient to achieve the required cumulative average of 2.20 at the end of the second semester on academic probation.

   (5) A student who is academically dismissed may not petition the Committee on Standards for readmission earlier than one year after the date of academic dismissal. The Committee will grant readmission only if it finds that the student has addressed the factors that contributed to the academic dismissal. If the Committee grants a petition for readmission, it may impose any conditions it deems appropriate.

---

\(^{27}\) If the faculty member submits the grade within this time period, the I designation will be removed from the transcript and the grade entered for the semester in which the student was originally registered for the course. Class rank, Dean’s List, and other honors will not be changed for that semester.

If the student receives an extension or the faculty member does not submit the grade within this time period, the I designation will remain on the transcript and the grade will be entered for the semester in which the work was actually completed.

\(^{28}\) For purposes of this regulation, the summer session shall be considered as a “semester.”
e. Degrees and Honors

(1) Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and spring and at the commencement held annually at the end of the spring semester.

(2) Vermont Law School grants degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These degrees are awarded as follows:
   - cum laude .................. 3.25
   - magna cum laude ....... 3.50
   - summa cum laude ..... 3.75

B. MASTER OF LAWS IN AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES (LLM)

1. ELIGIBILITY

The Master of Laws in American Legal Studies is specifically designed for students who hold a law degree from an institution outside of the United States.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

a. A minimum of 29 credits is required for the LLM degree. An LLM candidate may take a maximum of 33 credits.

b. Course load: The minimum course load for full-time LLM students is 10 credits. The maximum course load is 16 credits in the fall and 17 credits in the spring semester.

c. Each LLM candidate must satisfactorily complete the following courses: Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure I and II, Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, Property, Legal Analysis and Writing I, and Legal Research. With the approval of the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs or the Director’s designee, an LLM candidate may substitute a different course for Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, or Property if the candidate has successfully completed a comparable course at another law school. Although course requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

d. LLM candidates have the option of enrolling in additional courses during their second semester, with prior approval of the Director of International Programs.

e. A cumulative average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the LLM degree.

f. Residence requirement: To obtain this degree, students must be in residence at Vermont Law School for two semesters.

3. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

a. Grading System

   Each student’s academic standing is determined at the end of each semester and at the end of the academic year in accordance with the following grading system:

   - A……………………………………. 4.000
   - A-……………………………………. 3.666
   - B+……………………………………. 3.333
   - B……………………………………. 3.000
   - B-……………………………………. 2.666
C+……………………………......2.333  
C………………………………...2.000  
C-………………………………...1.666  
D+………………………….........1.333  
D…………………………...……1.000  
F………………………………....0.000  

Pass-Honors (no effect on average)………………..P-H  
Pass (no effect on average)………………………..P  
Low-Pass (no effect on average)………………..L-P  
Unexcused absence from examination…………....FAbs  
Unexcused failure to complete other  
Course requirements including  
attendance, papers, etc. ……………………….. F-W’d  
The passing grade in an individual  
course is……………………………………………..D(1.000)

b. Designations

Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement……………..I  
[The student must complete the required work by the end of the spring semester in the case of a fall semester course, by the beginning of the fall semester in the case of a spring semester course, or by the end of the fall semester in the case of a summer session course or an additional grade of F-Wd will be entered.]  
Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course ……………..Wd  
Year-long course…………………………………..Y  
Administrative Delay………………………………..AD

c. Probation and Dismissal

(1) To be in good academic standing, a student must have an overall average of at least 2.20.  
(2) Probation:  
A student will be placed on academic probation if, at the end of the first semester, the student’s cumulative average is between 1.5 and 2.20.  
(3) Academic dismissal: A student will be dismissed from the law school if:  
(a) the student has failed a total of eight credit hours; or  
(b) the student’s cumulative average at the end of the first semester is at or below 1.50; or  
(c) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of any semester and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or  
(d) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the completion of the LLM program.

4. DEGREES AND HONORS

a. Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and winter and at the commencement held annually at the end of the spring semester. Students successfully completing degree requirements at other times may request a certificate of completion prior to the receipt of a diploma.
b. Vermont Law School grants degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These degrees are awarded as follows:

- cum laude ............... 3.25
- magna cum laude .......... 3.50
- summa cum laude .......... 3.75

C. MASTER OF LAWS IN ENERGY LAW DEGREE (LLM)

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

a. General

(1) The degree of Master of Laws in Energy Law (LLM) is granted for regular attendance and satisfactory completion of the prescribed course of study. A minimum of 30 credits is required for the LLM degree. These credits must be selected from courses approved for the LLM program. A cumulative grade point average of 2.20 is required for successful completion of the LLM degree.

(2) Each student must satisfactorily complete the following requirements as part of the requirements for the LLM degree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy Regulation</td>
<td>ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
<td>ENV5105 Administrative Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>LLM9606 LLM Graduate Seminar (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project/Writing Requirement</td>
<td>ENV5303 Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LLM thesis or research project on an energy topic (4-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LLM externship in energy law (4-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participation in the Institute for Energy and the Environment’s research associate program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Electives</td>
<td>ENV5498 America’s Energy Crisis (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(minimum of 4 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5476 Nuclear Power and Public Policy (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5468 Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5490 Renewable Energy and Other Alternative Fuels (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance &amp; Development (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5510 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Engineering (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5511 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Business (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5512 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid - Legal (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
<td>ENV5205 Air Pollution Law &amp; Policy (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(minimum of 9 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5209 CERCLA Law &amp; Policy (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5365 Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BUS6226 Corporate Finance: Mergers &amp; Acquisitions (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BUS6235 Corporations (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5125 Land Use Regulation (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PUB7550 National Security Law (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) Any remaining electives may be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the list of approved courses in section III.A.1.a. (4).
(4) With the approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee, an LLM candidate may waive any of the required courses if the candidate has successfully completed equivalent course work in a JD program at an ABA accredited law school or comparable international academic institution. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

The Energy Electives and General Electives requirements shall not be waived for courses completed prior to matriculation in the LLM program. All LLM candidates must take four credits of Energy Electives and nine credits of General Electives from the above list provided they do not duplicate prior course work. If an LLM candidate is unable to fulfill this requirement without duplicating prior coursework, the candidate must submit an alternative coursework plan to be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

The Project requirement shall not be waived because of prior completion of one of the listed options. LLM candidates who have completed one of the listed projects as part of a prior program must choose a different project to meet the LLM requirement.

(5) LLM Thesis or Project

(a) Thesis

An LLM candidate may choose to write a thesis. Six credits will be given for the satisfactory completion of an LLM thesis. The thesis must be a substantial piece of written work of publishable quality. A 10-15 page thesis proposal must be approved by the LLM candidate’s faculty supervisor and the Director of the Environmental Law Center before the thesis is begun.

A student will have three terms to complete the thesis. A student will register in the term in which the thesis project is begun. The grade will be entered on the transcript in the semester the thesis is completed. Ordinarily, an LLM student will begin the thesis in the spring semester. If a student extends the thesis project beyond three terms, regulation X.C.2 (below) “temporarily excused from completion of a requirement” applies.

(b) Research Project

An LLM candidate may choose to undertake a research project, either alone or as part of a joint effort with other LLM candidates. A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 credits will be given for a research project. An LLM project must be a substantial undertaking, involving significant legal and policy research. A five-page research project proposal must be approved by the LLM candidate’s faculty supervisor and the Director of the Environmental Law Center before the project may be commenced. Students engaged in a joint project will be graded on their individual contribution to the project and on their teamwork skills.

A student will have two terms to complete the research project. A student will register in the term in which the project is begun. The grade will be entered on the transcript in the semester the project is completed. If a student extends the research project beyond two terms, regulation X.C.2 (below) “temporarily excused from completion of a requirement” applies.

(6) Credits

(a) Credit Requirements and Course Load
(i) A minimum of 30 credits is required for the LLM degree. An LLM candidate may take a maximum of 36 credits from courses approved for the LLM degree; however, if a student has reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.

(ii) The minimum course load for full-time LLM students is 6 credits per semester. The maximum course load in the fall or winter semester is 14 credits per semester. The maximum course load in the summer program is 11 credits. No exceptions are allowed other than with the prior approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

(b) Transfer of Credits Non-Vermont Law School JD Graduates

A student enrolled in the LLM program may be granted credit for courses satisfactorily completed in an LLM program at an ABA-approved law school or at the graduate level of a comparable international academic institution. A student may transfer a maximum of 6 such credits to the LLM program with the approval of the Director or the Director’s designee. Before granting such approval, the Director of the Environmental Law Center or his or her designee must determine that the course is relevant and important to the student’s overall program of study. Only courses with environmental or energy content are eligible for transfer credit. The Registrar must receive an official transcript showing that the course has been completed and that a grade of B minus or better (as defined in regulation VIII.C.1.) has been awarded. Transcripts from a foreign institution must be accompanied by a WES or AACRAO evaluation. Grades from transferred courses will be noted on the student’s transcript but will not be used in computing the student’s grade average. Once a student has enrolled as an LLM candidate, prior approval must be obtained from the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee to obtain credit for courses taken at another institution. No transfer credit will be given for a course completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation into the LLM program.

(7) Duration of Program

(a) To obtain the LLM degree, a student must complete the degree requirements within a period of 5 years from matriculation.

(b) Students may enter the LLM program in either summer or fall semester.

2. EXTERNSHIPS

The LLM Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their energy law and policy knowledge and skills.

a. Threshold Requirements for an LLM Externship

The LLM Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their energy law and policy knowledge and skills, and as such, the following requirements must be met:

(1) Students must work primarily on site at the LLM externship. Students may not receive LLM externship credit if their work is done by telecommuting.

(2) LLM externships are by definition focused on energy issues, so students must assure that their work on-site relates to energy issues.
(3) Externships cannot be substituted for required courses. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

(4) LLM Externships must be supervised by an attorney.

(5) The maximum number of credits a student may earn in one or more LLM externships is ten credits.

(6) The minimum number of credits a student may earn in an LLM externship is four credits.

b. Eligibility Requirements

(1) Students in good academic standing may elect to enroll in an LLM externship.

(2) Students will not be allowed to enroll in an externship where they have previously worked as a volunteer or an employee unless the externship will provide a qualitatively different or more in depth learning experience.

(3) Without prior approval from the Director of the Masters Externship Program, students enrolled for six or more credits in an LLM or JD externship during a given semester may not subsequently continue in that placement and receive credit toward an LLM externship as a consequence of that extended placement. Students seeking to extend such long-term experiences shall petition the Director of the Masters Externship Program in writing with supporting materials that demonstrate the following:

The student’s experience during the subsequent LLM externship will be substantially different from the experience as a consequence of additional (and more difficult) responsibilities, new subject areas, new skills to be developed, or other evidence that the additional credit hours will be equivalent to taking an “advanced course” after taking an introductory course.

c. Procedures for Enrolling in an LLM Externship

(1) Fill out in its entirety, including all signatures, the contract form available at www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships.

(2) Submit the fully executed contract to the Director of the Masters Externship Program for approval of the externship opportunity.

(3) All fully executed contracts must be submitted to the Director of the Masters Externship Program by the first day of classes of the semester in which the student will be doing her or his externship.

(a) The contract, once submitted to the Director of the Masters Externship Program, will be copied and distributed to the Mentor and the Faculty Supervisor.

(b) Students who do not submit final, signed contracts by this deadline will not be enrolled in the LLM externship and will not receive credit for their work.

(4) The Director of the Masters Externship Program may decline any LLM externship contract or opportunity described therein that does not conform to these regulations.
(5) For LLM students who anticipate practicing law in Vermont: If a student anticipates practicing law in Vermont, he or she may want to use the LLM externship to complete the clerkship requirement for admission to the Vermont Bar.

(a) If the externship is under the supervision of a Vermont attorney, students may be able to count the time toward the Vermont clerkship requirement. In entering into a Vermont legal internship the student should consult with the attorney/Mentor to determine whether he or she is willing to supervise the work in a manner that meets the Vermont Bar requirement.

(b) In order to meet this Vermont Bar requirement students must indicate their intention to the Vermont Board of Bar Examiners before engaging in the clerkship.

d. Grades.

(1) All LLM externships are pass/fail.

(2) Faculty Supervisors assign the grade based on the student’s journals, the Mentor’s letter of evaluation and other information such as work product, emails, telephone conversations and/or meetings and site visits with the student and Mentor.

3. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

a. Grading System

Each student’s cumulative grade-point average is initially determined after completion of the first semester of course work, in accordance with the following grading system:

A.................... 4.000 29
A- .................. 3.666
B+.................... 3.333
B .................... 3.000
B-.................... 2.666
C+.................... 2.333
C .................... 2.000
C-.................... 1.666
D+.................... 1.333
D .................... 1.000
F .................... 0.000

Pass-Honors (no effect on average................. P-H
Pass (no effect on average).......................... P
Low-Pass (no effect on average).................... L-P
Unexcused absence from examination ........... FAbs

Unexcused failure to complete other course requirements
including attendance, papers, etc.................. F-Wd

The passing grade in an individual course is D (1.000)

b. Designations

29 These are the course grades; grade point averages are rounded off to two decimal places.
Temporarily excused from completion of a requirement. [The student must complete the required work by the end of the spring semester (in the case of a fall semester course), by the beginning of the fall semester (in the case of a spring semester course), or by the end of the fall semester (in the case of a summer session course) or an additional grade of F-Wd will be entered.]30 (See regulation X.A.1.(c) for the rules applicable to the thesis and research projects.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excused or voluntary withdrawal from a course</th>
<th>...Wd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year-long course..................................</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Delay................................</td>
<td>AD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**c. Probation and Dismissal**

(1) Good standing: To be in good academic standing, an LLM candidate must maintain an overall average of at least 2.20.

(2) Probation: an LLM candidate will be placed on academic probation if, at any time after the completion of 6 credits of coursework, the student’s cumulative average is between 1.90 and 2.20.

(3) Academic dismissal: An LLM candidate will be dismissed if:

   (a) the student has failed 6 credit hours of course work; or

   (b) the student’s cumulative average is below 1.90 at any time after the completion of 6 hours of course work;

   (c) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.20 at the end of any semester and if, at the end of any previous semester, the student was placed on academic probation; or

   (d) the student’s cumulative average is below 2.2 at the completion of the LLM program.

(4) A student who would otherwise be dismissed under subparagraph 5.c.(3). will be allowed to continue for a second semester31 on academic probation if the student’s grade point average for the first semester on academic probation, if repeated for the second semester on academic probation with a credit load of 12 credits, is sufficient to achieve the required cumulative average of 2.20 at the end of the second semester on academic probation.

(5) A student who is academically dismissed may not petition the Committee on Standards for readmission earlier than one year after the date of academic dismissal. The Committee will grant readmission only if it finds that the student has addressed the factors that contributed to the academic dismissal. If the Committee grants a petition for readmission, it may impose any conditions it deems appropriate.

d. Degrees and Honors

(1) Degrees are awarded at the meetings of the Board of Trustees in the fall and winter and at the commencement held annually at the end of the spring semester. Students successfully

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30 If the faculty member submits the grade within this time period, the I designation will be removed from the transcript and the grade entered for the semester in which the student was originally registered for the course. Class rank, Dean’s List, and other honors will not be changed for that semester.

If the student receives an extension or the faculty member does not submit the grade within this time period, the I designation will remain on the transcript and the grade will be entered for the semester in which the work was actually completed.

31 For purposes of this regulation, the summer session shall be considered as a “semester.”
completing degree requirements at other times may request a certificate of completion prior to the receipt of a diploma.

(2) Vermont Law School grants degrees cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These degrees are awarded as follows:

- cum laude .................. 3.25
- magna cum laude .......... 3.50
- summa cum laude ........ 3.75

IX. CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

A. CERTIFICATE IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. General

The Certificate in Dispute Resolution seeks to provide students with the skills and substantive knowledge valuable to legal practice as well as a wide variety of problem-solving careers. The certificate requires coursework in arbitration, and mediation and/or negotiation, to build competency, writing skills, and practical experience.

2. Application Procedure

Students may declare in writing their intention to earn a Certificate in Dispute Resolution by signing a declaration form to be co-signed by the Director of the Dispute Resolution Program and the Registrar. Students may declare during any term. Completion of Certificate requirements will appear on the transcript.

3. Certificate Requirements

The Certificate in Dispute Resolution requires 15 credits with a grade of B or above in designated courses, listed below. For non-VLS students, four credits can come from non-VLS courses. Certificate courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, and LLM degree programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competency: 9 Credits</td>
<td>ADR310 Alternative Dispute Resolution (3) OR ADR315 Environmental Dispute Resolution (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose One:</td>
<td>ADR405 Arbitration (2) OR ADR406 International Commercial Arbitration (2) OR INT7450 International Investment Arbitration and the Environment (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose One:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Four Credits From This List</td>
<td>ADR415 Negotiation (2) ADR410 Mediation (2) ADR325 Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation (3) ADR6425 Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation (3) ADR6416 Negotiating Environmental Agreements (2) CLI405 Dispute Resolution Clinic I (4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing: 2 Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose One:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WR1205 Independent Research (2) OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADR6450 Advanced Dispute Resolution Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum: 4 Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose One:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLI405 Dispute Resolution Clinic I (4) OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLI406 Dispute Resolution Clinic II (4) OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An equivalent clinical experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits Needed: 15

B. GENERAL PRACTICE PROGRAM–CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Students who are accepted into the General Practice Program will be awarded a Certificate in General Practice upon completion of:

1. GPP 206

2. A minimum of 12 additional credits of General Practice Program (GPP) courses.

3. To complete the required 16 credits, students shall take 4 credits of courses approved for GPP credit during each semester of their participation in the program.

4. After completion GPP 206, and 4 additional credits of GPP courses, students may substitute a clinic or externship (of at least 4 credits) in lieu of enrollment in General Practice Program courses for one semester.

5. At the discretion of the Director, there may be additional non-curricular requirements that students must meet in order to receive the Certificate. These requirements may include but are not limited to attendance at professional and related events, and keeping of journals and other reflective work.

6. For good cause shown, the Director retains discretion to substitute equivalent course(s) or to alter the distribution, but not the number, of credits required for the Certificate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that satisfy the requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPP 206</td>
<td>GPP 206 (4 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 credits of GPP approved courses</td>
<td>GPP 210 (2 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GPP 211 (2 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GPP 212 (2 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GPP 214 (2 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GPP 215 (2 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GPP 217 (2 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GPP 221 (2 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GPP 223 (2 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GPP 7815 (2 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GPP 7816 (2 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinic or Externship Participation (4 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW CERTIFICATE

The International and Comparative Law (ICL) Certificate formally acknowledges a student’s academic concentration in international and comparative law.

1. Requirements

To earn the International and Comparative Law Certificate, each student must satisfactorily complete the following requirements:

a. Minimum of 18 credits in international, foreign and comparative law courses.

In the minimum 18 credits of courses, the following courses are required:

i. International Law;

ii. a Comparative or Foreign Law course, from the list of approved courses designated in the registration materials as meeting this requirement; and

iii. a Study Abroad course, from the list of courses designated in the registration materials as meeting this requirement.

The remainder of the 18 credits may be taken from a list of international and comparative law courses approved for this purpose by Director of International and Comparative Law Programs; a list of courses that satisfy this requirement is published each year in the registration materials.

b. No more than 12 of the 18 required credits for this Certificate may be counted toward the 87 credits for the JD degree, so that a minimum of 93 credits is required to earn this Certificate with the JD degree.

c. Cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above.

d. Grade of B or above in both International Law and in the course that is used to meet the Comparative or Foreign Law course requirement of the certificate.

2. Pass/fail credits: No more than 10 credits taken on a pass/fail basis may be used to satisfy the Certificate’s credit requirement.

3. No more than 10 credits from a qualifying Semester-in-Practice may be used to satisfy the Certificate’s credit requirement.

4. Courses taken at an ABA-approved summer study-abroad program must have the prior approval of the Director of International Programs for the course to be used to satisfy the study-abroad requirement, and prior approval of the Registrar to determine that VLS will accept the credits.

5. Number of credits for courses taken at foreign institutions: Many foreign law schools determine the number of credits differently than U.S. law schools. The number of credits earned for courses taken at a foreign institution will be determined in accordance with the ABA regulation for determining course credits.

6. Declaration

Students wanting to earn the ICL Certificate must file an approved Declaration form with the Registrar as soon as possible but no later than the first day of classes of the Fall semester of their 3L JD year.
7. Checklist of courses meeting the certificate requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that satisfy the requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. INT7425 International Law (must earn B or above in this course)         | INT7407 Comparative Law  
|                                                                            | INT7430 Spanish Constitutional Law  
|                                                                            | INT7413 European Union Law  
|                                                                            | INT7437 Introduction to Chinese Law  
| 2. At least one course from each of the following two categories         | INT7430 Spanish Constitutional Law  
|                                                                            | INT7414 European Union Law -Trento  
|                                                                            | International SiP[^32] (max. 10 credits towards Certificate)  
|                                                                            | Semester Study at McGill University[^33]  
|                                                                            | Semester Study at University of Trento[^27]  
|                                                                            | Semester Study at Renmin University[^27]  
|                                                                            | Semester Study at the University of Cergy-Pontoise[^27]  
|                                                                            | ABA-approved Summer Course[^34]  
|                                                                            | An independent research project (IRP) conducted abroad, if based upon international work experience during law school, including summers, as long as prior approval of the project for this purpose is obtained from the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs  
|                                                                            | Other such courses approved by the Director of International and Comparative Law Programs  
| 3. Additional courses to meet the 18-credit requirement                  | Courses meeting this requirement are produced each year and are found in the web-based registration materials. |

Official transcripts and translations or foreign evaluations as required must be submitted prior to the credits being accepted and noted on the transcript.

D. CERTIFICATE IN CLIMATE LAW

1. General

The Certificate in Climate Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of climate law.

2. Application Procedure

Students must declare in writing their intent to earn a Certificate in Climate Law by submitting a Declaration Form to the Registrar’s Office. Students must declare before the beginning of their final semester at VLS. Completion of certificate requirements will appear on the student’s transcript.

[^32]: Credit maximum: A maximum of 10 credits from this course may be used to satisfy the course credit requirements for the Certificate in International and Comparative Law; however, all of the credits earned may apply to satisfy the J.D. requirements.

[^33]: Number of credits for courses taken at foreign institutions: The number of credits earned for courses taken at a foreign institution will be determined in accordance with the ABA regulation for determining course credits.

[^34]: Courses taken at an ABA-approved summer study-abroad program must have the prior approval of the Director of International Programs for the course to be used to satisfy the study-abroad requirement, and of the Registrar to determine that VLS will accept the credits.
3. Certificate Requirements

The Certificate in Climate Law requires 15 credits and a cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses that count toward the certificate. Certificate courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MERL, and LLM degree programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy the Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses (minimum of 6 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5212 Climate Change and the Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5226 Energy Law &amp; Policy in Carbon-Constrained World (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Electives (minimum of 4 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5498 America’s Energy Crisis (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5520 Climate Change, Development, &amp; America’s Arctic (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5520 Managing Human Impacts on the Ocean (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5476 Nuclear Power and Public Policy (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5468 Oil &amp; Gas Production &amp; the Environment (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5490 Renewable Energy &amp; Other Alternative Fuels (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance &amp; Development (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5112 Science for Environmental Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5510 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives (minimum of 4 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5205 Air Pollution Law &amp; Policy (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets &amp; the Env (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5335 Extinction &amp; Climate Change (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5342 Legal Adaptations to Global Warming Impacts (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5365 Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5490 Renewable Energy &amp; Other Alternative Fuels (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5498 America’s Energy Crisis (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential/Writing Requirement</td>
<td>Advanced Writing Requirement on a climate topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independent Research Project on a climate topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LLM thesis or research project on a climate topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master’s or JD externship on a climate topic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. CERTIFICATE IN ENERGY LAW

1. General

The Certificate in Energy Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of energy law.

2. Application Procedure

Students must declare in writing their intent to earn a Certificate in Energy Law by submitting a Declaration Form to the Registrar’s Office. Students must declare before the beginning of their final semester at VLS. Completion of certificate requirements will appear on the student’s transcript.

Students in the Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) and LLM in Energy Law degree programs may not pursue the Certificate in Energy Law.

3. Certificate Requirements

The Certificate in Energy Law requires 15 credits and a cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses that count toward the certificate. Certificate courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, and LLM in Environmental Law degree programs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy the Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Required Courses (minimum of 6 credits) | ENV5226 Energy Law & Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World (3)  
ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)  
ENV5105 Administrative Law (3) (waived for MELP-only students) |
| Energy Electives (minimum of 4 credits) | ENV5498 America’s Energy Crisis (2)  
ENV5476 Nuclear Power and Public Policy (2)  
ENV5468 Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)  
ENV5490 Renewable Energy and Other Alternative Fuels (2)  
ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance & Development (2)  
ENV5510 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (1-3) |
| General Electives (minimum of 4 credits) | ENV5205 Air Pollution Law & Policy (3)  
ENV5209 CERCLA Law & Policy (3)  
ENV5365 Climate Change: The Power of Taxes (2)  
BUS6226 Corporate Finance: Mergers & Acquisitions (3)  
BUS6235 Corporations (4)  
ENV5125 Land Use Regulation (3)  
PUB7550 National Security Law (3) |
| Experiential/Writing Requirement | ENV5303 Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2)  
Advanced Writing Requirement on an energy topic  
Independent Research Project on an energy topic  
LLM thesis or research project on an energy topic  
Master’s or JD externship on an energy topic |

F. CERTIFICATE IN LAND USE LAW

1. General

The Certificate in Land Use Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of land use law.

2. Application Procedure

Students must declare in writing their intent to earn a Certificate in Land Use Law by submitting a Declaration Form to the Registrar’s Office. Students must declare before the beginning of their final semester at VLS. Completion of certificate requirements will appear on the student’s transcript.

3. Certificate Requirements

The Certificate in Land Use Law requires 15 credits and a cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses that count toward the certificate. Certificate courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MERL, and LLM degree programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy the Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Required Courses (minimum of 6 credits) | ENV5125 Land Use Regulation (3)  
ENV5239 Land Transactions and Finance (3) |
| Land Use Electives (minimum of 4 credits) | ENV5402 Advanced Land Use Writing Seminar (3)  
ENV5403 Agricultural Policy and the Environment (2)  
ENV5561 Clean Water Act (2)  
ENV5430 Ecology (3)  
ENV5405 Ecosystem Conservation Strategies (2)  
ENV5445 Environmental Justice & Sustainable Development (2)  
ENV5474 Land Conservation Law (2)  
ENV5222 Landscape Scale Conservation (2)  
ENV5462 Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study  
ENV5466 Strategic Planning for Sustainable Development (2) |
G. CERTIFICATE IN WATER RESOURCES LAW

1. General

The Certificate in Water Resources Law is a formal recognition that a student has pursued a concentrated course of study in the field of water resources law.

2. Application Procedure

Students must declare in writing their intent to earn a Certificate in Water Resources Law by submitting a Declaration Form to the Registrar’s Office. Students must declare before the beginning of their final semester at VLS. Completion of certificate requirements will appear on the student’s transcript.

3. Certificate Requirements

The Certificate in Water Resources Law requires 15 credits and a cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all courses that count toward the certificate. Certificate courses may also be used to satisfy course requirements in the JD, MELP, MERL, and LLM degree programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Courses that Satisfy the Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses (minimum of 6 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5245 Water Resources Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5246 Water Quality (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Electives (minimum of 4 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5403 Agricultural Policy and the Environment (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5561 Clean Water Act (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5430 Ecology (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5405 Ecosystem Conservation Strategies (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5561 Env’t Enforcement &amp; Compliance (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5474 Land Conservation Law (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5222 Landscape Scale Conservation (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5520 Managing Human Impacts on the Oceans (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5423 Ocean and Coastal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5491 Wetlands Conservation (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives (minimum of 4 credits)</td>
<td>ENV5235 Natural Resources Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5250 Watershed Management &amp; Protection (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5349 Regulating the Marine Environment (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5423 Ocean &amp; Coastal Law (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5494 Wetlands Conservation (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENV5561 Env’t Enforcement &amp; Compliance (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential/Writing</td>
<td>Advanced Writing Requirement on a water topic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
X. MISCELLANEOUS ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

The regulations in this section apply to all persons taking courses at, or through, Vermont Law School. They apply to students who are candidates for degrees, to students taking courses for credit, and to students auditing courses. The regulations in subsection A apply to all students at all times; the regulations in subsection B apply to all students taking courses in the fall and spring semesters; the regulations in subsection C apply to all students taking courses in the summer session. See regulation XI for provisions of the Vermont Law School Honor Code.

A. GENERAL

1. Regular Attendance

   Students are required to attend all classes except where religious observance, serious illness, personal emergency, or a reason that is adequate in the judgment of the professor prevents attendance.

   a. If a student is absent from twenty (20%) percent of the regularly scheduled classes without adequate excuse, the student shall be automatically withdrawn from the course with a grade of F-Wd. Such withdrawal shall not be effective unless the student has been personally warned by the instructor. Personal notice shall include, but is not limited to, notice placed in the student’s Vermont Law School mailbox or notice sent to the student’s Vermont Law School e-mail address. In summer session, a student may not be absent for more than one class.

   b. Individual faculty may adopt a more stringent attendance policy than specified in paragraph a, provided that students are given notice of that policy.

   c. If a course instructor does not arrive within ten minutes of the scheduled beginning of class, and if no contrary notice has been given, students may disperse, and the class will not meet.

2. Leave of Absence

   Requests for leaves of absence should be directed to the Registrar. Ordinarily, no leave will be granted before the completion of the first semester of the first year; leaves may be granted for up to one year. Requests for medical leaves of absence must be directed to the Committee on Standards.

3. Examinations

   a. Students should use examination identification numbers assigned by the Registrar rather than their names on all examination and course papers unless requested to do otherwise.

   b. Students are required to take a regularly scheduled examination in each course; in some courses, seminars, clinical programs, and the like, papers and other assigned work may be substituted.

   c. Students are permitted to have in their possession in the examination room only material authorized by the instructor. Possession of any other materials is grounds for a grade of F and for action under the Vermont Law School Honor Code.

   d. After an examination has been turned in, a faculty member may require of any student whose paper is found to be illegible that a typed copy of the examination be substituted for grading purposes. At the student’s expense the student will be provided by the Registrar with a photocopy of the student’s examination paper. The substitute copy of the examination, along with the typed
copy, must be returned within ten days, or such shorter period designated by the faculty member. The typed copy must bear the signed certification of the student and typist that it is “an exact, true, and unedited copy of the original.”

e. Take-home examinations may be given at the discretion of the instructor. Any examination extending beyond a full day (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) is considered a take-home examination. The time for a take-home examination in a first-year course is determined by the instructor and the Registrar. Take-home examinations in other courses will be scheduled for the entire examination period. Take-home examinations in summer school extend for the period designated by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee.

f. An unexcused failure to take such an examination will result in an automatic F-Abs grade for the course. If a satisfactory explanation for the absence is approve by the Committee on Standards, an I (incomplete) is recorded; the regular course grade earned in a subsequent examination will be added to the permanent record when it becomes available.

g. Except as provided below, students are required to take final examinations at the regularly scheduled examination time unless extraordinary circumstances exist to justify departure from this policy. Extraordinary circumstances are defined as serious personal illness or other personal emergency which will prevent the student from taking the examination at its regularly scheduled time. Personal travel plans outside of an emergency situation will not constitute extraordinary circumstances.

Requests for permission to take a make-up examination must be made to the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs in advance of the regular examination. If a student is prevented by sudden illness or other cause from submitting a written request, an oral request before the examination should be made to the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs or the Registrar. Requests alleging illness or other medical problems must include a physician’s statement concerning the medical condition.

A request made after the regularly scheduled examination will generally not be granted, unless unforeseeable emergency circumstances prevented the student from making a pre-examination request.

h. When the Assistant Dean or the Committee on Standards has excused an absence from an examination, a make-up examination shall be arranged by the Registrar and the instructor. Make-up examinations will be given no later than two weeks following the regular examination period unless Assistant Dean or the Committee on Standards determines that the circumstances justifying the excused absence will continue to prevent the student from taking the examination during that time period.

i. A student seeking accommodation for disability must contact the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and follow the procedures outlined in the Vermont Law School Policy and Procedures for the Provision of Services to Students with Disabilities. The Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs will notify the Registrar of the appropriate accommodations to be provided a student. The Registrar will notify the student of the time and place for each examination.

j. A student seeking accommodation for a temporary disability must contact the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs prior to the beginning of the examination period. (If the condition arises during the examination period, the student must contact the Assistant Dean or the Registrar as soon as possible within the examination period.) The Assistant Dean or the Registrar may require medical documentation of the temporary disability. The Registrar, in consultation with the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, will provide appropriate accommodation and notify the student of the time

35 The examination period in the spring semester is shorter for upper division courses than for first-year courses.
and place for each examination as well as the nature of the accommodation provided. Accommodation for a temporary disability will be provided only for examinations during one semester (or one summer session). A student seeking accommodation beyond one term should contact the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

k. A student who is unable to take a regularly scheduled examination for religious reasons should contact the Registrar. The Registrar will move the examination to the first day, following the scheduled day, when that student is not taking another examination.

l. A student seeking additional time on examinations or other accommodation because English is not the student’s native language must contact the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs. The student must provide the Assistant Dean with appropriate documentation supporting his or her request. The Assistant Dean will notify the Registrar of the appropriate accommodations to be provided a student. The Registrar will notify the student of the time and place for each examination.

m. A student should not be required to take more than one examination per day or three examinations on consecutive days.

(1) Two Examinations on the Same Day: A student with two examinations scheduled on the same day may request a rescheduling of the examination for the course with the lower enrollment to the first day, following the scheduled day, when that student is not taking another examination.

(2) Three Examinations on Consecutive Days: A student scheduled to take three examinations on consecutive days may request that one examination (usually in the course with the lowest enrollment) be rescheduled to the next available examination date. The next available examination date may be a Saturday.

n. Other Rescheduling Requests: Any request to take an examination early, or to reschedule an examination for any reason other than described in m.(1) and (2), above, must be submitted to the Committee on Standards for approval.

o. Requests made to reschedule examinations under m.(1) and (2) must be presented in writing to the Registrar’s Office, on the form available in the Registrar’s Office.

All other rescheduling requests, including all requests to reschedule an examination on a day earlier than the regularly scheduled examination, must be made by submitting a written petition to the Committee on Standards.

p. Upon approval of a request by the Registrar or the Committee on Standards, the student will be notified of the rescheduled day and time, and of the procedure for picking up and turning in the examination. A rescheduled examination may not be given on a day earlier than the regularly scheduled examination without the express consent of the faculty member. (Examinations with extended time may begin at a time earlier than the regularly scheduled examination if the examination is given on the same day as the regularly scheduled examination.)

q. The Registrar will maintain a list of rescheduled examinations showing the students and courses for which examinations have been rescheduled. The Registrar will note on the list the date each examination is administered and the date the completed examination is given to the professor.

r. A student taking a rescheduled examination must certify in writing, at the time she/he receives the examination, that he/she has not looked at the examination or discussed it with anyone.

s. PASS/FAIL OPTION
A student who experiences the death of a spouse, life partner, child, parent, brother, or sister any time after the beginning of the semester may elect to complete any or all of the particular semester’s course requirements on a pass/fail basis. The student must provide the Registrar’s Office with written notice prior to the administration of each examination or the due date of other required work for which this option is selected.

4. Grading Procedure

   a. The recommended average grade for all first-year courses, other than Legal Writing II and Legal Methods, and for all other courses with an enrollment of 40 or greater is a B. For purposes of this regulation a B is equivalent to a numerical score of 2.84 to 3.17.

   b. Once grades have been turned in to the Registrar, no grade change may be made without the approval of the Committee on Standards and ordinarily only if the instructor certifies that the change is necessary because of mathematical error.

   c. The Committee on Standards may also undertake to review the substance of the work product of a course, or cause other members of the faculty or outside experts to undertake a review of the work product of a course, if, but only if, a student who complains about a grade:

      (1) Receives a grade below a C for the course; and

      (2) Alleges that the grade was based in whole or in part on factors other than the merits of the student’s performance in the course; and

      (3) Produces clear and convincing evidence extrinsic to the work product that the grade was based in whole or in part on factors other than the merits of the student’s performance in the course.

      (4) “Work product” includes, but is not limited to, an examination, take-home examination, research paper, empirical study, brief, memorandum of law, or oral exercise which has been electronically recorded.

      (5) “Factors other than the merits of the student’s performance in the course” are limited to prejudice against the student based upon the student’s race, color, religious belief, national origin, political belief, sex or sexual orientation, or personal animosity toward the student, or upon the personal, political, religious, moral, or ethical views of the faculty member.

      (6) If, and only if, the student satisfies the requirements of (1), (2), and (3) of this section, the Committee shall review, or cause the review of, the work product on its merits and make a determination as to whether the grade for the work product was justified. The standard shall be whether any reasonable faculty member teaching in the subject area would have given the grade complained of. If the Committee finds that a reasonable faculty member could have given the grade, the grade shall stand; if the Committee finds that no reasonable faculty member could have given the grade, the grade shall be removed from the student’s transcript and shall be replaced by a grade of pass.

   d. It is explicitly recognized that, subject to the limitations described in this section, members of the faculty have very broad discretion to set academic standards and award grades and nothing herein shall be construed to otherwise limit that discretion.

5. Use of Name of Vermont Law School in a Representative Sense

Students in Vermont Law School shall not, without the consent of the President and Dean, either individually or collectively, use the name of Vermont Law School in a representative sense in any
activity of any kind outside the regular work of the school. Violations of this rule are regarded as sufficient cause for dismissal.

6. Repetition of Failed Courses

Where a student has failed a required course, the Registrar will add the course to the student’s registration for the next available time that it is offered. Where a student has failed an elective course, the student may not re-register for the course except with the permission of the instructor teaching the course. Where the course is permitted to be repeated, both grades are shown on the student’s permanent record and are included in the cumulative average.

7. Tutoring in Basic English

Any student who has significant difficulty with basic English may be required to work in a tutorial program at the student’s expense.

B. FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS

1. Changes and Withdrawals

a. Courses may not be added after the sixth class day of the semester without the written permission of the professor.

b. A student may drop an elective course no later than the end of the sixth day of classes.

c. A student who is added to a class from the waitlist on the sixth day of classes shall be permitted to drop any other course until the end of the seventh day of classes.

d. A student may not withdraw from a required course, an internship, clinical offerings, or General Practice Program courses. A student may withdraw from a limited enrollment course or seminar only with the written permission of the professor no later than the last day of classes for the semester. A student may withdraw from other elective courses no later than the last day of classes for the semester. A student may not withdraw from any course or seminar after the instructor has submitted a grade, including a grade of F-Wd, to the Registrar. If a student withdraws after the time limitations in subsections b. and c. (above) the course will appear on the student’s transcript with the notation “Wd.” A student who has received a “Wd” for a particular course may not take that course for credit without first obtaining the written permission of the instructor giving the course for credit.

e. No student may drop or add the South Royalton Legal Clinic or the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic after the first day of classes. However, if the program is determined by the Director of the South Royalton Legal Clinic or the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic to be under enrolled, a student may add the course, with the Director’s permission, within the first calendar week of classes.

f. No student may drop or add the Legislative Clinic after the last day of classes of the fall semester.

g. No student may drop or add Mediation Field Work after the required training session.

h. For any addition, drop, or voluntary withdrawal to be effective, written notice must be received by the Registrar before the close of office hours on the day indicated above.

i. A student may not withdraw from any course, seminar, internship, or clinic in the student’s final semester.
j. A JD student may not voluntarily withdraw from a course if doing so reduces the student’s course load to less than 10 credit hours. A MELP or a LLM student may not voluntarily withdraw from a course if doing so reduces the student’s course load to less than the minimum required to remain in the program.

k. A student who has registered for a course and who has not withdrawn from the course under the above regulations is expected to complete all requirements of the course.

l. Preferences for assignments to oversubscribed, limited enrollment courses, and seminars are determined by the Registrar under rules promulgated by the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs.

2. Special Students

Vermont Law School permits enrollment by students who are not enrolled in a degree program at Vermont Law School or another law school, provided that such individuals have obtained a bachelor’s degree or completed substantially all of the work required for a bachelor’s degree. Permission to take a particular class as a non-degree student rests in the discretion of the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and the Professor teaching the course. Non-degree students are required to fulfill the same course requirements as degree candidates. They will be graded and receive Vermont Law School credit upon completion of the course. Non-degree students are subject to the same rules and regulations as degree candidates, and they have access to the Vermont Law School library and other Vermont Law School facilities.

Courses taken as a non-degree student may not be transferred into the JD program for credit and do not satisfy the residence requirement of regulation II.A.4. Vermont Law School does not grant credit toward the JD degree for courses completed prior to the student’s matriculation as a candidate for the JD degree at an ABA-accredited law school. (See regulation II.A.5.d.)

Courses taken as a non-degree student may be transferred into the MELP program at the discretion of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee. See regulation III.A.2.d.

Non-degree students are required to pay tuition on a per credit basis.

3. Auditing

a. A regularly enrolled student may audit free of tuition a maximum of two courses each semester provided (1) the student has completed the first year and is in good academic standing; (2) the student is taking for credit the minimum load of 10 semester hours; (3) the instructor consents; and (4) there is a seat available according to the Registrar’s records. The fact that a student has audited a course will be noted on the student’s record. A student who has audited for more than three weeks shall not be permitted to take the course for credit without first obtaining the permission of the instructor giving the course for credit. A student may change his registration to “audit” no later than the last day of classes for the semester if the instructor consents. Should a student decide to discontinue an audited course or the instructor determines the student has not satisfied the requirements to maintain audit status, the course will be removed from the student’s registration.

36 Audited courses do not count toward this total.

37 For summer school courses see regulation X.L.C.2.

38 For summer school courses see regulation X.L.C.3.
b. Auditing by non-Vermont Law School students is allowed with the consent of the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and the instructor, under terms prescribed by them and upon payment of the required fee. Any certification of auditing of this type shall state that Vermont Law School makes no representation as to the individual’s (1) qualifications, (2) attendance, or (3) comprehension of the materials.

C. SUMMER SESSION

1. Course Load, Changes and Withdrawals

The following restrictions apply to all students.

a. Course Load: The maximum course load in the summer program is eleven credits. No exceptions are allowed other than with prior written approval of (1) the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee for students pursuing an MELP or LLM in Environmental Law degree or (2) the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs or the Vice Dean’s designee for students pursuing a JD degree.

b. Changes and Withdrawals:

(1) Students are not permitted to add or drop a summer course after the start of the second class period.

(2) A student may not withdraw from a required course or an internship. A student may withdraw from a limited enrollment course or seminar only with the written permission of the instructor no later than the last day of class of that course or seminar. A student may withdraw from other elective courses no later than the last day of class of that course. A student may not withdraw from an elective course after the instructor has submitted a grade, including a grade of F-Wd, to the Registrar. If a student withdraws after the time limitation in subsection (1) (above), the course will appear on the student’s transcript with the notation “Wd.” A student who has received a “Wd” for a particular course may not take that course for credit without first obtaining the written permission of the instructor giving the course for credit. A student who withdraws from an elective course after the time limitations in subsection (1) (above), will receive a tuition credit only in the amount allowed by the tuition refund schedule for withdrawals. (A copy of this schedule is contained in the Tuition and Expense section of the Vermont Law School summer bulletin.)

(3) A student who has registered for a course and who has not dropped or withdrawn from the course under the above regulations is expected to complete all requirements of the course.

(4) For an addition, drop, or voluntary withdrawal to be effective, written notice must be received by the Registrar before the close of office hours on the day indicated above.

2. Special Students

The Environmental Law Center permits course enrollment during summer session by students enrolled in other colleges and universities who can thereby advance their learning in their major field of study provided they receive the permission of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or Director’s designee. Such students shall be non-degree candidates but shall be graded and receive Vermont Law School credits upon successful completion of such a course.

3. Auditing
a. A regularly enrolled student may audit free of tuition one course during the summer session provided (1) the instructor consents, and (2) there is a seat available according to the Registrar’s records. The fact that a student has audited a course will be noted on the student’s record. A student who has audited for more than two class periods shall not be permitted to take the course for credit without first obtaining the permission of the instructor giving the course for credit. A student may change his registration to “audit” no later than the last day of the course if the instructor consents. Should a student decide to discontinue an audited course or the instructor determines the student has not satisfied the requirements to maintain audit status, the course will be removed from the student’s registration.

b. Auditing of summer session courses by students not enrolled in a Vermont Law School degree program is allowed with the consent of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director’s designee and the instructor under terms prescribed by them and upon payment of the required fee.

XI. VERMONT LAW SCHOOL HONOR CODE

ARTICLE I. AN HONOR CODE FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & HONESTY

A. Statement of principles

Vermont Law School is a community of adults and professionals committed to the principles of academic integrity and honesty which are the underpinnings for the responsible exercise of academic freedom. As an expression of this commitment, Vermont law School has developed this Honor Code with attendant procedures to deal with instances of academic dishonesty and misconduct which may occur in connection with any aspect of a student’s work and performance in curricular (e.g. courses, experiential programs) or co-curricular (e.g. law review, moot court) endeavors. It is the duty and responsibility of all members of the Vermont law School community to report any known or suspected violations of this Honor Code. The Honor Code seeks to preclude the following forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct:

1. Any conduct pertaining to academic matters that evidences fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or an intent to obtain unfair advantage over other students, and

2. Any conduct that violates Vermont Law School academic regulations or written policies not inconsistent with this Honor Code, and

3. Any other conduct pertaining to academic matters that raises serious doubts about the accused student's honesty, integrity, or fitness to practice law.

B. Prohibited Conduct

This Honor Code recognizes two classes of violations which may attract the sanctions described in Article V below. To assist students in understanding their responsibilities under the Honor Code, the following is a list of conduct pertaining to academic matters which violates this Honor Code.

CLASS ONE VIOLATIONS:
The following offenses shall qualify as Class One Violations under Article V:

1. A student shall not plagiarize. Plagiarism is knowingly appropriating another’s words or ideas and representing them in writing as one’s own. Whenever a student submits written work, including an examination, as his or her own, the student shall not use the words of another without acknowledging the source. If the words of another are paraphrased or the ideas of another are used, there must be a clear attribution of the source.

39 Non-academic matters are governed by a separate Code of Non-Academic Conduct.
2. A student shall not invade the security maintained for the preparation and storage of examinations.

4. While taking an examination, a student shall neither possess nor refer to any material not authorized by the instructor for use during the examination.

8. In connection with an examination or an academic assignment, a student shall neither give, receive, nor obtain information or help in any form not authorized by the instructor or the person administering the examination or assignment.

9. A student who is taking or has taken an examination shall not discuss any part of that examination with another student who is taking the examination or will be taking a deferred examination when such a discussion is likely to endanger the security of the examination questions.

10. A student shall not submit any written work, or part thereof, prepared, submitted or used by him or her for any other purpose (such as work prepared for or submitted in another course, work prepared for a law journal, clinic, law firm, government agency, or other organization), or prepared by another, except upon specific disclosure of the facts and receipt of permission from the instructor to whom the work is submitted.

11. A student shall not take or copy materials of an academic nature belonging to another student without the express consent of the latter.

CLASS TWO VIOLATIONS:
The following offenses will qualify as Class Two Violations under Article V:

1. A student shall not make a false statement regarding an academic matter to a law school faculty member, administrator or to the Honor Committee.

2. With respect to the Law School Library, a student shall not knowingly (a) mark, mutilate or destroy library material; (b) hide, misshelve, or misfile library material; or (c) remove library material from the library without authorization.

3. A student shall not obstruct the Honor Code process.

4. A student shall not engage in any other conduct which in determination of the Vice Dean and the Honor Committee evidences dishonesty or a manifest lack of fitness to practice law.

C. Standard of Proof

Before a student may be found to have violated this Honor Code, there must be clear and convincing evidence that the accused committed the acts constituting the violation. This burden of proof shall apply in both the informal and the formal processes.

Unless otherwise specified in the examples above, a student is guilty of a violation of the Honor Code if she or he acted purposely, knowingly or recklessly. A student acts purposely if it is the student’s conscious object to engage in prohibited conduct or to cause a prohibited result. A student acts knowingly when that student knows that such conduct is prohibited or knows that his or her conduct will cause a prohibited result. A student acts recklessly when that student consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that his or her conduct will fall within prohibited conduct or cause a harmful result.

It is not a defense to charges of violating this Honor Code for a student to claim he or she has not received, read or understood this Honor Code, or is otherwise ignorant of its provisions. A student is held to have notice of this Honor Code by enrolling in a Vermont law school class.
ARTICLE II. ADMINISTERING THE HONOR CODE

A. Principal responsibility for administering the policies and procedures of this Honor Code shall lie with the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and/or an Honor Committee duly constituted as described below.

B. The Honor Committee consists of six members who shall represent the student body, the faculty and the Administration and which shall act according to procedures as set forth below in Article IV.

C. The makeup of the Honor Committee shall be as follows: (a) the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs as Ex Officio member; (b) Four students, one elected from each of the JD classes and one from the MELP and LLM classes combined; (c) Two faculty members appointed by the President and Dean of the Law School.

ARTICLE III. TERM OF OFFICE

A. All student members shall be elected to serve one year terms with no bar to reelection for a subsequent term. If for any reason a student member is unable to complete his or her term or to participate in the resolution of a particular matter (See, Article III, Paragraph 3) an alternate student member shall complete the term or participate as necessary. The alternate student member shall be appointed by the President of the Student Bar Association (SBA), or by the Vice-President of the SBA, or by the Treasurer of the SBA, or by the Secretary of the SBA, if the President already serves on the Honor Committee.

B. All faculty members shall be appointed for one year terms. If for any reason a faculty member is unable to complete his or her term or to participate in the resolution of a particular matter (See, Article III, Paragraph 3), an alternate faculty member, appointed by the President and Dean of the Law School, shall complete the term or participate as necessary.

C. Any member of the Honor Committee (including the chair) who believes that he or she may be unable to render an impartial decision in any case shall excuse himself/herself from such case; alternatively, the Honor Committee may remove any Honor Committee member from a case if a majority of the remaining Honor Committee members believes that member may be unable to render an impartial decision in the case. Because Vermont Law School is a small community, knowledge of or acquaintance with the accused student and/or witnesses in a hearing, awareness of a case, participation in campus issues related to the subject matter of a case, or participation in the disciplinary process prior to the hearing of the case shall not automatically be grounds for disqualification. Any concern an accused student may have about the ability of any Honor Committee member or alternate to render an impartial decision in his or her case must be submitted in writing to the chair. This submission must include any supporting materials and must be submitted at least 72 hours in advance of the formal hearing.

ARTICLE IV. PROCEDURES

D. Initial Charge

1. A person who wishes to make a charge of a violation of the Honor Code against a student must report the violation to the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. Such a report must be made in writing. An anonymous report of a violation will not be sufficient to initiate an investigation or hearing under this Honor Code.

2. As soon as practicable, but no later than fifteen working days (defined as periods during which all administrative offices of the Vermont Law School are open and operating under regular business hours) after receiving the written report of the violation, the Vice Dean shall notify the accused student in writing that a complaint has been filed. In addition, the Vice Dean will inform the accused student of his/her rights under the Honor Code, including the appointment of an advocate for the accused student. The Vice Dean

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40 Ex Officio in this context means the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs participates, but does not vote, on matters before the Honor Committee. The Vice Dean participates in hearings before the Honor Committee under the Formal Process as described in IV (C).
will also inform the student that a preliminary investigation into the matter will be conducted by a named investigator whose report will be submitted to the Vice Dean.

3. At the same time as the Vice Dean notifies the accused student of the complaint, the Vice Dean shall notify the remaining Honor Committee members of the alleged violation and shall provide the Honor Committee with a preliminary timetable whether the matter proceeds under the formal or informal process.

4. The Investigator

The Vice Dean for Academic Affairs shall appoint an investigator from among the faculty, staff administration, or students. When the investigator appointee may be a student, this appointment shall be made in consultation with the President of the SBA (unless s/he is serving on the Honor Committee, in which case the consultation may be with the Vice-President of the SBA, or the Treasurer of the SBA, or the Secretary of the SBA). The investigator may speak with the accused student, and other witnesses, and may obtain statements and any evidence or facts necessary to report to the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. The investigator shall submit a report about the matter to the Vice Dean within twenty-one (21) calendar days following his/her appointment as investigator unless good cause exists to warrant a reasonable extension of time.

5. Advocate for the Accused Student

The Vice Dean for Academic Affairs shall appoint an advocate for the accused student from among the faculty, staff, administration, or student body. When the advocate appointee may be a student, this appointment shall be made in consultation with the President of the SBA (unless s/he is serving on the Honor Committee, in which case the consultation may be with the Vice-President of the SBA, or the Treasurer of the SBA, or the Secretary of the SBA). The Advocate will serve as advisor to the accused. The advocate may also speak for the accused to the Honor Committee and act on the accused's behalf at the formal hearing. The accused student may prefer to have an advocate other than the appointed person in which event, the appointed advocate shall serve as an advisor on Honor Code procedure to the advocate of choice.

B. Informal Process

1. After receiving the investigator’s report, the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs may: (a) determine that even if the facts alleged are true, no violation of the Honor Code has taken place; or (b) determine that it is more probable than not that a violation has taken place and may proceed to take action as outlined in paragraph 2 below. Either determination shall be communicated to the accused student in writing within a reasonable time following the Vice Dean’s receipt of the investigator’s report.

2. If the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs determines that it is more probable than not that a violation of the Honor Code has occurred, the Vice Dean may proceed as follows. A discussion of the charges and the formal process as outlined below in Section C shall be held with the accused student. The student will be given the option of going forward with the formal process or agreeing in writing to abide by both the decision of the Vice Dean as to whether a violation of the Honor Code occurred and the penalty assessed by the President and Dean of the Law School upon recommendation of the Vice Dean. Such an agreement by the student will constitute a waiver of any right to the formal process including the right to appeal. The accused student does not waive the right to make public the outcome of the informal process. In this informal process, the President and Dean of the Law School retains the right to accept, reject or modify any recommendation which may be made by the Vice Dean. The decision of the President and Dean of the Law School is final.

C. Formal Process

1. If the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs concludes that the facts warrant a finding that it is more probable than not that a violation of the Honor Code has taken place and that the case is not one which will be dealt with informally above, the Vice Dean will notify the Honor Committee in writing of the
nature of the complaint and of her or his conclusions. The Vice Dean will also notify the student accused in writing that the case is being referred to the Honor Committee for further proceedings. This notice shall include the names of all members of the Honor Committee.

2. The Vice Dean may request that the investigator conduct further investigation in preparation for the formal hearing.

3. The Honor Committee as described in Article II (3) shall conduct a formal hearing of this matter at a meeting scheduled not more than thirty (30) calendar days after the Vice Dean has reported a probable violation of the Honor Code to the Honor Committee. The Honor Committee shall meet to elect a chair for the hearing. It shall be the chair’s responsibility, prior to the formal hearing, to (1) distribute a copy of the investigator’s report to each member of the Honor Committee; and (2) to ensure that each member of the Honor Committee has received from the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs the written notice of the nature of the complaint and the Vice Dean’s conclusions. The Vice Dean for Academic Affairs is not a member of the Honor Committee when it sits in formal hearing.

4. Formal Hearing

The Vice Dean, along with the appointed investigator, shall present the matter to the Honor Committee. This hearing is not intended to be adversarial in nature (e.g. a prosecution and defense role). Rather, the purpose of the hearing is for the Honor Committee to gather information to enable it to make a factual determination as to whether or not a violation of the Honor Code has occurred, and if so, to recommend a penalty. To that end, the Honor Committee will call and question witnesses and receive any relevant documents. Because this is not a trial, rules of evidence may be more relaxed in the interest of gathering all relevant information. The accused student will be entitled to have counsel present at the hearing, in addition to his/her advocate. The accused student or any such counsel or advocate will also have the right to call and question witnesses, the right of access to any and all documents offered as evidence, and the right to examine such documents.

After hearing all witnesses and considering all evidence presented, the Honor Committee shall decide whether a violation of the Honor Code has occurred. A majority vote of the six Honor Committee members voting shall be necessary for a finding of violation and the imposition of any sanction. However, a recommendation of expulsion or a recommendation that an awarded degree be withdrawn shall require unanimity.

After the formal hearing is concluded, the chair of the Honor Committee shall assign one member of the Honor Committee to prepare a written report stating: (1) the essential findings of fact upon which the committee’s determination of violation or no violation is based; (2) the conclusions of law which are necessary to support the determination; and (3) the recommended sanction if a determination of violation is made. Concurring and dissenting members may prepare reports explaining their positions. Copies of the report(s) shall be given to the accused student and to the President and Dean of the Law School.

The Honor Committee shall tape record the hearing in each case. The recording, documents received and the opinion of the Honor Committee shall be retained in the President and Dean’s Office. This record may be referred to by the Honor Committee for any purpose and by the President and Dean of the Law School in the case of appeal, but the confidentiality of the record should otherwise be maintained. The accused student shall have the right to make public the results of the formal hearing. At any time after three years, the Honor Committee may destroy the record except for the final report/opinion of the Honor Committee and the opinion of the President and Dean of the Law School, if any.

If the accused student does not appeal the decision of the Honor Committee within seven days after receiving the written report of the Honor Committee pursuant to Article VI, the decision of the Honor Committee shall become final and binding upon all parties, and the President and Dean of the Law School shall proceed to consider implementation of the recommended penalty. In so doing, the President and Dean of the Law School shall have plenary power to accept, reject or modify the recommended penalty. The decision of the President and Dean of the Law School is final.
D. Resolution of the Case Without a Hearing

At any time the accused shall have the right to make a proposal for resolution of the matter to the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs or to the Honor Committee. Any such proposal shall include acknowledgment by the accused student of a violation, and shall include a waiver of all rights to the formal process including the right to appeal under the Honor Code with the understanding that the President and Dean of the Law School can modify all agreed to sanctions.

E. Time Limitation

No complaint may be filed more than sixty (60) days after the occurrence of the alleged violation or sixty (60) days after the day that the alleged violation and/or the identity of the accused student should have reasonably been discovered.

F. The Power to Appoint Alternates

Should it become necessary at any point during the informal or formal processes, the President and Dean of the Law School shall have the power to appoint alternates to serve the role(s) of the Vice Dean(s).

G. Notice

Notice to the accused student shall be given through the United States mail to the local address contained in the accused student’s educational file. If there is no local address, notice will be sent to the accused student’s permanent address.

Notice to members of the Honor Committee required by this Honor Code can be provided either through the Vermont Law School campus mail system (the notice is thereby placed in the individual’s campus mailbox) or through the United States mail.

Notice will be considered given on the date the notice is placed in the mail.

ARTICLE V. SANCTIONS

If through the informal or formal process it is determined that the accused student has violated one or more of the provisions of this Honor Code, the Honor Committee members or the Vice Dean shall recommend a sanction in accordance with the provisions below:

Class One Sanctions: If the Honor Committee members or the Vice Dean conclude that the student has committed a Class One violation of the Honor Code as defined in Article III, Section B, the recommended penalty shall be suspension, expulsion or withdrawal of an awarded degree, unless the Honor Committee members or Vice Dean find substantially mitigating circumstances warrant a lesser penalty as set out in the following paragraph. A recommendation of expulsion or a recommendation that an awarded degree be withdrawn shall require unanimity

Class Two Sanctions: If the Honor Committee members or Vice Dean conclude that the student has committed a Class Two violation of the Honor Code as defined in Article III, Section B, the Honor Committee members or Vice Dean shall recommend such lesser penalty as they deem appropriate, including, but not limited to: a warning; a fine; probation; reference to counseling; or notation in the student’s permanent file, unless the Honor Committee members or Vice Dean find substantially aggravating circumstances warrant a harsher penalty as set out in the preceding paragraph.

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41 Grade adjustments have been excluded from the list of sanctions. Grading is solely a faculty function. A faculty member may consider a determination that a student violated the Honor Code, for example by cheating or plagiarism, in assigning a grade. The President and Dean of the Law School cannot, however, compel the faculty member to adjust a grade based on the result of an Honor Code determination.
Notation on Official Transcript: The fact of a violation, whether subject to a Class One or Class Two sanction, shall in the usual case be noted on the student's official transcript. For purposes of this section, the official transcript means the official record of the student’s academic history at Vermont Law School in all programs (e.g. JD, MELP, LLM, or joint-degree) in which the student is enrolled at the time of the violation.

ARTICLE VI. APPEALS

E. The accused student may appeal the decision of the Honor Committee directly to the President and Dean of the Law School. Within seven days after receiving the written report of the Honor Committee, any accused student wishing to appeal shall give written notice of such intention to the President and Dean of the Law School. The accused student shall include a statement of the basis for such an appeal with the written notice. The review shall be on the record.

F. The President and Dean of the Law School shall notify the Honor Committee and the involved faculty member, if any, of the appeal.

G. The Honor Committee shall make available to the President and Dean of the Law School a copy of the tape recording of the hearing and copies of any documents received by the Honor Committee.

H. The President and Dean of the Law School shall schedule a meeting with the accused student within a reasonable time after receiving the written notice of appeal. The President and Dean of the Law School shall allow the accused student, the student’s counsel or advocate, the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and/or the investigator, to present arguments at that meeting.

I. Factual findings of the Honor Committee shall not be overturned on appeal absent a showing that the findings are not supported by relevant evidence. Deference shall be accorded determinations of credibility made by the Honor Committee. Determinations of what constitutes relevant evidence shall be overturned only for abuse of discretion.

Conclusions of law, including interpretations and applications of this Honor Code, may be overturned upon a showing that the conclusions are erroneous.

The President and Dean of the Law School shall have the plenary power to accept, reject, or modify the recommended penalty. The decision of the President and Dean of the Law School is final.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENT OF THE HONOR CODE

A. This Honor Code may be amended upon the initiative of (1) a majority vote of the members of the Honor Committee; (2) a majority vote of the faculty; or (3) a petition signed by 50 or more Vermont Law School students. Any amendment must be approved both by a majority of the student members of the Honor Committee together with the members of the Student Bar Association voting as one body and by the faculty. If a student is both a member of the governing body of the Student Bar Association and the Honor Code Committee, the student shall have only one vote.

B. Amendments to this Honor Code shall be effective upon approval by the faculty and by the student members of the Honor Committee together with the Student Bar Association.

XII. COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The faculty has delegated responsibility for administration of the Academic Regulations to the Committee on Standards. Any student who seeks a discretionary decision provided for under the regulations, or the waiver of a regulation, must petition the Committee; students should not contact individual members of the Committee concerning any matter which may come before the Committee.
B. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

5. Regular meetings of the Committee are ordinarily held monthly. The schedule of regular meetings will be posted on the official bulletin board at the beginning of each semester. Special meetings are held at the discretion of the chair. The Committee may meet telephonically or electronically.

6. Three members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the Committee to take action upon student petitions.

7. The deadline for submission of petitions shall be on the Friday preceding the meeting of the Committee at which the student seeks a decision. The Committee may, in its discretion, consider late petitions or consider petitions telephonically or electronically outside a regularly scheduled meeting provided a quorum of Committee members acts on the petition(s).

12. The Registrar and Director of Academic Procedures or designee shall serve as Secretary to the Committee on Standards.

C. PETITIONS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. The student shall submit a typewritten petition to the Registrar via email, mail, or in person, setting forth in detail the student’s request and the reasons why the Committee should make an exception to the Academic Regulations and grant the request.

2. In any case which may result or has resulted in suspension or dismissal from the school, the student has a right to a personal appearance before the Committee. Such personal appearance must be requested at the time of the student’s original petition, and the student shall appear at the time the petition is being considered by the Committee. In any other case, the student may request a personal appearance, which shall be granted only by unanimous consent of the members of the Committee. Such requests should be made in writing and submitted to the Registrar no later than the Friday preceding the Committee meeting at which the student petition will be considered.

D. NOTICE OF ACTIONS

The Committee shall notify the students of its decisions in writing by mail or email. In addition, the Committee shall notify the following parties in writing of its action when appropriate: Registrar, President and Dean, student’s instructor, Business Office.

E. PETITIONS FOR REHEARING

If a student’s petition is denied in whole or in part, the student may request reconsideration of the petition. Such a request will ordinarily be granted only upon presentation of new information which was not available at the time of submission of the original petition. Students requesting rehearing shall make this request in writing by the Friday preceding the Committee meeting at which the student would like the petition to be reconsidered.