

2009 – 2010 EDITION

CHANGES TO THE ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR THE JD PROGRAM, AND TO DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS FOR ALL BU LAW STUDENTS

Below are changes to the School of Law J.D. Academic Regulations.

A. CHANGES TO THE JD ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

1. REVISED ARTICLE I

Article I. Requirements for the Degree of Juris Doctor

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2. **Requirements.** All candidates for the JD degree must:

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d. Satisfy the upperclass writing requirement, the professional responsibility requirement, **and, beginning with the Class of 2011, the professional skills requirement.** [New addition to sec. 2. d.].

2. REVISED ARTICLE III

Article III. Program Requirements for Second- and Third-Year Students

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3. Maximum Non-Grade Point Average Credits. Some sources of credit do not produce grades that are included in a student's grade point average, even if grades appear on the transcript. **These sources include study abroad programs, fieldwork components of externships (including fieldwork in the semester in practice program), courses taken elsewhere in the university or at other law schools, and credit for work on law journals. A student may not apply more than 16 credits from such sources toward the total required for graduation. This limit may be waived by the Academic Standards Committee on a showing of good cause.** [New addition to Article III].

3-4. Continuation for second- and third-year students. Second- or third-year students will be dropped from the School if (1) they fail to earn an average of at least 2.0 in second-year courses and seminars; (2) they fail to earn a cumulative average, at the end of the second year, of at least 2.3; (3) they fail a retaken required course; or (4) they fail more than five credits after the first year. Such students must petition for reinstatement under Article X. Other students may continue, except that continuation for students whose cumulative average at the end of the second year is not above 2.7 is subject to any conditions or academic support programs that the Academic Standards Committee may prescribe.

4. 5. Professional responsibility requirement. In the second or third year, all students must pass one of the following: (1) a course in professional responsibility offered to JD students generally, (2) a course in professional responsibility offered in conjunction with the School's civil or criminal clinics, or (3) the School's legal externship program. Unless the Faculty directs otherwise under Article IV, paragraph 4(b), a student who fails a course or program listed above, but who is nonetheless in good standing, must take or retake a professional responsibility course offered to JD students generally at BU Law. Both the failing grade and the grade in the second professional responsibility course will appear on

the student's transcript, and both will be counted in the student's average. Students who fail a second course in professional responsibility will be dropped from the School and must petition for reinstatement under Article X.

5-6. Upperclass writing requirement. In the second or third year, students must satisfactorily complete substantial research and writing under faculty supervision. The requirement may be fulfilled by work in connection with a course or seminar, by a supervised research and writing project, or by a paper written in connection with co-curricular activities approved by the Faculty. With the approval of the Dean's designate, a part-time faculty member may supervise work conducted under this paragraph. The student's work must demonstrate analytical ability of high professional caliber and, in the usual case, proficiency in legal research. Students are responsible for selecting a topic, obtaining a faculty supervisor, developing the program of research and writing, and completing the work by the required date. Students are advised to formulate their plans as early as possible in the second year, and they are required as a condition for registration in their final two semesters to specify how they will complete the writing requirement. All work submitted must be the student's original work and must not have been offered previously for any purpose at any academic institution. Unless the project is a note prepared for a student-edited journal, the faculty supervisor is expected to meet regularly with the student and to comment on at least one preliminary draft. If the project is a journal note, the student editor is expected to meet regularly with the student and to comment on at least one preliminary draft, with the faculty supervisor deciding whether the project has satisfied the writing requirement. Upon satisfactory completion of the work, the faculty supervisor shall certify to the Registrar that the requirement has been satisfied.

7. Professional Skills Requirement. Beginning with the class of 2011, every student must take one course before graduation that satisfies the American Bar Association's professional skills requirement. A list of qualifying courses will be published with the registration materials each spring. [New addition to Article III].

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68. Failure to satisfy degree requirements. Any student who, at the end of the third year, has failed to satisfy the requirements for the JD degree must petition the Academic Standards Committee with a specific proposal for completing outstanding requirements. The Committee will report the matter to the Faculty with a recommendation. Upon receipt of the Committee's report and recommendation, the Faculty may direct either that the students be dropped from the School or, where appropriate, that the student complete specified work to satisfy degree requirements.

3. REVISED ARTICLE IV

Article IV. Supervised Research and Writing, Tutorials, and Courses Outside the School of Law

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6. Permission to take a semester or year at another ABA/AALS-approved law school.

a. A student who has compelling personal reasons to take a semester or year at another ABA/AALS-approved law school may petition the Academic Standards Committee for permission to apply residence and course credits toward the BU Law degree. The petition must be submitted prior to commencement of the work, and it must set forth the name of any school to which the student intends to apply and the reasons for the request. **If the number of credits that the student would earn at another law school results in the student exceeding the allowed maximum of 16 non-grade point average (gpa) credits, then the student must include in the petition a request to exceed that maximum.** The Academic Standards Committee will consider the totality of circumstances in determining whether to grant ~~any such request~~ **requests to visit another school and to exceed the maximum non-gpa credits.** [New addition to, and amended language in, Article IV.]