



Nebraska Law Rules & Regulations

It is important to familiarize yourself with the College of Law's rules and regulations prior to beginning classes in August. All of the University of Nebraska College of Law can be found here: <http://law.unl.edu/academic-regulations/>.

University Code of Conduct

Law students are also subject to provisions of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln's Student Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is available on the UNL website at <https://studentconduct.unl.edu/student-code-conduct>

Class Attendance

Class attendance is **mandatory**. This is pursuant to the College of Law Faculty Rules, which state:

Students are required to attend classes regularly and to prepare all assigned work thoroughly. Inadequate class attendance or preparation may result in the student being dropped from the course or may adversely affect the final grade the student receives in the course. A first year student who is dropped from a course will receive a failing grade ("0") for the course.

Exams and First Year Grading

Final exams for first year courses, except Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research are given at the end of each semester. All first year exams begin at 1:00 p.m.

For essay exams, all professors allow (and some professors require) typed exams. The Law College uses Exam 4 software for exams. Instructions on downloading Exam 4 and practicing with it will be provided to you mid-fall.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, Civil Procedure, Contracts, Property and Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research are year-long, six credit hour courses. Civil Procedure, Contracts, and Property have a midterm exam at the end of the first semester and a final exam at the end of the second semester. First year midterms generally range in weight from 20% to 50% of the final grade, depending on the professor. Exams are not administered in Legal Research and Writing. Your grades in that course will be based on writing assignments and oral advocacy activities throughout the academic year. At the conclusion of the fall semester, students will receive a quartile "ranking" (I, II, III, and IV) for these yearlong courses. Students will receive their final



letter grade in these courses at the end of the spring semester.

For Criminal Law (3cr) and Torts (4cr), which are taught in the fall semester only, you will have final examinations and receive final grades at the end of the fall semester. For International Perspectives in the U.S. Legal System (2cr), which is taught in the spring semester only, you will have a final exam and receive a final grade at the end of the spring semester.

Rescheduling Exams

Midterm and final exams must be taken at the scheduled time unless:

- (1) the student has two exams on the same day (which never happens for 1L classes);
- (2) the student has four consecutive exams on four consecutive calendar days (which never happens for 1L classes); or
- (3) the student experiences a serious illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control that affect the student's capacity to take the exam at the regularly scheduled time. Examples of "other special circumstances" include death of an immediate family member, a car accident, or birth of a child.

A student seeking to reschedule an exam must contact the Registrar, Vicki Lill, before the exam, or if she cannot be reached, then Assistant Dean Marc Pearce. Rescheduled exams must be taken at the next available date after the date the exam was originally scheduled.

Exam Numbers

Exams are graded anonymously. Each student is assigned a different exam number every semester. Students put their exam numbers rather than their names on their exam answers.

Grades

The College of Law uses a numerical grading scale with grades ranging from 9 to 0 (but there is no grade of "1"). The numerical grades and their letter equivalents are as follows.

9 = A+ 8 = A 7 = B+ 6 = B 5 = C+ 4 = C 3 = D+ 2 = D 0 = F

Grades of 0 carry no credit. The only courses at the College that may be taken pass/fail are Externship, Law Review (for Law Review Editors), Teaching Assistant, Moot Court Team (for Moot Court Team members), and Trial Team (for Trial Team members). None of these are courses that you will take during your first year.

Once final grades have been submitted by the professor to the Registrar, they cannot be changed unless there was a mathematical or mechanical error in the grading process. With regards to matters of judgment, any review or change must be accomplished prior to submitting



the final grades to the Registrar.

Grade Point Averages and Eligibility to Continue

Grade point averages are officially computed at least three times during a student's law school career to determine the student's class rank and eligibility to continue. The first computation will be done when the student completes the required first year curriculum. If the student's first year grade point average is less than 4.000 (or "C"), the student will be ineligible to continue at the College of Law.

The second computation is done at the end of the semester or summer session in which the student has taken and received a grade in at least 27 hours beyond the required first year curriculum. If the student's grade point average for the courses taken since the first computation is less than 4.000, the student will be ineligible to continue.

The third computation is done at the end of the semester or summer session in which the student has taken and received a grade in at least 60 hours beyond the required first year curriculum. If the student's grade point average for the courses taken since the second computation is less than 4.000, the student will be ineligible to continue.

The fourth computation, if necessary, is done when the student has completed all of the requirements for graduation. To receive his or her degree, the student must have a minimum grade point average of 4.000 for all courses taken.

Academic Probation

A student will be placed on probation if the student's grade point average is at least 4.000 but not higher than 4.500 at the time of the first or second computation. A student will also be placed on probation if the student fails two courses at any point during the student's law school career.

Students on probation are subject to such limitations and requirements as the faculty or Dean may prescribe. Those may include repeating failed courses, limitations on outside employment and limitations on the number of hours the student can take.

Grade Reports

Law College grade reports for 1Ls for the fall semester are distributed at the College on the first day of classes of the spring semester. Law College grade reports for the spring semester, which include grades, grade point average and class rank, are mailed to your summer address. Grades (but not GPAs and class ranks) are also available each semester on the University's website MyRED. The grades on MyRED should be the same as the grades on your Law College grade report except that the Law College grade report will have the numerical grade and MyRED



will have the letter equivalent. If there are any discrepancies between your Law College grade report and the grades on MyRED, you should inform the Law College Registrar as soon as possible.

Course Failure

A student who fails a required course but who is eligible to continue must retake the course during the next semester or summer session in which the course is offered. The student's transcript and grade point average will reflect both the original failing grade and the subsequent passing grade. A student who fails a course which is not required may (but is not required to) repeat the course.

Incompletes

A student not taking the examination or meeting course requirements may be given a reduced grade or an Incomplete at the professor's discretion. Generally, an Incomplete must be removed within one year. Otherwise, the Incomplete automatically reverts to a failing grade ("0"). A professor has discretion to allow a student who has received an Incomplete in a course to withdraw from the course. To withdraw, the student must obtain the professor's written approval and request the Registrar to submit the grade change form within one year after the date of the Incomplete. Incompletes are rarely given for first year courses.

Withdrawal

Since all first year courses are required, first year students cannot drop a course. However, first year students can withdraw from the College of Law if for some reason that becomes necessary. A student who wishes to withdraw from the College should contact Assistant Dean Marc Pearce.

Semester Requirements

All students are expected to attend the Law College full-time and, after the first year, take 12-15 credit hours per semester. All students must attend at least five semesters (the first year, plus three more semesters). Students may not take more than 20% (18 credit hours) of the total hours required for the JD degree in any semester.

Work restrictions

We strongly recommend that first year students not work at all. The study of law is a full-time job. If circumstances require that you work during your first year, please see Assistant Dean Marc Pearce.