

# Academic Requirements

## DEGREE AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students must complete the requirements for the Juris Doctor degree, including earning a total of 94 credit hours. Those students who desire to earn the Graduate Diploma in Comparative Law (D.C.L.) degree must complete, as part of their 94 hours, fifteen credit hours from a list of courses designated for the D.C.L degree.

Students choosing to opt-out of earning the D.C.L .may request to do so during their second or third year by filing a notice of intent to opt out of the D.C.L. subsequently decide to complete the requirements of the D.C.L.,the student may notify the Law Registrar prior to graduation of the change of intention. The Law Registrar will set a date by which students must make their financial intentions known before graduation.

### Course Credit Requirements

The first-year curriculum is prescribed and all entering students are assigned to a section and take all first-year courses together.

## FIRST-YEAR CURRICULUM

### FALL

Basic Civil Procedure .....	2
Contracts .....	3
Criminal Law .....	3
Legal Research & Writing .....	2
Legal Traditions and Systems .....	3
Torts .....	3

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16 hours

### SPRING

Administration of Criminal Justice I .....	3
Basic Civil Procedure II .....	2
Civil Law Property .....	3
Constitutional Law I .....	3
Legal Research & Writing .....	2
Obligations.....	3

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16 hours

## Mandatory Upperclass Courses

Legal Profession. *The Rules of the Supreme Court of Louisiana require a law student to successfully complete a course in professional responsibility before taking the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE).*

Evidence, *which must be taken as a junior before Trial Advocacy.*

Trial Advocacy, *conducted over a three-day period one week before the fall semester of the third year.*

Skills, Clinical and Externship Requirement, *six credits from approved courses, among which are:*

Advanced Appellate Advocacy  
Advanced Legal Research  
Civil Mediation Clinic  
Family Law and Family Violence Clinic Course Component  
Immigration Clinic Course Component  
Juvenile Defense Clinic Course Component  
Legal Negotiations  
Law Office Practice  
Advanced Trial and Evidence  
Civil and Family Law Mediation  
Juvenile Defense Clinic Practicum  
Pre-Trial Litigation Practice  
Advanced Litigation Practice  
Individual Supervised Externship  
Family Law and Family Violence Practicum  
Mediation Clinic  
Judicial Externship  
Governmental Externship  
Immigration Clinic Practicum  
Public Interest and Not-for-Profit Externship  
Homeless Clinic  
Parole Clinic  
Trial Advocacy

## Additional Degree Requirements for All Students

Upperclass Legal Writing Requirement—Every student must complete at least one additional rigorous writing experience after the first year. To satisfy this requirement, the student

must meet individually with the instructor regarding the topic and scope of the paper, and the student must complete at least one revision of the paper after the instructor has critiqued a draft prepared by the student. A student may satisfy this requirement by preparing the paper in a seminar or as an independent research project. Successful completion of this requirement requires that the student earn a grade of 2.0 or higher on the paper.

No more than a total of 16 hours may be earned in summer school, and no more than 31 hours may be earned at another law school in nonmatriculating status.

In order to graduate, a student must earn a cumulative weighted average of 2.0 or above (1) on all course work undertaken; and (2) on all course work undertaken during the last two semesters of study (including summer semesters). Six semesters of resident study are required for the degree.

Students will typically satisfy all degree requirements, including the minimum 94 credit hours and prescribed coursework, by attending six regular semesters, although many students may also elect to earn credits during a summer semester. Some students may be able to satisfy all degree requirements by attending five regular semesters and two summer semesters. The last 30 hours must be completed in residence; the Executive Committee may waive this requirement following a petition from the student.

Seniors must complete and return an application for degree during their last semester. This form is available in the Office of Admissions and Student Records and must be received within the first three weeks of class.

A commencement ceremony is held only in May. Students who will graduate in August or December may participate in the commencement ceremony if they have fewer than 10 hours to satisfy degree requirements. Students must complete the petition to participate in the ceremony. The form is available on the web. Students who graduate at the end of summer school will not be able to take the Louisiana Bar Examination the same summer.

## GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN COMPARATIVE LAW

Students have the freedom to explore a wide variety of upper level courses in a sequence that suits their professional interests. Certain upperclass courses not only satisfy the requirements for the Juris Doctor but also student interest in and the course requirements for the optional Graduate Diploma in Comparative Law. Students who choose to earn the D.C.L. must select 15 hours of course work from the groupings of designated courses with global, comparative, or civil law focus (referred to as the “basket”). Among these are:

Family Law of Persons .....	3
Family Law Seminar .....	2
Louisiana Civil Law of Torts (Advanced LA Torts) .....	2

Louisiana Security Devices Survey.....	4
Matrimonial Regimes .....	2
Sales and Real Estate .....	3
Security Devices .....	3
Successions and Donations.....	4
Climate Change Law.....	3
Comparative Health Law Seminar.....	2
Comparative Labor Law .....	2
Comparative Media Law.....	2
European Union: A New Constitutional Order .....	3
European Union: Commercial and Business .....	2
Foreign, Comparative and International Research .....	2
International Aspects of U.S. Income Tax.....	3
International Criminal Law.....	2
International Criminal Law Seminar.....	2
International Environmental Law.....	3
International Human Rights Law .....	2
International Human Rights Law Seminar .....	2
International Intellectual Property.....	3
International Law.....	3
International Law Seminar.....	2
International Law in U.S. Courts Seminar.....	2
International Petroleum Transactions.....	3
Conflict of Laws .....	3
International Business Transactions .....	3
Mineral Rights .....	3
Seminar in Comparative Refugee Law .....	2
Introduction au droit Français .....	1
U.S. Foreign Affairs Law .....	3

Additionally, all Summer in France courses and all courses taught by international visiting scholars are applicable to the basket.

#### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ENERGY LAW AND POLICY

The Graduate Certificate in Energy Law and Policy (the “Energy Certificate”) allows the Paul M. Hebert Law Center to officially recognize students who have demonstrated substantial competence in the study of energy law and related subject matter. It helps prepare participating students for careers in energy law and related fields by ensuring that they take appropriate coursework and providing exposure to relevant applied learning experiences. Students who satisfy the requirements for both the Energy Certificate and the D.C.L. may earn both credentials at graduation.

## Eligibility

Any LSU law student in good standing who has completed at least one full year of full-time law study with a grade point average of 2.6 or higher is eligible to participate in the certificate program. An interested student must complete an application. The information from the application and a required orientation session will be used to assist the student in planning an appropriate course of study.

## Requirements

In order to earn the Energy Certificate, a student must:

I. Apply to participate in the certificate program before the first day of classes of the student's final year before graduating from the Law Center. Interested students are encouraged to apply to the certificate program in the first semester of their second year of law study.

II. Successfully complete at least 18 credit hours within the Certificate Curriculum, as further set forth below. Course credit toward satisfaction of the Certificate Curriculum, both mandatory and elective courses, will be granted only when the student earns at least a 2.4 for the final course grade. A student's grade point average in coursework satisfying the Certificate Curriculum must be at least a 3.2. A student's overall grade point average in all Law Center coursework must be at least a 3.0.

### A. Mandatory Courses (12 credit hours):

1. Mineral Rights (3)<sup>+</sup>
2. Energy Law and Regulation (3 credits)
3. Administrative Law (3)
4. Introduction to Environmental Law (3)

### B. Elective Courses (6 or more credit hours):

1. International Petroleum Transactions (3)<sup>+</sup>
2. Advanced Mineral Law (3)
3. International Environmental Law (3)<sup>+</sup>
4. Climate Change Law (3)<sup>+</sup>

5. Selected Issues in Gulf Oil & Gas Development (3)
6. Legal Aspects of Coastal Areas (2)
7. Energy Law Seminar (2)
8. Seminar on Pooling, Utilization, and Joint Operating Agreements (2)
9. Oil and Gas Seminar (2)
10. Natural Resources Law Seminar (3)
11. Administrative and Environmental Law Practice Seminar (2)
12. Independent Research Credit (1), if approved in advance (paper topic in energy law; supervised by an energy law faculty member; includes law journal/review papers) \*
13. Ocean and Coastal Law and Policy (School of the Coast and Environment) (3)
14. Graduate-Level Course(s) (3), if approved in advance for cross-enrollment by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and for satisfaction of the certificate requirements by the Associate Dean and the Director of the Laborde Energy Law Center \*\*
15. Apprenticeship Week course(s), if designated\*\* (e.g., Offshore Lease course in January 2014) (1)
16. LSU Lyon course(s), if designated\*\* <sup>+</sup> (1-3 credits)

\* Graduate-level and independent research credits must be approved by the Laborde Energy Law Center Faculty. Please submit requests to Alanna Clanton via email at [alanna.clanton@law.lsu.edu](mailto:alanna.clanton@law.lsu.edu).

\*\* Certain Apprenticeship & Lyon Summer in France Courses may be designated as approved energy certificate electives at the time of registration.

<sup>+</sup> Certain courses satisfy the requirements both of the Energy certificate and the D.C.L. Certain courses in the Lyon Summer in France may be so designated. Not all courses are offered every semester.

III. Write a research paper in the area of energy law. The paper may be written either within one of the seminars in the Certificate Curriculum or as an independent research paper supervised by an energy law faculty member (includes law review/journal papers).

IV. Participate in at least fourteen hours of approved applied learning experiences related to energy law and policy. The goal of all applied energy-related learning experiences outside of the classroom is to increase students' overall competence in the field. Applied learning experiences may include, either individually or in combination:

A skills course #

An externship

An internship

Conferences/symposia related to energy law (e.g., the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute held at LSU or the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute)

Apprenticeship week courses related to energy law #

Field trips related to energy law

The approval for credit toward the applied learning experience requirement will either be granted in advance for certain group activities sponsored by the Laborde Energy Law Center, such as field trips, or will be granted for individual experiences and opportunities, such as summer internships, by the Director of the Laborde Energy Law Center after consultation with other energy law faculty. Applied learning experience hours are clock hours, not credit hours.

# Courses used to satisfy the 18-credit-hour Certificate Curriculum may not also be used to satisfy this requirement.

V. Perform ten or more hours of service to the Laborde Energy Law Center. Service opportunities may include assisting with arrangements for a speaker visiting the Law Center, a symposium sponsored by the Journal of Energy Law and Resources, or programs of the Mineral Law Institute.