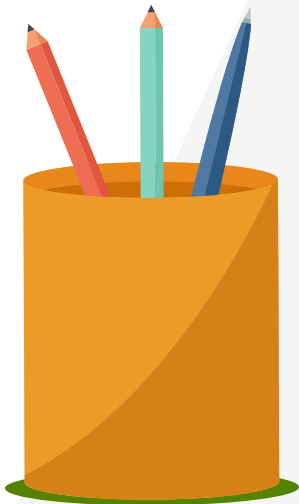




VERMONT
LAW & GRADUATE SCHOOL



VLGS 2024 FALL ORIENTATION

**Online Hybrid
JD Program
Welcome Packet**

In this comprehensive PDF, you will find all the information you need to prepare for Orientation and the start of your academic career at VLGS.

Please read it thoroughly.



Roger Pao
Director of Online Hybrid JD
Program, and Professor
of Law



Dear Swans,

Congratulations on being accepted to Vermont Law and Graduate School's Online Hybrid JD program. Let me be one of the first to welcome the Class of 2027!

We have been working hard to prepare for your arrival, and we look forward to beginning this journey with you.

We have carefully crafted the Online Hybrid JD curriculum to deliver a rigorous program of legal education to students with responsibilities outside of law school. Our program will sometimes challenge you as you endeavor to find the balance between life, work, and school. Stay committed to your education, and we will be here to support you. You are joining a unique and vibrant community, and we are committed to your success.

As you will read in this packet, Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, and Thursday, August 22, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. ET, and classes start on Monday, August 26; however, your work to prepare for law school will start much sooner. Please watch these **two videos** prior to Thursday, August 22, 2024, and come prepared with any questions for Professor Durkis-Stokes and Professor Smith's session at 7:55 p.m. ET.

I'm so glad to welcome you to this amazing community and profession. I look forward to helping you make the most of your experience at Vermont Law and Graduate School.

Warm regards,

Roger Pao

Roger Pao
Director of Online Hybrid JD Program,
and Professor of Law
Vermont Law and Graduate School





Jessica Durkis-Stokes JD'04
Director
Academic Success Program



Katrina Munyon
Assistant Director
Academic Success Program



Dayna Smith JD'20
Associate Director
Academic Success Program

Welcome to Our Incoming Students!

On behalf of the **Academic Success Program (ASP)**, welcome to Vermont Law and Graduate School! ASP is a resource for students and focuses on honing organizational skills, improving understanding of course material, stimulating learning, and maximizing the VLGS educational experience.

ASP is empowering, individualized, and available to every student at VLGS. ASP offers skill-building through workshops, one-on-one consultation, and peer mentoring with upper-level students. If you are looking for ways to shorten the learning curve, ASP can connect you with free study aids and supplemental materials that fit your specific needs. Whether you are preparing for your first master's exam, 1L exam, or the Bar Examination—ASP is here to help you.

You are about to embark on the most academically rigorous year of your life. As with any new discipline, you will need to master new and distinct skills. The reading assignments, classroom dynamic, purpose of your classes, and the professors' expectations will differ significantly from your previous educational experiences. That said, you will not be alone. ASP is here to help you make the transition and excel in this new and exciting environment.

To begin your year on a solid foundation, we recommend you read one of the books listed at the bottom of this letter before starting law school. These books will provide you with much-needed insight into the distinctive approach to studying **law and policy**—unique disciplines that are fundamentally **different** from your undergraduate or graduate studies.

ASP is here for **you**. Although ASP will continuously reach out to students, ASP is a program that works best when students come to us with questions. We strongly encourage you to reach out to ASP within your first few weeks if you should have any questions. We are available to meet on Teams and if you happen to be on campus, feel free to visit us on the third floor of Waterman Hall. We look forward to meeting you.

Our very best,

Professor Jessica Durkis-Stokes JD'04
Director of Academic Success
Program, and Associate Professor
of Law

Katrina Munyon
Assistant Director of Academic
Success Program

Professor Dayna Smith JD'20
Associate Director of Academic
Success Program, and Associate
Professor of Law

Study Guides

Most reading assignments come from large textbooks referred to as “casebooks,” which—as you might expect—are filled with real-world judicial opinions (“cases”) chosen to illustrate various legal rules and principles. In addition to casebooks, supplemental study guides can be very helpful.

There are a variety of study guides available in the bookstore, and many are available online.

Recommended Reading

It is important to hit the ground running. No matter what preparation work you do, your upcoming courses will still be an adjustment. The following books can help make that adjustment as seamless as possible. You should take the time to read at least one of these books before coming to campus to help make next year the best it can be!

- “Succeeding in Law School” (Third Edition), Herbert N. Ramy (*Carolina Academic Press*).
- “Bridging the Gap between College and Law School,” Ruta K. Stropus and Charlotte D. Taylor (*Carolina Academic Press*).
- “Strategies & Tactics for the First Year Law Student,” Kimm Alayne Walton and Lazar Emanuel (*Wolters Kluwer*).
- “Whose Monet? An Introduction to the American Legal System,” John A. Humbach (*Wolters Kluwer*).

July 2024



Lisa Ryan
Associate Dean of Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion

Welcome, to Vermont Law and Graduate School!

VLGS students come from near and far with a passion for public service, a concern for justice, and an interest in pursuing legal and policy education. Over your academic career at VLGS, you will hone your skills to become a catalyst for change, ensuring our communities and environments are safe and sustainable. We are thrilled to embark on this journey with you.

VLGS is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. As such, we strive to make our campus reflective of our student body, embracing all differences, including but not limited to culture, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, spirituality, and religion. Our student groups and events encourage educational and extracurricular opportunities, gender identity, and expression, enhancing student engagement across campus, within the South Royalton community and beyond.

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, along with the Office of Student Affairs, is committed to your success. We are honored to support, motivate, and champion your efforts throughout your time at VLGS. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of any assistance.

We look forward to meeting you soon!



Lisa Ryan
Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Ashley Ziai
Director of Student Affairs



Ashley Ziai
Director of Student Affairs





Lisa Ryan
Associate Dean of Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion



Debevoise Hall
OSAD Offices | Second Floor



Memorandum

Date: July 1, 2024
To: Incoming Students
From: Lisa Ryan, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Re: Disability Accommodations

Congratulations on your admission to Vermont Law and Graduate School. Welcome!

Vermont Law and Graduate School strives to be supportive of the academic and personal needs of all its students. We are committed to helping students with disabilities participate fully in the life of the law and graduate school. As the associate dean of diversity, equity, and inclusion, part of my job is to ensure that VLGS provides all students with equal access to its services and programs by providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented medical, learning, psychiatric, or other disabilities.

If you have a disability that you believe requires accommodations, please review VLGS's disability policy and accommodation procedure online on page 151 of the [Student Handbook](#).

Please then complete the online disability accommodations request form at secure.vermontlaw.edu/students/accom2.cfm. Documentation guidelines and coversheet summary information can be found at vermontlaw.edu/community/students/academic-success/accommodations#docs.

Please be aware that statements made in your application for admission about your disability do not satisfy our accommodations procedures.

To ensure timely implementation of any necessary accommodations, I strongly encourage you to make any accommodations requests as soon as possible. Obtaining or updating necessary documentation may take several weeks, particularly if you need to schedule appointments with medical providers or other specialists. Waiting until later in the term may make it difficult, if not impossible, to implement reasonable accommodations in a timely manner. **As a rule, accommodations based on requests made less than 14 days prior to the first day of the examination period will not be implemented until the following term. Similarly, accommodations based on requests made less than 14 days prior to any midterm examination will not be implemented until after the midterm.**¹

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about accommodations at VLGS before you arrive next month. You can reach me at 802-831-1079 or via email at lryan@vermontlaw.edu.



Lisa Ryan
Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

¹ Please note that some, but not all, classes hold midterm examinations.





Jane Woldow JD'99
Library Director, and
Professor of Law



Dear Incoming Student,

On behalf of everyone at the Cornell Library, congratulations on your acceptance to Vermont Law and Graduate School! If you toured VLGS, you will remember that the library is located in the center of campus. Its placement reflects the importance of the library in your legal education. Think of the library as the laboratory for your law school studies. You'll have access to resources to reinforce your doctrinal learning; you'll conduct research for writing assignments; you'll have clinical opportunities where you will practice your legal research skills; and you will study... , a lot. We are here for you, with a full slate of online services along with our physical space.

The Legal Research Curriculum

During your first semester, you will take Legal Research and Writing, a course that exposes you to these fundamental skills for law school and practice. Research topics covered include legal authority; the use of primary and secondary sources; effective use of Lexis, Westlaw, and other electronic resources; and the role of the internet in legal research. Subject-specific advanced legal research courses are available during your 2L and 3L years. These classes allow you to hone your research skills, deepen your understanding of legal resources in a particular subject area, and help you be more prepared for work after VLGS. Legal research is an important lawyering skill. Surveys suggest that recent law school graduates spend over 70% of their time conducting legal research. You will be ready.

The Library Staff

I am very fortunate to work with a fantastic and knowledgeable library staff. In the annual satisfaction survey, a student recently responded, "I cannot speak highly enough about the people in the library." Another said, "Everyone is so friendly, warm, and helpful." I encourage you to get to know us; we are here to help you succeed. Set up individual appointments with a librarian prior to starting a research project. We work to identify efficient and effective research resources and are eager to make research almost effortless for you. Stop by the library's information Desk, or contact us with questions of all kinds, and you will learn that we will help find the answer.

The Collection

Use our many databases and search the collection of over 375,000 electronic and print titles by visiting our webpage vermontlaw.edu/library. Look for an email early in the semester from our Electronic Resources Librarian Sarah Scully with information about how to access your database accounts and how to take advantage of the research tools available via our JULIEN catalog. I also want to note the Environmental Collection, which is located on the loft level of the library. This premier collection includes journals and books related to environmental law and policy.

We are already preparing for your arrival. Meanwhile, if I can answer questions, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to meeting you!

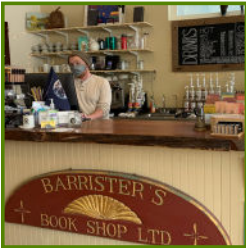
Jane

Jane Woldow JD'99
Library Director and Professor of Law
Julien and Virginia Cornell Library
802-831-1449
jwoldow@vermontlaw.edu





Barrister's Book Shop & Café
at 190 Chelsea Street



Welcome to Vermont Law and Graduate School!

Barrister's Book Shop is a student-run, nonprofit bookstore located on the VLGS campus, offering one stop shopping for all your class needs. We carry new and used textbooks, office supplies, study aids, and a variety of Swan swag items. Proceeds fund summer internship scholarships for students pursuing public interest work.

Please visit our website, **Barrister's Book Shop**, and place your book order for FREE in-store pickup, or visit us on campus during Orientation to browse through the best selection of new and used books for your classes. Used books are being sold by prior VLGS students who receive 80% of the sale price once they sell. Student ambassadors will be on hand to make this process fun and stress-free.

Online student? We've got you covered! Just let us know where you would like your order shipped. If you are an Online Hybrid JD student and are not local, you will receive a coupon code for FREE SHIPPING.

Barrister's Book Shop & Café
190 Chelsea Street
South Royalton, VT 05068
802 763-7170
barrister's@vermontlaw.edu
barristers.vermontlaw.edu

Book vouchers are available for purchasing textbooks before your financial aid is processed. To inquire, please email the Business Office at studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu.

We look forward to meeting you!

The Barrister's Team





WELCOME TO THE ONLINE HYBRID JD PROGRAM AT VERMONT LAW AND GRADUATE SCHOOL!

Below you will find resources for you to utilize and leverage throughout your time at VLGS.

ONLINE LEARNING/ONLINE HYBRID JD PROGRAM

802-831-1011 or rpao@vermontlaw.edu Roger Pao, Director of Online Hybrid JD Program

onlinehelp@vermontlaw.edu General Online Learning Help

Canvas Help: Student Use Guide

Canvas 24-hour Help Desk Services

STUDENT IDs

Students must upload a photograph (head and shoulders) suitable for creating a Student Identification Card to bit.ly/vlgs-student-id no later than August 19. Arienne Duncan will disseminate Student ID Cards during the residential period. Please reach out to Arienne Duncan if you have questions at aduncan@vermontlaw.edu.

VLGS RESOURCES AND DEPARTMENTS

The **Student Handbook** details all student, academic, and institutional policies and procedures. All students, including online students, are expected to be familiar with the handbook and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM (ASP)

ASP is empowering, individualized, and available to every Vermont Law and Graduate School student. ASP offers skill building through workshops, one-on-one consultation, and student-to-student mentoring. If you are looking for ways to shrink the learning curve, ASP can connect you with study aids and supplemental materials that accommodate your specific needs. Whether you are preparing for your first exam or are searching for a mentor for a specific subject area, ASP is here to help you. You can visit ASP virtually by clicking **HERE**.

If you would like to schedule a meeting with ASP or a student mentor, please contact:

802-831-1105 or kmunyon@vermontlaw.edu Katrina Munyon, Assistant Director of Academic Success Program

BARRISTER'S BOOK SHOP

Barrister's Books Shop lists and sells textbooks for Vermont Law and Graduate School students. For inquiries or orders, contact 802-763-7170 or barristers@vermontlaw.edu Amy McDowell, Manager of Barrister's Book Shop

BUSINESS OFFICE

If you need information about bills, tuition, payments, refunds, student health insurance, or general student accounting, contact 802-831-1271 or studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu Sherri Perkins, Accounts Receivable

CAREER SERVICES

Career Services assists with resume preparation, job search, career planning and counseling. To schedule an appointment with Career Services, contact 802-831-1243 or sdoheny@vermontlaw.edu Susan Doheny, Program Coordinator

For Career Services staff designated to assist the Online Hybrid JD Program, contact:

802-831-1208 or egleason@vermontlaw.edu Elijah Gleason JD/MELP'15, Director of Career Services

802-831-1243 or sbuchanan@vermontlaw.edu Susan Buchanan JD'93, Associate Director of Career Services

JULIEN AND VIRGINIA CORNELL LIBRARY

The library has curated an **Online Student Library Guide** for your convenience. Whether your research requires **books or journal articles** or **multidisciplinary databases**, or all of the above, the library staff is dedicated to guiding you to the most relevant print, electronic, and database sources.

infodesk@vermontlaw.edu Library Inquiries

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

The Financial Aid Office assists with financial aid applications, work-study and loan programs, grants and scholarships, as well as lender information. They can also assist with any tuition-related questions. For financial aid information, contact:

fnaid@vermontlaw.edu Online Learning Students/Applicant Helpline
802-831-1234 or dbecker@vermontlaw.edu Deb Becker, Manager of Operations, Financial Aid
802-831-1235 or merickson@vermontlaw.edu Melissa Erickson, Director of Financial Aid

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Information Technology provides a variety of technology related information, tutorials, and more. Hours of operations are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

For emergency requests, call the Helpdesk:
802-831-1355 IT Helpdesk, Emergency Requests
helpdesk@vermontlaw.edu Non-Emergency IT Help Requests

To access your student email account, click [HERE](#).

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Vermont Law and Graduate School takes the mental health of its students and staff seriously. VLGS is aware that the study and practice of law can be stressful, and that stress can result in more serious conditions, such as depression and anxiety. You can find more information on the Mental Health Services available [HERE](#). (Use your VLGS credentials to log in).

TELUS Health Student Support is here to help online students who do not reside in Vermont, accessible 24/7/365.

As an off-campus student, you can receive support:

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via phone or chat.
- From a Student Support Counselor who understands your unique challenges (Multilingual support available.)
- At no cost to you!

Access support anytime, anywhere by:

- Downloading the free TELUS Health Student Support app.
- Through the app, you can call or chat with a student support counselor 24/7 in real time or schedule a telephone, video, or in person session.
- Browse the digital library of helpful articles and videos.
- Access the unlimited fitness journeys through LIFT, an app-based fitness program customized to your fitness level and goals that can be performed anywhere at any time.
- Or call direct 1-866-743-7732 (if calling from outside North America, dial 001-416-380-6578).



**TELUS Health
Student Support**

EMERGENCY AND CRISIS RESOURCES

- 24-hour Emergency Services 800-639-6360
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255
- Crisis Text Line text HOME to 741741



REGISTRAR

The Registrar is the hub for registration and academic records. The office verifies student enrollment, records transfer credit, manages bar applications, provides transcripts, evaluates degree requirements for graduation, oversees the administration of midterm, final exams, the final exam schedule, and publishes both the academic calendar and VLGS course listings. To reach the registrar, contact:

802-831-1265 or registrar@vermontlaw.edu Registrar's Office

To access academic information such as your schedule, grades, personal information, account information, registration, and advising resources, visit [CampusWeb](#). (Use your VLGS credentials to log in).

STUDENT SERVICES

To reach student services, contact:

802-831-1244 or jbrennan@vermontlaw.edu Joseph Brennan, Vice Dean for Students
802-831-1079 or lryan@vermontlaw.edu Lisa Ryan, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
802-831-1327 or aziai@vermontlaw.edu Ashley Ziai, Director of Student Affairs

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS (OSA)

The Office of Student Affairs serves as the primary focal point for addressing student needs, issues, and concerns and serves as a resource and referral office for all faculty, staff, and students. To stay up to date with important news and information about your fellow students, faculty, and alumni, click [HERE](#).

THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that Vermont Law and Graduate School focuses on educating students, faculty, and staff on various DEI concepts and topics, including but not limited to privilege, bias, racism, inequity, sexism, ableism, gender and gender identity, religion, faith, and spirituality. This office will provide DEI related trainings, develop initiatives, promote opportunities for dialogue, and maintain safe and inclusive environments on campus and in the community. Additionally, the Office of DEI is responsible for disability accommodations and oversees the Mental Health Department.



VLGS 2024 Fall Orientation Schedule - OHJD Program

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
6:30 to 7 p.m. ET	Welcome Ceremony	Online (Microsoft Teams)	Rodney A. Smolla, President Beth McCormack, Dean and Professor of Law
7 to 7:30 p.m. ET	Orientation to VLGS' Learning Management System (CANVAS)	Online (Microsoft Teams)	Taylor Weingart, Director of Online Programs
7:30 to 7:40 p.m. ET	BREAK		
7:40 to 9 p.m. ET	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training	Online (Microsoft Teams)	Lisa Ryan, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Adjunct Professor Sally Rumsey, Mental Health Clinician Lauren Johnson, Adjunct Professor



VLGS 2024 Fall Orientation Schedule - OHJD Program

Thursday, August 22, 2024

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
6:30 to 7:45 p.m. ET	Introduction to Legal Writing and Research	Online (Microsoft Teams)	Catherine Fregosi JD'16, Assistant Director of the Legal Writing Department and Professor of Law
7:45 to 7:55 p.m. ET	BREAK		
7:55 to 8:55 p.m. ET	Introduction to Academic Success Program (ASP), Q&A on How to Prepare for Class and Reading and Briefing a Case	Online (Microsoft Teams)	Jessica Durkis-Stokes JD'04, Director of Academic Success Program and Associate Professor of Law Dayna Smith JD'20, Associate Director of Academic Success Program and Associate Professor of Law
8:55 to 9 p.m. ET	Closing Remarks	Online (Microsoft Teams)	Beth McCormack, Dean and Professor of Law





OHJD Residential Agenda • September 2024

Hotel Champlain

60 Battery Street • Burlington, VT 05041

A room has been reserved for each student at the Hotel Champlain at a discounted rate. Please be prepared to provide a credit/debit card to pay for the room upon arrival.

Please Note: All times listed below are Eastern Time (ET).

Thursday, September 5

7 to 9 p.m. _____ Welcome Reception • Hotel Champlain • 60 Battery Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Friday, September 6

8 to 9 a.m. _____ Office Hours with Dean McCormack and Doug • Continental Breakfast

9:15 to 9:30 a.m. _____ Welcome Address and Oath of Professionalism

9:45 to 11 a.m. _____ Legislation and Regulation

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. _____ Civil Procedure

12:30 to 2 p.m. _____ Lunch Break (on your own)

2:15 to 3:30 p.m. _____ Legal Research and Writing

3:45 to 5 p.m. _____ Essay Writing for Exams

5:15 to 5:30 p.m. _____ Q&A with Career Services

5:30 to 6 p.m. _____ Q&A with VLGS Faculty

Saturday, September 7

8 to 9 a.m. _____ Office Hours with Dean McCormack and Doug • Continental Breakfast

9:15 to 10:30 a.m. _____ Legislation and Regulation

10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. _____ Civil Procedure

12 to 1:30 p.m. _____ Lunch Break (on your own)

1:45 to 3 p.m. _____ Legal Research and Writing

3:15 to 4:30 p.m. _____ Essay Writing for Exams

5:45 to 8 p.m. _____ Spirit of Ethan Allen Dinner Cruise

Sunday, September 8

8 to 9 a.m. _____ Office Hours with Dean McCormack and Doug • Continental Breakfast

9:15 to 10:30 a.m. _____ Legal Research and Writing

10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. _____ Pathways Presentation

12 to 12:15 p.m. _____ Farewell Address