

Notice of VLGS Amendment to the Academic Regulations

Effective:	Wednesday, November 6, 2024
Students Effected:	Effective immediately upon approval by faculty.
Amendment Type:	Revised Academic Regulations
Academic Regulation:	III.E, IX.H.2.c, IV.M.2.b, III.A.12,A.a, and III.E.3.a
Amendment Description:	

- rephrase the standard for JD student Dean’s List recipients by changing the qualifications from a credit-based measurement to a residential semester measurement. This change maintains the intent of the regulation while accommodating for variations in the JD program options, including the OHJD program.
- align the Master of Laws in American Legal Studies (ALS) required course list with recent JD program curricular changes and ALS alumni feedback. Going forward, ALS students would be required to take Evidence rather than Constitutional Law. Additionally, ALS students must elect either Contracts or Torts but would not be required to take both Contract and Torts. These changes will conform with the new scheduling patterns for the associated courses and these changes prioritize bar exam topics that are known to be difficult for ALS students.
- clarify the course waiver criteria for AMLS students who remain in the MLS program after their first semester. The present MLS regulations only address course waivers for students changing from JD to MLS degrees. The proposed amendments retain the MLS regulation specificity while providing clarity for AMLS tracks.
- harmonize VLGS’ academic regulations with the revised [20024-2025 ABA 504\(e\) standards](#) as well as the Registrar’s Office language in the Student Handbook. The new ABA standard specifies “If a law school does not have an enrolled student’s transcripts on file by the relevant deadline in (d), the law school shall permit the student to complete the current semester, but the law school shall not permit the student to enroll in a subsequent semester until the law school has the student’s official transcripts on file.”¹

NEW LANGUAGE

Amend academic regulation section III.E with the changes in red below.

7. DEAN’S LIST

“Dean’s List” will be noted on the transcript for each semester that a JD student achieves a semester grade point average of 3.33 for the satisfactory completion of **at**

¹ (d) Except in extraordinary circumstances, a law school shall have on file each enrolled student’s official transcripts by the following deadlines:

(1) for students matriculating in the fall, by October 15; and

(2) for students matriculating at any other time, within 4 weeks of the date classes begin.

~~least 10 graded credits~~ the minimum number of credits required for a residency semester for that student.

Proposed adopted date: immediately upon approval by faculty
Proposed effective date: fall semester 2022

Amend academic regulation section IX.H.2.c with the changes in red below.

Each LLM candidate must satisfactorily complete the following courses: ~~Constitutional Law-Evidence~~; Civil Procedure; Contracts; ~~or~~ Torts; Criminal Law; Property; Legal Research and Writing; and Professional Responsibility. With the approval of the Vice Dean of Students, 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.

Proposed adopted date: immediately upon approval by faculty
Proposed effective date: fall semester 2025

Amend academic regulation section IV.M.2.b with the changes in red below.

Program: AMLS participants complete assigned first semester courses, correlating with the MLS degree requirements and the JD course curriculum. ~~The Director of the Master of Legal Studies Program or Director's designee has the authority to waive any of these course requirements provided that the student has had comparable experience or coursework. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.~~

Proposed adopted date: immediately upon approval by faculty
Proposed effective date: fall semester 2024

Amend academic regulation section III with the changes in red below.

III.A.12.A.a

All students must submit an official undergraduate transcript with their undergraduate degree conferred ~~prior to October 1st, for students matriculating in the fall, or within four weeks of the date classes begin for students matriculating at any other time. no later than October 1st following their matriculation into the Juris~~

~~Doctor degree program. Failure to submit an official transcript with an undergraduate degree conferral date may result in an immediate dismissal from the Juris Doctor program. Students who have not satisfied this requirement will have a registration hold placed on their record preventing them from registering for classes and may be subject to dismissal prior to the start of the next semester. Upon receipt and satisfactory review of the required transcript(s) the registrations hold may be lifted.~~

III.E.3.a

A student will be dismissed from the school if:

~~(8) the student has failed to provide all required official transcripts prior to October 15th, for students matriculating in the fall, or within four weeks of the date classes begin for students matriculating at any other time.~~

Proposed adopted date: immediately upon approval by faculty

Proposed effective date: fall semester 2024