

Notice of VLGS Amendment to the Academic Regulations

Effective: Thursday, May 1, 2025

Students Effected: Effective immediately upon approval by faculty.

Amendment Type: Revised Academic Regulations

Academic Regulation: X

Amendment Description:

In sum, the proposed section X revisions would establish a new graduate-level credential category for Graduate Certificates. In conjunction with this revised section organization, the Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice (PCRJ) program would become the first VLGS Graduate Certificate offering, called the Graduate Certificate in Restorative Justice (GCRJ).

Unlike the current Professional Certificate offering with no academic standing requirement, the proposed Graduate Certificate program would require a cumulative average above a 1.0 upon completion of 6 or more credits, and a 2.3 average to complete the program. This new policy aligns with our Master's degrees academic standing requirement, is intended to maintain the integrity and quality of the program, ensuring that students meet the necessary academic standards to succeed.

The proposed changes will help the Graduate School more effectively market our Restorative Justice programming and position it as a recognized graduate credential, while also providing flexibility to develop and offer other credit-bearing certificates in areas where we want to grow.

REVISED LANGUAGE

Replace academic regulation section X with the following text:

X. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Vermont Law and Graduate School awards Graduate Certificates as described below. Graduate Certificates differ from the certificates earned by JD students as part of their JD concentrated field of study.

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The requirements in subsections X.A and X.B of this regulation apply to all Graduate Certificates.

1. GENERAL LIMITATION

a. Graduate Certificate credits may not be counted towards a Juris Doctorate (JD) or Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree.

b. A student may only obtain one Graduate Certificate from Vermont Law and Graduate School.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

a. Graduate Certificates require a minimum of nine credits and a maximum of 12 credits. Approved Graduate Certificate course credits may be transferred to the Master's degree programs. JD students who want to pursue Graduate Certificates need to earn the certificate credits independently of and in addition to any other courses they take as part of the JD program.

b. Students pursuing a Graduate Certificate may elect their courses in either a residential or online format or both from the following list of approved courses.

3. DURATION OF PROGRAM

A student who matriculates into the Graduate Certificate program must complete the program requirements in no longer than two years from the date of matriculation. A matriculated student enrolled in a Graduate Certificate program who decides to pursue a VLGS Master's degree will have five (5) years from the date of original certificate program matriculation to complete the Master's degree.

4. ADD/DROP AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

See regulations II.B.3, II.B.4, and II.B.5.

B. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

See Regulation II.C for grading standards and procedures.

1. ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

a. A student will be dismissed from the Graduate Certificate program if:

- (1) The student has a cumulative average of 1.0 or below upon completion of 6 or more credits; or
- (2) The student's cumulative average is below 2.3 at the completion of the program.

C. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (GCRJ)

1. REQUIRED CURRICULUM

a. A minimum of 9 credits is required for the GCRJ.

b. GCRJ students must satisfy the following requirements:

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
Required Course	
RSJ7115	Principles of Restorative Justice (3) or
RSJ7120	Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice (3)
Elective Courses	
ADR6420	Negotiation (2)
CRI7305	Advanced Criminal Law Seminar (2)
CRI7333	Juvenile Justice and Law (3)
CRI7355	Police Use of Force (3)
CRI7360	Reforming Criminal Justice (3)
CRI7380	Pleas, Sentencing and Accountability (3)
DIV7621	Disability Civil Rights (3)
REQ7140	Criminal Law (3)
REQ7185	Legislation and Regulation (2) or
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)
RSJ5122/ENV5122	Communications, Advocacy and Leadership (3)
RSJ7110	Restorative Justice Theory and Practice (2)
RSJ7117	Restorative Justice Facilitation (1)
RSJ7140	Applied Criminal Justice (3)
RSJ7210	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization (3)
RSJ7215	Narrative Writing Seminar (3)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3)
RSJ7250	Global Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7270	Clemency, Pardon, and Expungement (3)
RSJ7280	Drug Policy Reform (3)
RSJ7315	Peacemaking Courts (3)
RSJ7320	New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence (3)
RSJ7325	Advanced Restorative Practices (2)
RSJ7330	Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions (3)
RSJ7340	Race, Crimes, and Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7345	Teaching Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7350	Ethics and Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7360	Advanced Victim Rights Seminar (3)
RSJ7371	Youth Justice Reimagined (3)
RSJ7903	Evidence Based Restorative Justice (3)
WRI7301	Advanced Writing Seminar (3)

RSJ7440	Advocating for Change (3)
RSJ7125	Motivational Interviewing (1)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3)
POL	System of Advantage and Disadvantage (3)
RSJ1-RSJ4	RJ Special Topics (1-4)

A student may not take both Legislation and Regulation and Legislation and Regulation Survey, nor may a student take Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership and Advocating for Change.

The Director of the Center for Justice Reform or Director's designee has the authority to waive the required course provided the student has had comparable experience or course work. Although the course requirement may be waived, the total number of credits required for certificate completion remain unchanged.

- c. Any course not selected as a required course may be taken as an elective.

Replace "Professional Certificate" with "Graduate Certificate" in the following places:

Academic Regulation A.3.b

Academic Regulation IV.6

Student Handbook Table of Contents

Student Handbook Center for Justice Reform description (page 17)

CURRENT LANGUAGE (includes November 2024 and March 2025 approved revisions)

X. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Vermont Law and Graduate School awards Professional Certificates as described below. Professional Certificates differ from the certificates earned by JD students as part of their JD concentrated field of study.

A. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

1. GENERAL

The Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice provides working professionals and students with the Restorative Justice skills and substantive knowledge valuable to their field.

2. REQUIREMENTS

- a. The Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice requires a minimum of nine

credits and a maximum of 12 credits. The Professional Certificate course credits may be transferred to the MARJ degree program. JD students who want to pursue the Professional Certificate need to earn the certificate credits independently of and in addition to any other courses they take.

b. A student who matriculates into the Professional Certificate program must complete the program requirements in no longer than two years from the date of matriculation. A matriculated student enrolled in the Professional Certificate program who decides to pursue the Master of Arts in Restorative Justice will have five (5) years from the date of original matriculation to complete the Master's degree.

c. Students pursuing the Professional Certificate may elect their courses in either a residential or online format or both from the following list of approved courses. The Director of the Center for Justice Reform or Director's designee has the authority to waive the required course provided the student has had comparable experience or course work. Although the course requirement may be waived, the total number of credits required for certificate completion remains unchanged.

d. Any course not selected as a required course may be taken as an elective. A student may not take both Legislation and Regulation and Legislation and Regulation Survey and a student may not take Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership and Advocating for Change.

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
Required Course	
RSJ7115	Principles of Restorative Justice (3) or
RSJ7120	Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice (3)
Elective Courses	
ADR6420	Negotiation (2)
CRI7305	Advanced Criminal Law Seminar (2)
CRI7333	Juvenile Justice and Law (3)
CRI7355	Police Use of Force (3)
CRI7360	Reforming Criminal Justice (3)
CRI7380	Pleas, Sentencing and Accountability (3)
DIV7621	Disability Civil Rights (3)
REQ7140	Criminal Law (3)
REQ7185	Legislation and Regulation (2) or
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)
RSJ5122/ENV5122	Communications, Advocacy and Leadership (3)

RSJ7110	Restorative Justice Theory and Practice (2)
RSJ7117	Restorative Justice Facilitation (1)
RSJ7140	Applied Criminal Justice (3)
RSJ7210	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization (3)
RSJ7215	Narrative Writing Seminar (3)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3)
RSJ7250	Global Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7270	Clemency, Pardon, and Expungement (3)
RSJ7280	Drug Policy Reform (3)
RSJ7315	Peacemaking Courts (3)
RSJ7320	New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence (3)
RSJ7325	Advanced Restorative Practices (2)
RSJ7330	Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions (3)
RSJ7340	Race, Crimes, and Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7345	Teaching Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7350	Ethics and Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7360	Advanced Victim Rights Seminar (3)
RSJ7371	Youth Justice Reimagined (3)
RSJ7903	Evidence Based Restorative Justice (3)
WRI7301	Advanced Writing Seminar (3)
RSJ7440	Advocating for Change (3)
RSJ7125	Motivational Interviewing (1)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3)
POL	System of Advantage and Disadvantage (3)
RSJ1-RSJ4	RJ Special Topics (1-4)

TEXT EDITS REFLECTED IN PROPOSED REVISED LANGUAGE

X. ~~PROFESSIONAL~~ GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Vermont Law and Graduate School awards Professional-Graduate Certificates as described below. Professional-Graduate Certificates differ from the certificates earned by JD students as part of their JD concentrated field of study.

A. ~~PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE~~ GENERAL PROVISIONS

The requirements in subsections X.A and X.B of this regulation apply to all Graduate Certificates.

1. GENERAL LIMITATION

~~The Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice provides working professionals and students with the Restorative Justice skills and substantive knowledge valuable to their field.~~ a. Graduate Certificate credits may not be counted towards a Juris Doctorate (JD) or Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree.

b. A student may only obtain one Graduate Certificate from Vermont Law and Graduate School.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

a. ~~The Professional Graduate Certificate in Restorative Justice~~ requires a minimum of nine credits and a maximum of 12 credits. ~~The Professional Approved Graduate Certificate~~ course credits may be transferred to the ~~MARJ Master's~~ degree programs. JD students who want to pursue ~~the Professional Graduate Certificate~~ need to earn the certificate credits independently of and in addition to any other courses they take as part of the JD program.

b. Students pursuing a Graduate Certificate may elect their courses in either a residential or online format or both from the following list of approved courses.

3. DURATION OF PROGRAM

b. A student who matriculates into the ~~Graduate Professional~~ Certificate program must complete the program requirements in no longer than two years from the date of matriculation. A matriculated student enrolled in a the Professional Graduate Certificate program who decides to pursue a VLGS Master's degree ~~the Master of Arts in Restorative Justice~~ will have five (5) years from the date of original matriculation to complete the Master's degree.

~~c. Students pursuing the Professional Certificate may elect their courses in either a residential or online format or both from the following list of approved courses. The Director of the Center for Justice Reform or Director's designee has the authority to~~

~~waive the required course provided the student has had comparable experience or course work. Although the course requirement may be waived, the total number of credits required for certificate completion remains unchanged.~~

~~d. Any course not selected as a required course may be taken as an elective. A student may not take both Legislation and Regulation and Legislation and Regulation Survey and a student may not take Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership and Advocating for Change.~~

4. ADD/DROP AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

See regulations II.B.3, II.B.4, and II.B.5.

B. GRADES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

See Regulation II.C for grading standards and procedures.

1. ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

a. A student will be dismissed from the Graduate Certificate program if:

(1) The student has a cumulative average of 1.0 or below upon completion of 6 or more credits; or

(2) The student's cumulative average is below 2.3 at the completion of the program.

C. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (GCRJ)

1. REQUIRED CURRICULUM

a. A minimum of 9 credits is required for the GCRJ.

b. GCRJ students must satisfy the following requirements:

REQUIREMENT	COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT
Required Course	
RSJ7115	Principles of Restorative Justice (3) or
RSJ7120	Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice (3)
Elective Courses	
ADR6420	Negotiation (2)
CRI7305	Advanced Criminal Law Seminar (2)
CRI7333	Juvenile Justice and Law (3)
CRI7355	Police Use of Force (3)
CRI7360	Reforming Criminal Justice (3)
CRI7380	Pleas, Sentencing and Accountability (3)
DIV7621	Disability Civil Rights (3)
REQ7140	Criminal Law (3)
REQ7185	Legislation and Regulation (2) or
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation Survey (3)
RSJ5122/ENV5122	Communications, Advocacy and Leadership (3)
RSJ7110	Restorative Justice Theory and Practice (2)
RSJ7117	Restorative Justice Facilitation (1)
RSJ7140	Applied Criminal Justice (3)
RSJ7210	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization (3)

RSJ7215	Narrative Writing Seminar (3)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3)
RSJ7250	Global Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7270	Clemency, Pardon, and Expungement (3)
RSJ7280	Drug Policy Reform (3)
RSJ7315	Peacemaking Courts (3)
RSJ7320	New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence (3)
RSJ7325	Advanced Restorative Practices (2)
RSJ7330	Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions (3)
RSJ7340	Race, Crimes, and Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7345	Teaching Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7350	Ethics and Restorative Justice (3)
RSJ7360	Advanced Victim Rights Seminar (3)
RSJ7371	Youth Justice Reimagined (3)
RSJ7903	Evidence Based Restorative Justice (3)
WRI7301	Advanced Writing Seminar (3)
RSJ7440	Advocating for Change (3)
RSJ7125	Motivational Interviewing (1)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3)
POL	System of Advantage and Disadvantage (3)
RSJ1-RSJ4	RJ Special Topics (1-4)

~~d. Any course not selected as a required course may be taken as an elective. A student may not take both Legislation and Regulation and Legislation and Regulation Survey, and a student nor may not a student take Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership and Advocating for Change.~~

The Director of the Center for Justice Reform or Director's designee has the authority to waive the required course provided the student has had comparable experience or course work. Although the course requirement may be waived, the total number of credits required for certificate completion remains unchanged.

c. Any course not selected as a required course may be taken as an elective.

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