



# *Curriculum Opportunities & Options*

*An Informal Guide to Planning  
Your Last Two Years of Law School*

2019-2020

## I. INTRODUCTION

This guide provides general information about planning your class schedule for the next two years of law school. It is designed to help first-year students choose courses for the fall semester of their 2L years and to sketch out an overall plan of study for the last two years of law school. This guide, therefore, provides a general picture of the courses we expect to offer in the upper-level curriculum and when we expect to offer them.

First, however, some disclaimers (that tell you what we are sure you already understand): our projections of course offerings are not ironclad guarantees. Courses are dependent on, among other things, having the right people available to teach them, and sometimes events intervene. Similarly, there is no ironclad guarantee that you will get into a particular course or that two courses you really wanted to take will not be scheduled at the same time. (We try not to schedule courses that would often be taken together at the same time, but with 300+ students in the building and a limited number of rooms and hours in the day, it is inevitable that some students will encounter time conflicts among courses they wish to take.) Disclaimers aside, you can take the following points to the bank:

1. Upper-level subject-matter courses that are critical to bar preparation and/or fundamental to the modern practice of law (e.g., Business Organizations, Evidence, Sales and Secured Transactions, Family Law, Criminal Procedure, Administrative Law, Tax I) will be offered at least once a year and in some cases (e.g., Bus. Org.) every semester.
2. Most specialized upper-level subject-matter courses that are important for specific areas of practice (E.g., Int'l Bus Transactions, Nonprofit Organizations, many specialized energy law offerings, Education Law) will generally be offered at least every other year so that each student has at least one opportunity to take the course.
3. Most upper-level skills-based courses (e.g., Trial Advocacy, Business Transactions Drafting, Pre-Trial Litigation, Interview/Counsel/Negotiation, Appellate Advocacy) are offered every semester. One exception to this is the course in Patent Prosecution and Drafting, which is generally offered in alternate years.
4. Seminars, perspective courses, and some other specialized courses are more variable in their frequency. Some are offered every year (e.g., Jurisprudence, American Legal History), some at least every other year (e.g., Civil Disobedience Seminar), and others only once every few years. There will always be several seminar and perspective options available in each semester, but what they are will vary from semester to semester.
5. Courses are organized in a "cohort" system. This system allows us to offer high-demand courses (such as Evidence and Business Organizations) in blocks that have few competitor courses and are offered in consistent blocks from year to year. For example, you can be sure that Family Law and Wealth Transfers will compete only with each other each fall semester. This allows you to plan on taking one of those courses one year and the other the next year without worrying that other courses you really want or need to take conflict with those high-demand courses.

### **COURSE PLANNING OVERVIEW: FOUR GOALS**

The first year of law school provides the foundation for the upper-level curriculum and ultimately for bar passage and practice. You learn the core principles governing some of the most fundamental areas of law in the first year. More importantly, you develop the core reading, writing, and analytical abilities that will enable you to cope with new legal problems as you encounter them.

So far, so good. But you still have much to do in the next two years. While you learned a lot during your first year, there is still vastly more law out there to learn. You will need to learn much more to practice and to pass the

bar. You will need to refine your writing and advocacy skills and develop other new skills (e.g., interviewing, negotiating, drafting) to which you may not have been extensively exposed in the first year. For the most part, you can choose your own path toward these goals. We have relatively few fixed graduation requirements in the upper-level curriculum: Professional Responsibility in the second year, Appellate Advocacy, Capstone, Research Seminar, “Perspective” course. These requirements are described in detail in the Academic Catalog (aka Student Handbook) online. You will of course need to satisfy these requirements over the last two years, but planning to do that is not rocket science. The more difficult task is to choose a coherent set of courses that will serve your personal goals as well as getting you a J.D. Your academic advisor can help you in this process, and other faculty are happy to offer advice as well.

We suggest you adopt the following goals for your last two years of law school, at least the first three of which are equal in importance:

(1) *Prepare yourself to be a competent, “practice-ready” lawyer.*

To achieve this goal, you must know the substantive law that affects nearly all practitioners (e.g., the workings of the legislative process and the administrative state), and you must develop the full range of skills that contemporary lawyers need. To name a few: reading case law, reading statutes and regulations, research, analysis, predictive writing, persuasive writing, drafting, trial and appellate advocacy, interviewing, counseling, negotiating, time management, leadership. *For most students, the best way to develop these skills is to work in one of our live-client clinics during the third year.* Students who choose not to do a clinic during the third year should work to develop lawyering skills by taking *a range* (i.e. more than one) of *simulation-based skills courses* (e.g., Trial Advocacy, Business Transactions Drafting, Interview/Counsel/Negotiation). Externships are a third option for developing these skills. Legal employers today expect new hires to be “practice-ready.” Everything you need to meet that expectation is here for you; it is up to you to take advantage.

The faculty’s choice of required courses is aimed at the goal of broad legal competence. To succeed as a lawyer you must have a good grounding in certain doctrinal principles and must learn legal skills, including case and statutory analysis, oral and written advocacy, and drafting. Moreover, you must learn and adopt professional values and learn to appreciate how law responds to and shapes community values and social institutions. (This is why we require perspective courses.) Yet required courses by themselves are not enough to transform you into a lawyer who can “hit the ground running.” You must seek out additional opportunities to learn legal substance, polish critical lawyering skills, and gain an understanding of the role of law in society.

(2) *Prepare yourself to pass the bar on the first attempt.*

Part III of this booklet contains information about subjects tested on the bar exam. Some of you may plan to use your law degree in settings that don’t require bar passage, but for most of you passing the bar is a prerequisite to whatever career goals you may have. While passing the bar is a means to an end and not an end in itself, bar passage is critical to your career success. You, therefore, must take preparation for the bar seriously *throughout law school and not just in the summer after graduation.* That means two things: (a) *taking courses in areas that will be tested on the bar*, and (b) *working to develop the writing and analytical skills you will need to pass the bar.* You will likely take a “bar review” course after law school. Most students do. But there is a big difference between (a) reviewing a subject you have already studied in a semester-long course and (b) trying to learn it from scratch in three days during a summer bar session course. You are going to need to know the principal bar subjects pretty well to pass the bar. So take some courses and prepare yourself. Further, you need to continue to develop your writing skills throughout law school so you will be able to perform well on the essay and performance sections of the bar. You should plan on taking Practical Legal Writing I in the spring of your third year to help you prepare for the bar exam. Our tracking and data analysis of bar exam outcomes for our students over the last few years indicates that taking this course *will* increase your chances of passing the bar on the first attempt, and they also indicate that the single best predictor of bar passage is cumulative GPA at the end of the first year. Bottom line: if you are not at the top of the class after the first year and you want to pass the bar on the first attempt – which you do – this is a course you should be taking.

Our studies of our students’ performance on the bar exam do indicate that students who do well in law school are more likely to pass the bar on the first attempt, whereas students who do less well in law school have a harder

time passing the bar on the first attempt. If you don't have great grades, that is a reason for you to take more bar courses rather than fewer. The good news about bar passage is that we have seen many students with unspectacular grades pass the bar on the first attempt by committing themselves to prepare. (We've also seen students with great academic records fail by taking success for granted.) No matter where your grades fall, *you can pass the bar on the first attempt if you commit yourself to that goal now.*

*(3) If you know what you want to do, prepare for that area of practice.*

Some students come to law school with very specific ideas on the type of practice they intend to undertake. If that's you, then seek to learn as much about your area (or areas) as you can. Part II of this guide has recommendations for courses needed for particular areas of practice. In a few areas where our curricular resources are deep, we have formal "areas of emphasis" (aka concentrations) that you may wish to pursue. (See Part II below). In other areas, we simply recommend courses that a student with particular career goals should take. Most areas of the upper-level curriculum have "gateway" courses that ought to be taken first. (Again, see Part II below). Take such gateway courses in the fall of your second year and get started in building up the expertise you will need.

You may not yet know what you want to do in the law. That is absolutely OK. Many of your classmates, perhaps most, are in the same boat after the first year. If this is where you are, you have two choices in thinking about your upper-level course of study. The right choice is to focus on goals (1) and (2) above by preparing to be a competent practitioner with broad knowledge and an ability to pass the bar. Some suggestions about the courses you should include in a "generalist" upper-level curriculum are included in Part II below. The wrong choice is to take courses that produce neither subject-matter expertise nor broad, general competence. Choosing courses based on perceived ease or convenient days and meeting times is a recipe for wasting your last two years of law school.

*(4) Follow your passion and learn something.*

The world is an interesting place, and the law is an interesting part of it. For most of you, these will be your final two years of higher education, and it is both healthy and wise to take some courses for the simple reason that you want to learn something that will enrich your experience of law and the world. If you love every subject tested on the bar, good for you. But if you don't, give yourself permission to take a few courses you'll find enriching whether you think you'll use them in practice or not.

Different students will strike different balances among these four goals, but all four are important. Every course you choose should further at least one of these goals, and most should further all or several.

## **II. PREPARING FOR YOUR INTENDED AREA(S) OF PRACTICE**

As just described, you may wish to pursue a generalist path during the last two years. Such a path keeps many options open and prepares you to pass the bar. Many students, however, will probably want to specialize to some degree in an area or areas that fit their interests and career goals. If you want to specialize, you can do so formally or informally. One formal path is to choose an official "area of emphasis" or "concentration." Another is to pursue a joint degree in Business Administration or Public Administration.

### **AREAS OF EMPHASIS (CONCENTRATIONS)**

The College of the Law currently offers the opportunity to specialize in four (4) Areas of Emphasis (commonly referred to as "Concentration" or "AOEs"). In some respects, these are analogous to having a designated "major" in an undergraduate degree. You take a mix of required and elective courses in a particular field and earn a designation on your transcript stating that you satisfied the requirements of the AOE in your area. Each AOE has specific requirements, including at least 17 hours of course work, a paper, and an experiential learning opportunity. The current AOE's and AOE administrators are:

- Energy & Sustainable Development Law - Professor Josh Fershee
- International Law - Professor Peck
- Labor and Employment Law - Professor Lofaso (Professor Bastress while she's on leave)

- Public Interest Law - Professor DiSalvo

To view the program of study for each of the AOE's, please refer to the catalog or get in contact with the appropriate AOE administrator.

### **JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS**

The College of Law offers three joint degree programs: JD/MBA (Business Administration), JD/MPA (Public Administration) and the JD/Energy LL.M. If you missed information sessions about these programs and/or want further information, the law school coordinator for the JD/MBA program is Professor Martin, for JD/MPA program, the coordinator is Professor Van Nostrand and for the JD/Energy LL.M., the program coordinator is Professor Joshua Fershee.

### **OTHER POSSIBLE AREAS OF INTEREST**

If you are not interested in pursuing a formal concentration, you can still specialize informally in other areas of interest. Immediately below is a *non-exhaustive* list of additional common areas of practice and some of the courses you should consider taking if you plan on practicing in a particular area. In many of these areas, there is a "gateway" course for the area that should be taken first. Students looking to concentrate their studies in a particular area should generally take the gateway course for that area in fall of the second year. Other courses may have pre- or co-requisites, which are listed in the [Catalog](#). Aside from gateway courses and prerequisites, sequencing of courses in a particular area is generally flexible, but you might wish to consult your academic advisor and relevant faculty for ideas about sequencing.

Many of the courses below are represented as being offered on rotations of "every semester," "yearly," or "every other year" to aid you in planning your upper-level studies. The absence of any set rotation means that the course is offered on an occasional basis and there is no guarantee that it will be offered during your second and third years. Sometimes courses marked as "every other year" or "occasional" are in fact offered more frequently, but you should not rely on this. As a practical matter, this means that if you have an opportunity to take such a course in your second year, you should take it rather than assuming it will be offered again during your third year.

Note: Your vision of yourself may not match any of the areas below. That is OK. This is not meant to be an attempt to put everyone in a box, and one could come up with many boxes and sub-boxes not listed here. Work with your academic advisor and faculty with relevant expertise to choose the courses that fit your individual goals.

Second Note: Suppose you have an interest in an area like Energy & Sustainable Development or International Law, but you don't want to pursue a formal concentration. That's OK too. To see what courses a person with those interests should be taking, just consult the concentration requirements in the academic catalog.

### **BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL LAW**

#### *Principal Courses:*

- Business Organizations; (4 hrs) gateway course offered every semester, the basic course in this area and a bar course commonly but not exclusively taken in the third semester
- Sales & Secured Trans; (4 hrs) offered yearly, usually in spring. Mainly a 3L course
- Securities Regulation; (3 hrs) yearly, usually in spring, prerequisite is Business Organizations
- Business Transactions Drafting; (4 hrs) - limited to 24 students and offered both semesters; prerequisite is Business Organizations. It satisfies the capstone requirement and is required in the JD/MBA program.
- Bankruptcy: Creditor and Debtor's Rights; (3 hrs) yearly, normally in fall
- Taxation of Business Entities (Corp. Tax and Partnership); (4 hrs) yearly, normally in spring
- International Business Transactions; (3 hrs) every other year
- Entrepreneurship Clinic; (9 hrs over 2 semesters) yearly, both semesters
- Non-Profit Organizations; (3 hrs) every other year
- International Trade; (3 hrs)

- International Trade Seminar; (2 hrs), either the course or seminar in Int'l Trade should be offered every other year. The Geneva Study Abroad program also focuses on Int'l Trade.
- Advanced Bankruptcy; (3 hrs) every other year
- Contracts II; (2 hrs), every other year in spring
- Sem: Corporate Governance; (3 hrs) every other year
- Sem: Commercial Law; (2 hrs) every other year

*Related Courses:*

- Intellectual Property
- Analytical Methods for Lawyers
- Administrative Law
- Trade Regulation (Antitrust)
- Payment Systems (UCC: Comm. Paper & Banking)
- Patent Prosecution and Claims Drafting
- Legislative Process
- Insurance
- Employment Law
- Labor Law
- Income Tax
- Patent Law
- Energy Law Survey
- Lawyers and Legislation Seminar

**CRIMINAL LAW**

*Principal Courses:*

- Criminal Procedure: Investigation; (3 hrs), usually every semester, for most students the first upper-level criminal law course and a bar course that nearly everyone should take.
- Criminal Procedure: Adjudication; (3 hrs), yearly in spring, possibly helpful on the bar but more for students with strong interest in criminal law.
- Post-Conviction Remedies and Sentencing; (3 hrs), every other year in spring
- International Criminal Law; (3 hrs), every other year, usually in fall
- Sem: Wrongful Convictions; (2 hrs)
- Sem: National Security Law (2 hrs), every other year, usually in fall
- Adv. Criminal Law: Case Studies; (3 hrs)
- Domestic Violence; (3 hrs), typically in summer
- Prosecutors and Prosecutorial Misconduct; (3 hrs)

*Related Courses:*

- Evidence
- Trial Evidence
- Advanced Evidence
- Civil Rights (Section 1983)
- Litigation Skills course, esp. Trial Advocacy

**FAMILY LAW**

*Principal Courses:*

- Family Law; (3 hrs) gateway course offered yearly, normally in fall
- Child, Parent, & State; (3 hrs), every other year
- Elder Law; (3 hrs) at least every other year
- Child Protection and the Law; (3 hrs) yearly, normally spring
- Domestic Violence Law; (3 hrs), yearly, normally summer

*Related Courses:*

- Education Law
- Clinical Law Program (Child and Family Advocacy Practice Group)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation Courses
- Sem: Gender & the Law
- Sem: Sexuality & the Law

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW**

*Principal Courses:*

- Intellectual Property; (3 hrs) (survey with focus on copyright) yearly, usually in fall
- Trademark Law; (3 hrs) every other year, normally in fall
- Copyright Law; (3 hrs) every other year, normally in fall
- Business Torts; (3 hrs) (Trademark, trade secrets, unfair competition) yearly in spring
- Patent Law; (3 hrs) every other year, usually in fall.
- Patent Claims Prosecution and Drafting; (3 hrs) every other year (spring).
- Cyberlaw; (3 hrs) every other year
- Art Law; (3 hrs) every other year
- Cultural Property Law; (3 hrs) every other year
- Sem: Intellectual Property; (2 hrs), yearly in spring
- Sem: Genetic Property & the Law; (2 hrs)
- Sem: Privacy and Social Media; (2 hrs)

*Related Courses:*

- Business Courses
- Litigation Courses

**LITIGATION/DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

*Second or Third Year:*

- Evidence; (3 hrs) offered every semester, a bar course all students should take, often taken in the third semester
- Trial Advocacy; (4 hrs) offered every semester, limited enrollment
- Pre-trial Litigation; (3 hrs) offered every semester, limited enrollment
- Interview/Counsel/Negotiation; (3 hrs) – every semester, limited enrollment
- Alternate Dispute Resolution; (3 hrs) every other year
- Clinical Law Program; (14 hrs) taught yearly; available in third year, limited enrollment (lottery when over-enrolled)
- Remedies; (3 hrs) yearly, usually in spring

*Related Courses:*

- Federal Courts
- E-Discovery
- Torts II
- Conflict of Laws
- Administrative Law
- Criminal Procedure
- Environmental Litigation Seminar
- Consumer Protection Law
- Insurance

*Related Co-curricular Activities:*

- Lugar Trial Advocacy
- Moot Court Program

## **PROPERTY LAW**

### *Second or Third Year:*

- Wealth Transfers (Wills, Trusts & Estates); (3 hrs) yearly, normally in fall
- Estate Planning; (3 hrs), every other year in spring, Wealth Transfers is a prerequisite
- Estate and Gift Tax; (3 hrs), every other year
- Natural Resources; (3 hrs), every other year in fall
- Coal, Oil & Gas; (3 hrs) yearly in fall
- Land Use and Resilience Law (planning, zoning, etc.); (3 hrs), at least every other year
- Water Law; (2-3 hrs), at least every other year

### *Related Courses:*

- Business Organizations
- Intellectual Property
- Environmental & Energy Courses
- Family Law

## **TAXATION**

### *Second or Third Year:*

- Income Tax 1; (3 hrs) yearly gateway course, usually in fall
- Taxation of Business Entities; (4 hrs) yearly, usually in spring but next offered in spring 2017
- Nonprofit Organizations; (3 hrs) every other year, usually in fall
- Estate Planning; (3 hrs), every other year in spring, Wealth Transfers is a prerequisite
- Estate & Gift Tax; (3 hrs), every other year
- State & Local Tax; (2 hrs), every other year

### *Related Courses:*

- Administrative Law
- Business Organizations
- Wealth Transfers

## **HEALTH CARE LAW**

### *Principal Courses:*

- Health Care Law; (3 hrs), yearly in fall
- Health Care Torts; (3 hrs), at least every other year in spring
- Medical Fraud and Abuse; (3 hrs), at least every other year in spring
- Public Health Law; (2 hrs)
- Sem: Bioethics; (2 hrs)

### *Related Courses:*

- Administrative Law

## **WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE WHAT I WANT TO DO?**

If you are unsure about your intended practice and you have not yet been captured by a guiding passion for a particular subject or subjects, you should pursue a solid, generalist legal education that will keep many doors open for you. (There is nothing at all wrong with this.) Those pursuing a generalist track will want to take a healthy dose of bar subjects – they are on the bar for a reason, after all. (See Part III below for a list of bar subjects.) They will



want to take a clinic or a set of simulation courses. In addition, they should consider taking substantive courses in some important practice areas that are not specifically tested on the bar. Some of these courses might include:

- Administrative Law
- A course in Intellectual Property (at least one course from the menu)
- Tax I
- International Law
- Environmental Protection Law and/or Energy Law Survey
- Remedies
- Employment Law and/or Labor Law

### **III. KEEPING THE BAR EXAM AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS IN MIND**

As you plan your last two years of law school, keep the bar exam and application process in mind. You have already invested a year of your life and a lot of money into your education, but before you can enter professional practice, you must complete the bar application (on time!) in the 3L year, graduate, successfully navigate the character and fitness review, pass the bar exam, and then be formally admitted to practice in the state of your choice. Good planning now will make this sequence of events happen as smoothly as possible. You also should plan ahead for the costs of graduation, the bar application, a good summer prep program, and living expenses while studying for and taking the exam (a total of a few thousand dollars).

#### **PLANNING FOR THE BAR EXAM**

A description of the Uniform Bar Exam—administered in West Virginia and numerous other jurisdictions—is included below. The list below includes a list of the bar-tested subjects in West Virginia, but keep in mind that all states have slightly different exams (unless they are giving the Uniform Bar Exam). If you plan to take the exam elsewhere, you should research that state's exam now. While you can pass a bar exam without having taken all the tested subjects in law school, you do not want to find yourself in the situation of having to self-teach too many courses. The ten weeks of study time in the summer before the exam is fine for mere review, but graduates find themselves hard-pressed to prepare when they must learn too many subjects "from the ground up." So, choose your coursework carefully.

#### **Bar Diagnostic**

Please also note that you will be taking a diagnostic mini-bar exam early in the second semester of your 2L year. This exam will give you valuable feedback about your strengths and weaknesses with testing. Additionally, consider enrolling in the College of Law's for-credit bar preparing course in your sixth semester. The course provides early bar prep by focusing on select written portions of the exam.

#### **THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

The bar application deadline in West Virginia is April 1st of your 3L year, but it is much earlier in some states. Please check the deadline if you are planning to practice elsewhere, then design your last two years' schedule so that your sixth semester in law school is relatively light. The application process is incredibly time intensive (some students find it difficult to complete on time even after starting in January), and job-hunting and preparation for graduation can consume a sixth-semester student's life. We highly recommend limiting yourself to 14 hours during your final semester so that you can enjoy your last weeks in law school, have plenty of time to meet your application deadlines, and even start your bar exam prep a bit early.

In a nutshell, plan your next two years with admission to practice in mind. If you have questions, please visit the College of Law's Bar Preparation TWEN website.

**MULTISTATE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY EXAM (MPRE):**

The MPRE is given in March, August and November of each year. Although not part of the Bar Exam administered in February and July, students must pass the MPRE to be admitted to the Bar. You do NOT want to wait until your sixth semester to take this exam! You must take the Professional Responsibility course in either the fall or spring of your second year. Therefore, the most common time for WVU students to take the MPRE is August after the second year, though you are free to take any administration of the MPRE that follows your completion of the course in Professional Responsibility. A passing score is good for bar admission within 25 months of taking the MPRE.

- Separate from the bar examination
  - Same test given in all jurisdictions
  - Cut-score varies in jurisdictions
  - West Virginia scaled score required: 80
  - 60 questions
  - 2 hours, 5 minutes
  - Coverage:
    - ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct
    - ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct
    - Generally accepted common law principles
    - Constitutional rulings
  - Can take test in any state and have score sent to state where you take the bar exam
- Barbri, Kaplan and Themis all offer free study courses to help you prepare for the MPRE exam.

**MULTI-STATE ESSAY EXAM (MEE):**

- Given last Tuesday in February and July
- 3 hours, 6 questions (number varies in jurisdictions), 30 minutes per question
- Weight of MEE varies in jurisdictions
  - 30% of the final bar score in West Virginia
- Topics covered on the MBE are also tested on the MEE. In addition, the MEE tests the following subjects:

<u>The MEE:</u>		<u>Comparable Courses at WVU:</u>
Business Associations (Agency & Partnership; Corps; Limited Liability Companies)	→	Business Organizations
Uniform Commercial Code	→	Sales & Secured Transactions
Conflict of Laws	→	Conflict of Laws
Family Law	→	Family Law
Trusts and Estates (Decedents' Estates; Wills; Trusts & Future Interests)	→	Wealth Transfers Estate Planning

### **MULTI-STATE PERFORMANCE TEST (MPT):**

The MPT requires applicants to (1) sort detailed factual materials and separate relevant from irrelevant facts; (2) analyze statutory, case, and administrative materials for principles of law; (3) apply the law to the relevant facts in a manner likely to resolve a client's problem; (4) identify and resolve ethical dilemmas, when present; (5) communicate effectively in writing; (6) complete a lawyering task within time constraints.

- Given last Tuesday in February and July
- Two 90-minute skills questions; some jurisdictions include only one MPT
- No memorization required; includes a packet of law and a fact file
- Tests fundamental lawyering skills by asking the test-taker to complete a written task a beginning lawyer should be able to complete, e.g., a memorandum of law, a persuasive brief, a letter to a client, a contract provision, a will, a settlement, agreement, etc.
- Tests problem solving, legal analysis and reasoning, fact analysis, communication, organization, task management, and recognition/resolution of ethical dilemmas
- Can cover any area of law
- 20% of final bar score in West Virginia

\*The MEE score is added to the MPT score for a total score. The total MPT/MEE score is scaled to the MBE to determine an applicant's final composite score. Applicants who earn a composite score of 270 or above will pass.

### **MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION (MBE):**

- Given the last Wednesday in February and July
- Two three-hour tests given on same day
- 100 multiple choice questions for each test
  - 1.8 minutes per question
- Covers majority of rules and exceptions
- Weighted differently in various jurisdictions
  - 50% of final bar score in West Virginia
- Coverage:
  - Constitutional Law
  - Contracts
  - Criminal Law
  - Criminal Procedure
  - Evidence
  - Federal Civil Procedure
  - Real Property
  - Torts
- Score is based on number of questions answered correctly

Students preparing for the bar will benefit on the Con Law questions from taking Con Law II (primarily covering free speech), and (perhaps) the Religion & the Constitution seminar (covering the Religion Clauses). Similarly, students will benefit from taking Torts II in addition to Torts I, Contracts II in addition to Contracts I, and Federal Courts in addition to the first-year courses in Civil Procedure. Criminal Procedure I: Investigation is more critical than Criminal Procedure II: Adjudication in preparing for the MBE.

The courses offered at the College of Law are subject to change and this information is not intended to be a firm indication of the classes that will be offered in any given semester.

For further information on specific courses, see the College of Law website: <http://law.wvu.edu>