MEMO TO: All 2L and 3L J.D. Students
FROM: Ron Wright, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
DATE: 16 March 2015
SUBJECT: Reminders about J.D. Degree Requirements for Fall 2015 Registration

Registration for the Fall 2015 semester approaches! The 3L students will register on 30 and 31 March, and then the 2L students will register on 2 and 3 April. After that, the add-drop period will be open to allow adjustments to your schedule until the end of the first week of classes next August.

You have already received a working draft of the class schedule. This memo contains a few reminders about the degree requirements in the J.D. program. (The Student Handbook contains a more detailed description of these rules; see http://studentlife.law.wfu.edu/handbook/) You will also receive a separate memo from me to spotlight certain courses and teachers who deserve your particular attention as you create your terrific class lineup for Fall 2015.

When dealing with the J.D. program rules, remember this equation:

\[
4 \text{ courses} + 3 \text{ categories} + \text{total hours} = \text{J.D. degree.}
\]

FOUR COURSES

After you complete the required first-year curriculum for the J.D. program, there are four remaining courses that every J.D. student must complete: (1) Legislation and Administrative Law, (2) Constitutional Law II, (3) Evidence, and (4) Professional Responsibility.

All J.D. students must complete the Legislation and Administrative Law during their second year. The other required courses can be scheduled for any semester.

THREE CATEGORIES

There are three “categorical” requirements that ask you to complete one course from a list of qualifying courses. Those three categorical requirements are (1) the LAWR III requirement, (2) the Upper-Level Writing requirement, and (3) the Practical Skills requirement.
Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research III. Several different courses fulfill the LAWR III requirement, including 219 Appellate Advocacy, 420 Business Drafting, 425 Contracts and Commercial Transactions, 427 Legal Writing for Judicial Chambers, and 553 Litigation Drafting. For a current list of courses you can use to check this box, see http://academics.law.wfu.edu/courses/?req=3. The LAWR III requirement is the only category that you must complete during your second year.

Upper Level Writing Requirement. All students must, at some point during their second or third year, take a course that involves a substantial writing requirement. A comprehensive list of the relevant courses appears at http://academics.law.wfu.edu/courses/?req=2. You should register for course number 800-0, Upper-Level Writing Requirement, in addition to registering for the classroom component of the course. You may not take that course on a pass/fail basis. Ask the supervising professor to sign the appropriate form at a later date and return it to the Registrar’s office.

If you sign up for one of these courses for the purpose of satisfying the writing requirement, you should notify the instructor at the beginning of the term. When you complete the course, the instructor will grade your paper and will make a separate determination about whether the paper satisfies the writing requirement. It will be presumed that the paper satisfies the requirement if it receives a grade of 73 or higher, but the instructor may announce at the beginning of the course that (1) a higher grade will be required before the paper is certified, or (2) the certification of the paper for the writing requirement will be independent of the grade received in the course.

Note that the writing requirement cannot be satisfied by an independent research project under the supervision of a professor, or by writing projects in connection with a journal, moot court, or other student activities. Such projects must be undertaken on a pass/fail basis.

Practical Skills requirement. Every Wake Forest J.D. degree student must take at least one “practical skills” course. Only graded credit will satisfy the practical skills requirement. The courses in our curriculum that satisfy this requirement are listed on the course website at http://law.wfu.edu/academics/courses/?req=1.

Students may earn no more than 20 hours of credit for externships, internships, practicums, co-curricular activities (journals and moot court-related activities), and for non-JD courses earned in other departments or schools at this university or another institution of higher learning. Clinics do not count against the 20-hour limit.

No double dipping. Some courses qualify in more than one category. For instance, Appellate Advocacy satisfies either the LAWR III or the Practical Skills requirement. One course, however, cannot satisfy more than one requirement simultaneously. For example, if you enroll in 420 Business Drafting to satisfy the LAWR III requirement, you will need to take some other course to satisfy the practical skills requirement.
This “no double dipping” principle applies to any course that you use to satisfy the upper-level writing requirement, the practical skills requirement, and the LAWR III requirement. You must complete a separate course to satisfy each of these requirements.

**TOTAL HOURS**

Plan ahead, and register for enough credit hours to reach a total of 90. At least 54 of those hours must be completed at Wake Forest (a rule that is most directly relevant to transfer students).

**JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE**

The final result of your academic planning? A Juris Doctor degree from Wake Forest, and a readiness to enter the professional world at a full sprint.

Please consult with your Academic Advisor on the faculty and with any other faculty members whose guidance you value to make smart choices. As you prepare for a long career as a broadly educated and engaged professional, choose wisely!