A Guide to the
Comprehensive Curriculum Program
Academic Year 2014-15

New York Law School is committed to providing each student with a solid legal education so that our graduates can perform skillfully as practicing attorneys. Skills essential to competent performance include reading, listening, writing, and speaking carefully and meticulously; retaining fully and accurately what is read and heard; comprehending cases, statutes, and other legal materials; and analyzing facts in relation to legal materials with disciplined creativity.

Although students enter New York Law School with a range of academic backgrounds and experiences, there is no effective way to predict a student’s law school achievement until that student begins to perform in law school. Once a student takes a semester of classes and law school examinations, there is a basis for evaluating that student’s strengths, weaknesses, potential, and academic needs. After a year of law school, the basis for evaluation is even stronger.

The Comprehensive Curriculum Program is designed by the faculty of New York Law School to help students who have not demonstrated their development of these skills sufficiently during the first year of law school to do so before they graduate.

Please note that the faculty of New York Law School reviews this Program periodically. Any changes to the curriculum will be communicated to affected students.
I. The Components of the Comprehensive Curriculum Program

The Comprehensive Curriculum Program (CCP) has four key components:¹
(a) an intensive reintroduction to the skills essential for competent performance;
(b) an enhanced array of required doctrinal and skills courses;
(c) an additional semester for some students; and
(d) a final consolidation of knowledge and skills to prepare for entry into the bar and the practice of law.

a. An intensive reintroduction to the skills essential for competent performance:
Principles of Legal Analysis

*Principles of Legal Analysis* (PLA) focuses on developing those fundamental skills of legal analysis students have not yet grasped. Instruction is more individualized than in most other law school courses. Students will be assigned numerous written exercises that will provide the basis for evaluating current performance and prescribing goals and methods for improvement.

b. An enhanced array of required doctrinal courses

In addition to the required courses that all J.D. students must take, students in the CCP must take *Corporations; Commercial Law; Wills, Trusts, and Future Interests*; and *New York Practice*. These four-credit courses are challenging, important for a well-rounded preparation for legal practice, and helpful for developing the knowledge and skills needed to enter the bar. The *Commercial Law* requirement may be satisfied by taking *Commercial Law* or *Secured Transactions* or *Sales & Negotiable Instruments*.

Students in CCP must also take two courses from an approved list of skills electives.²

c. An additional semester

Full-time day students whose performance at the end of their second semester places them among the bottom 10% of their section will follow a curriculum that lasts an

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¹ Minimum grade point averages required for retention are set forth in New York Law School’s Rules on Academic Status and Standing, which may be found in the Student Handbook.
² Please see page 6 of this Guide for the list of skills electives that are part of the CCP.
additional five semesters, with no tuition cost beyond that which would otherwise be incurred for four additional semesters. During the five semesters, students will take a lighter credit load. The additional time will allow such students to devote more time to, and to get more from, each subject than they otherwise could. Other students in the CCP are strongly encouraged to consider the seven-semester program, and should contact the Office of Academic Planning, Programming, and Advising for more information or to schedule an appointment to discuss this option.

d. A final preparation for entry into the bar and the practice of law

During their final two semesters, students in the CCP will take two required courses designed to consolidate the skills and knowledge necessary to enter the bar and to practice law competently. Students will take *New York Law in National Perspective* in their next-to-last semester and *Consolidated Legal Analysis* during their final semester. Combined, these courses offer students eight (8) credits of rigorous practice at legal analysis and application.

**NYLNP and CLA:**

Students whose cumulative GPA places them in the bottom 25% of their division at the end of their second year (full-time) or third year (part-time) are required to take *New York Law in National Perspective* during their next-to-last semester and *Consolidated Legal Analysis* during their final semester. **This rule applies to all students and is not limited to those placed into the Comprehensive Curriculum Program.**

Students whose cumulative GPA places them between the bottom 25% and 50% of their division at the end of their second year (full-time) or third year (part-time) are required to take *New York Law in National Perspective* during their final semester. **This rule applies to all students and is not limited to those placed into the Comprehensive Curriculum Program.**

**II. Identifying Comprehensive Curriculum Program Participants**

A. Full-time Day Division Students

**Full-time Day Sections - Placement into PLA.** The students in the full-time day sections whose grade point average places them among the lower 50% of students in their respective section after the first semester must take PLA during the spring semester in place of *Legislation & Regulation*, which they must take during their second year. **This determination is made by excluding from consideration students**

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3 These rules apply to students who matriculate in Fall 2012 and later. For students who matriculated prior to Fall 2012, please see earlier versions of the CCP Guide, which are available in the Office of Academic Planning, Programming and Advising.

4 In years in which a section is offered in which certain students take some courses in the day and some with the evening division, students in that section will be subject to the same conditions and requirements as students in the full-time day sections, except that the number of students required to take PLA will be the percentage represented by the average of the percentages of required participants from the full-time day sections.
who were dismissed pursuant to Faculty Rule 7.02, regardless of any readmission decision, or who withdrew before the first class of the second semester.

**Full-time Day Sections -- Placement into the CCP.** Full-time students whose grade point averages are in the bottom one-third of their section at the end of the first year must complete all requirements of the CCP to graduate. Grade point averages falling among the lowest one-third of the section shall be determined by excluding from the calculation any student who has been dismissed pursuant to Faculty Rules 7.02 or 7.03, regardless of any readmission decision, or who has withdrawn during the first year. Note that CCP students who were not placed in PLA in their second semester will be exempt from the PLA requirement.

**Full-time Day Sections - Placement into the CCP with extra semester.** Full-time students whose grade point averages are in the bottom 10% of their section after the first year must slow their progress through law school and take a total of seven semesters to fulfill the CCP requirements.

**B. Part-time Students**

**Part-time Section(s) and part-time day students - Placement into PLA.** Students in the part-time division whose cumulative grade point average after the second semester places them in the lower 50% of their section will be required to take PLA during their third semester in place of Constitutional Law, which will be taken in the fifth semester. This determination is made by excluding from consideration students who were dismissed pursuant to Faculty Rule 7.02, regardless of any readmission decision, or who withdrew during the first year of law school.

**Part-time Section(s) and part-time day students - Placement into the CCP.** Students whose grade point averages are in the bottom one-third of students in their section after the third semester must complete all requirements of the CCP in order to graduate. Grade point averages falling among the lowest one-third of the section shall be determined by excluding from the calculation any student who has been dismissed pursuant to Faculty Rules 7.02 or 7.03, regardless of any readmission decision, or who has withdrawn. Regardless of standing after the third semester, part-time students will not be required to take an extra semester. Part-time students will be allowed to slow their progress through law school if they choose, and should make an appointment with the Office of Academic Planning, Programming, and Advising for more information. Part-time day students will be evaluated based on the GPA cut-offs that apply to part-time evening students. Note that CCP students who were not placed in PLA in their third semester will be exempt from the PLA requirement.

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5 Part-time day students who are placed in PLA will take PLA, Property, and Legislation and Regulation with the evening division during the third semester.
C. PLA Attendance Policy

Though regular attendance is required for all classes by NYLS rules and ABA Standard 304(d), attendance and participation is particularly important in PLA. Completing class exercises cannot fully substitute for participation in class discussion of the material. Each PLA class may set and enforce its own attendance policies, but, except for extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, students missing more than three classes cannot be deemed to have successfully completed PLA.

III. Comprehensive Curriculum Program Requirements

Students placed into the CCP must complete all requirements of the general J.D. program and the additional CCP requirements in order to graduate.

Required Courses

The general J.D. Program requires that students complete 86 academic credits, including the following required courses:

- Torts (4)
- Contracts (4)
- Civil Procedure (4)
- Criminal Law (3)
- Property (4)
- Legal Practice I (4)
- Legal Practice II (4)
- Legislation and Regulation (3)
- Professional Responsibility (3)
- Evidence (3)
- Constitutional Law: Introduction (4)

| General J.D. Program required courses | 40 credits |

Students placed into the CCP must also take these additional courses:

- Principles of Legal Analysis (3)\(^6\)
- Corporations (4)
- Commercial Law (4) or Secured Transactions (3) or Sales & Negotiable Instruments (3)
- Wills, Trusts, and Future Interests (4)

\(^6\) Full-time students who are placed into PLA substitute PLA for Legislation and Regulation in the second semester and take Legislation and Regulation in the fourth semester. Part-time students who are placed into PLA substitute PLA for Constitutional Law: Introduction and take Constitutional Law: Introduction in the fifth semester. Students in either division who are placed into the CCP without having taken PLA are not required to take PLA.
New York Practice (4)
New York Law in National Perspective (4) (must be taken in next-to-last semester)
Consolidated Legal Analysis (4) (must be taken in final semester)

**CCP additional required courses** 26 or 27 credits

CCP students must take **at least two** of these skills courses:

- Advanced Appellate Advocacy (3)
- Drafting: Contracts (2)
- Drafting: Corporate Documents (2)
- Drafting: General Principles (2)
- Drafting: Legislation (2)
- Drafting: Litigation (2)
- Drafting: Real Estate Documents (2)
- Legal Research: Skills for the Digital World (3)
- Memo and Brief Writing for Lawyers (2)
- Negotiating, Counseling, Interviewing (4)
- Persuasion (2)
- Trial Advocacy (3)
- Writing Skills for Lawyers (2) or (3)

**Total Credits, Skills Electives** 4 (minimum)

Students in the CCP will have 15-16 credits of additional electives to select. As is detailed below, students are strongly encouraged to apportion these credits among courses that will provide preparation for the bar exam, courses that will provide some specialization in practice area, and courses that will provide experience (such as clinics, simulation courses, project based learning courses, and externships).

**IV. Writing Requirement**

In addition to all course requirements, students in the CCP must also satisfy the Writing Requirement in order to graduate. Please refer to the Writing Requirement rule in the *Student Handbook* as well as the [Writing Requirement Packet](#) on the portal for further information.

It is every student’s responsibility to ensure that the Writing Requirement is fulfilled in a timely fashion. Note that students must commence work on their Writing Requirement no later than the beginning of the semester before their final semester, and should ordinarily complete the Writing Requirement before the beginning of their final semester.
V. Grading out of the CCP

Full-time students who achieve a 3.00 cumulative grade point average at the end of the fourth or any subsequent semester will be relieved of any remaining requirements of the CCP. Students must fulfill all other graduation requirements.

Part-time students who achieve a 3.00 cumulative grade point average at the end of the fourth or any subsequent semester will be relieved of any remaining requirements of the CCP. Students must fulfill all other graduation requirements.

VI. Grading out of the Seventh Semester

Full-time students who are placed in the seven semester CCP program and who achieve a 3.00 semester average in both their third and fourth semesters will be allowed to transfer into the six semester CCP program for their final year of law school. In order to make up any credits they are short because of lighter loads in their third and fourth semesters, these students will be allowed to earn up to 8 credits during the NYLS summer session in the summer before their third year at no cost.

VII. New York Practice Requirement

Students in the CCP who do not intend to take the New York bar exam are not required to take New York Practice. They must substitute an additional doctrinal elective of at least 3 credits, approved by the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, that will prepare them for the state bar exam that they intend to take (or, if they do not intend to take a bar exam, for the career path that they plan to pursue). Students in the CCP who do not take New York Practice must sign a waiver acknowledging that New York Law School will not certify them for the New York bar exam until they have either successfully completed New York Practice or passed the bar exam of another state.

VIII. Overload and Maximum Number of Credits in Any Semester

Students in the CCP may not take an overload of credits in any semester. For full-time students, the maximum number of credits allowed in any semester is 16. For part-time students, the maximum number of credits allowed in any semester is 12. For students who have been placed in the CCP with the requirement that they complete an additional semester, the maximum number of credits allowed in any semester is 13.  

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7 Please see Section XI below for a breakdown of recommended/allowed credits per semester for seven-semester CCP students.
IX. **Divisional Transfers**

Transfer from the part-time to the full-time division after the first-year of law school is provisional and will not be granted to students who are placed in PLA. Part-time students who are placed in PLA may transfer to the full-time division after completion of the third semester in the part-time division.

X. **Summer Courses**

Students in the CCP may take courses in the summer session, including summer abroad programs (see Student Handbook for rules pertaining to approval of summer abroad programs).

*Students in the CCP program who are required to complete an extra semester of law school may take only 3 credits in any summer.*

XI. **Sequencing your Courses**

Students are strongly urged to follow the advice below. You should work closely with the Office of Academic Planning, Programming, and Advising to ensure that you are fulfilling all CCP and graduation requirements.

*Advice for the Full-time Day Division*

**Six semester program** (no additional semester):

**Second Year Recommendations [28 credits]**

♦ Constitutional Law (4) – may take in either semester, must take during 2nd year
♦ Legislation and Regulation (3) – may take in either semester, must take during 2nd year
♦ At least two of the following:
  - Corporations
  - Wills, Trusts and Future Interests
  - Commercial Law or Sales & Negotiable Instruments or Secured Transactions
♦ At least one of the following:
  - Professional Responsibility
  - Evidence
♦ At least one Skills Electives (2 – 4 credits each)
♦ Additional Electives to total 28 credits

**Third Year Recommendations [28 credits]**

♦ New York Law in National Perspective (4) (must be taken in next-to-last semester)
♦ Consolidated Legal Analysis (4) (must be taken in final semester)
♦ New York Practice (4)
♦ The remaining required courses (you were advised to take two in second year):
  - Corporations
Wills, Trusts and Future Interests
Commercial Law or Sales & Negotiable Instruments or Secured Transactions
♦ The remaining Skills Elective (must take a total of 2)
♦ Additional Electives to total 28 credits

**Seven semester program** (additional semester) (no more than 13 credits per semester)

**Second Year Recommendations** [recommend 22-24 credits – you may take 11-13 credits/semester (and as few as 10 credits/semester with permission of the Office of Academic Planning, Programming and Advising)]
♦ Constitutional Law (4) – may take in either semester, must take during 2\textsuperscript{nd} year
♦ Legislation and Regulation (3) – may take in either semester, must take during 2\textsuperscript{nd} year
♦ At least one, preferably two, of the following required courses:
  Corporations
  Wills, Trusts and Future Interests
  Commercial Law or Sales & Negotiable Instruments or Secured Transactions
♦ At least one of the following:
  Professional Responsibility
  Evidence
♦ At least one Skills Electives (2 – 4 credits each)
♦ Electives to total 22-24 credits

**Third Year Recommendations** [recommend 22-24 credits]
♦ New York Law in National Perspective (4) (must be taken in next-to-last semester)
♦ By the end of third year, plan to have taken all but perhaps one of these required courses:
  Corporations
  Wills, Trusts and Future Interests
  Commercial Law or Sales & Negotiable Instruments or Secured Transactions
  New York Practice
♦ By the end of third year, plan to have taken Professional Responsibility and Evidence
♦ Your second Skills Elective
♦ Electives to total 22 – 24 credits

*Note that you cannot leave more than 13 credits to your final semester. You may leave as few as four credits.

**Seventh Semester** [4 – 13 credits]
♦ Consolidated Legal Analysis (4) (must be taken in final semester)
♦ Your remaining CCP courses and electives to total 86 credits
Advice for the Part-time Division

After the second semester, part-time day and evening students whose grade point average places them in the lower 50% of students in their division will be required to take PLA and defer Constitutional Law to the fifth semester.

Third semester [12 credits]
- Property (4)
- Legislation and Regulation (3)
- Principles of Legal Analysis (3)
- Optional elective for a total of no more than 12 credits

After the third semester, part-time students whose grade point average places them among the bottom one-third of the part-time division will be required to complete the CCP.

Fourth Semester [8-12 credits]
- One of the required courses:
  Corporations
  Wills, Trusts and Future Interests
  Commercial Law or Sales & Negotiable Instruments or Secured Transactions
- If offered, Evidence or Professional Responsibility
- One of the two Skills Electives
- Electives to total 8-12 credits

Fifth Semester [8-12 credits]
- Constitutional Law: An Introduction
- If offered, Evidence or Professional Responsibility
- One of the two Skills Electives
- Electives to total 8-12 credits

Sixth Semester [8-12 credits]
- One of the required courses:
  Corporations
  Wills, Trusts and Future Interests
  Commercial Law or Sales & Negotiable Instruments or Secured Transactions
  New York Practice
- If not yet taken, Evidence or Professional Responsibility
- If not yet completed, one of the two Skills Electives
- Electives to total 8-12 credits

Seventh Semester [8-12 credits]
- One of the required courses:
  Corporations
  Wills, Trusts and Future Interests
  Commercial Law or Sales & Negotiable Instruments or Secured Transactions
  New York Practice
New York Law in National Perspective (must be taken in next-to-last semester)
Electives to total 8 -12 credits

Eighth Semester [8 -12 credits]
- Consolidated Legal Analysis (4) (must be taken in final semester)
- All remaining requirements. Electives to total 8 -12 credits

XII. Additional Scheduling Advice for all Students in CCP

Putting your schedule together can be challenging. The following rules and guidelines may help:

Spread out the four credit courses. If you are full-time, during your second year, take Constitutional Law: Introduction and two or three of the required courses: Wills, Trusts and Future Interests; Commercial Law; and Corporations. Third year, you must take New York Law in National Perspective and Consolidated Legal Analysis. You will also take New York Practice, and if you haven’t yet taken it, the remaining 4-credit class(es). Part-time students will spread this out over the fourth through eighth semesters, taking New York Law in National Perspective and Consolidated Legal Analysis in the fourth year.

You will take at least two skills courses. Don’t put them in the same semester.

Remember – day students must take Constitutional Law during their second year. If you did not take Legislation & Regulation in your first year, you must take it during your second year.

Evening students must complete Constitutional Law by Fall of their third year.

As you choose courses for your 15 credits of electives, keep a few ideas in mind. Make sure you’re preparing yourself adequately for the bar exam. Consider whether a couple of courses in a particular area of law might make you more prepared for practice. Look at the many experiential offerings we have (clinics, externships, project based learning courses, seminar/workshop courses). Investigate our rich curriculum, which will help you establish a strong legal foundation.

XIII. Additional Information

Please contact the Office of Academic Planning, Programming, and Advising with any questions and for further information about the Comprehensive Curriculum Program. The Office of Academic Planning, Programming, and Advising is located on the 5th floor of the C Building. The office can be reached via telephone at 212-431-2310 or via email at academicaffairs@nyls.edu.