

**A Guide to the
Comprehensive Curriculum Program
Academic Year 2010-11**

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.

Students whose grade point average falls in the lowest 25% of their sections during the first year of law school need to strengthen their skills if they are to compete effectively and perform competently both in law school and as practicing attorneys. 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.

I. The Components of the Comprehensive Curriculum Program

The Comprehensive Curriculum Program (CCP) has five key components:¹

- (a) an intensive reintroduction to the skills essential for competent performance;
- (b) an enhanced array of required doctrinal courses;
- (c) a guided approach for selecting electives;
- (d) an additional semester for some students; and
- (e) a final consolidation of knowledge and skills to prepare for entry into the bar and the practice of law.

Each component is described below.

- 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; Wills, Trusts, and Future Interests; Federal Income Tax (Individual);* 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.

- c. A guided approach for selecting electives

Students in the CCP are given careful guidance in selecting electives. This guidance is provided in two ways. First, the law school has designated three lists of courses from which students must select courses: doctrinal electives, skills electives, and additional electives.² Second, the law school provides counseling sessions to help students make their course selections and to provide the basis for administrative approval of those course selections. Students should contact the Office of Academic Affairs for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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 pages 5-7 of this Guide for the list of course that are part of the CCP.

d. 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 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 Affairs for more information or to schedule an appointment to discuss this option.

e. 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.

II. Identifying Comprehensive Curriculum Program Participants³

A. Full-time Day Division Students

Full-time Day Sections - Placement into PLA. The one-third of students in the full-time day sections whose grade point average places them among the lowest ranked students in their respective section after the first semester (but no more than 40 students per section) must take *PLA* during the spring semester in place of *Lawyering*, which they will take in their fourth semester.

[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.]

Full-time Day Sections - Placement into the CCP. Full-time students who were placed in PLA and whose grade point averages are in the bottom 25% of their section at the end of the first year must complete all requirements of the CCP to graduate.

³ This rule applies to students who are first-year students in 2006-07 or subsequent years.

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 Students⁴

Part-time Section(s) and part-time day students - Placement into PLA.

The number of students in the part-time sections required to take *PLA* will be based on the percentage represented by the average of the percentages of students taken from the full-time day sections (generally, one-third of each section). Students whose grade point average places them in this group after their second semester will be required to take *PLA* during their third semester in place of *Constitutional Law I*,⁵ which will be taken in the fifth semester. Part-time day students will be evaluated based on the GPA cut-offs that apply to part-time evening students.

Part-time Section(s) and part-time day students - Placement into the CCP. Students who were placed in PLA and whose grade point averages are in the bottom 25% of students in the part-time division after the third semester must complete the CCP in order to graduate. 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 Affairs for more information. Part-time day students will be evaluated based on the GPA cut-offs that apply to part-time evening students.

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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Constitutional Law II will be taken in the sixth semester.

Elective Courses

Students placed in CCP must select elective courses for the balance of the 86 credits required for graduation from the following choices and following three categories:

1. Doctrinal Electives.

CCP students must take **at least three** of these doctrinal courses:

Administrative Law (3)
Bankruptcy (3)
Criminal Procedure: Investigation (3)
Employment Discrimination (3)
Employment Law (3)
Family Law (3)
Federal Courts/Federal Systems (3)
Intellectual Property (3)
Real Estate Transactions & Finance (3)
Remedies (3)
Sales and Negotiable Instruments (3)
Secured Transactions (3)

Total Credits, Doctrinal Electives 9 (minimum)

2. Skills Electives.

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

Advanced Appellate Advocacy (3)
Alternative Dispute Resolution (2)
Drafting: Contracts (2)
Drafting: Corporate Documents (2)
Drafting: General Principles (2)
Drafting: Judicial Opinions (2)
Drafting: Legislation (2)
Drafting: Litigation (2)
Drafting: Real Estate Documents (2)
Drafting: Wills & Trusts (2)
Intellectual Property Licensing & Drafting (all sections) (2)
Legal Journalism (2)
Legal Research, Advanced (2) or (3)
Memo and Brief Writing for Lawyers (2)
Negotiating, Counseling, Interviewing (4)
Persuasion (2)
Statutory Interpretation (2)
Trial Advocacy (3)
Writing Skills for Lawyers (3)

Total Credits, Skills Electives 6 (minimum)

3. Additional Electives.

Students must fulfill any remaining credits of the 86 credits that are required for graduation by taking additional doctrinal electives or skills electives, or by selecting courses from these additional electives:

- Accounting for Lawyers (2)
 - Business Basics for Lawyers (1)
 - Copyright (3)
 - Criminal Procedure: Adjudication (3)
 - Elder Law (2)
 - Externships and Judicial Externships (2) or (4)
 - Federal Income Taxation: Corporate (3)
 - Financial Advocacy (1)
 - Immigration Law (3)
 - International Law: An Introduction (3)
 - International Law in Contemporary Perspectives (3)
 - Labor Relations Law (3)
 - Landlord and Tenant Law (2)
 - Law Office Management (TBA)
 - Moot Court (2) (F/T: third year only; P/T: third or fourth year)
 - New Jersey Practice I (2)
 - New Jersey Practice II (2)
 - Products Liability (2 or 3)
 - Real Estate Transactions & Finance (2)
 - Statistical Literacy for Lawyers (1)
 - Torts II: Additional Topics and Advanced Inquiries (3)
 - Trademarks (2)
- Total credits required electives 15 (minimum)
Total credits required courses 68
Remaining credits to be selected from any courses in CCP

TOTAL CCP COURSES AND ELECTIVES = 86 credits

IV. Writing Requirement

In addition to all course requirements, students in the CCP must also satisfy the Writing Requirement in order to graduate. CCP students must fulfill the Writing Requirement with a course contained in the CCP curriculum, and may do so in one of two ways:

- a. by earning a B- or above in an upper division writing course designated as a course that will satisfy the writing requirement, such as *Memo and Brief Writing*, *Writing Skills for Lawyers* or any of the drafting classes; OR

- b. by writing a substantial paper in a course with the permission and close supervision of the faculty member teaching the course. Such a paper will receive both a course grade and a pass or no pass for the writing requirement.

It is every student's responsibility to ensure that the Writing Requirement is fulfilled in a timely fashion. For more information, students should consult the *Student Handbook* or read the Writing Requirement rules that are on the NYLS portal.

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 3.000 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 additional courses from the CCP curriculum to replace the four credits that would have been earned in New York Practice. If the student's plans change, the student must successfully complete New York Practice before the school will certify the student to take the New York bar exam, unless that student has already 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.

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. Moot Court and Law Review

Students who are placed in the CCP may not participate in the moot court competition or related intermural or intramural competitions until the completion of their second year of law school.

Students who are placed in the CCP may not participate in the write-on competition for Law Review until the completion of their second year of law school. Law Review credits will be in addition to the 86 credits required by the CCP.

XI. Taking Courses Not Approved as Part of the CCP

Students may take courses other than those approved as part of the CCP. However, these courses will not count toward the 86 credits required to graduate. Students may not take an overload of credit hours in any individual semester in order to take courses that are not approved as part of the CCP.⁷ Students who want to take courses that are not part of CCP must meet with the Office of Academic Affairs before registering for the non-CCP courses.

XII. Summer Courses

Students in the CCP may take courses in the summer program, including participation in summer abroad programs (see Student Handbook for rules pertaining to approval of summer abroad programs). Courses that are not part of the CCP curriculum will not be counted toward the 86 credits required for graduation.

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

Part-time students should select summer courses during their first summer carefully, and are advised to select courses that are part of CCP. Although part-time students may take summer courses during their first summer, if they are subsequently placed in the CCP, any course the student has taken that is not part of the CCP curriculum will not count toward the 86 credits required for graduation.

⁷ Students who are in the Joint JD/MBA program and who are placed in CCP will not be able to count 9 MBA credits toward their JD degree and should discuss their schedule with the Office of Academic Affairs.

XIII. Media Law and Policy

Students who become members of *Media Law and Policy* should meet with an advisor in the Office of Academic Affairs to discuss how the required media courses can be added to their schedules.

XIV. Model Course Sequences

Students are strongly urged to follow the model course sequences below. Deviations from these models may result in not being able to fulfill all of the CCP and graduation requirements in a timely fashion.

a. Model for the Full-time Day Division

All day students begin law school with the same first semester program.

First semester [15 credits]

- ◆ Civil Procedure (4)
- ◆ Torts (4)
- ◆ Contracts (4)
- ◆ Legal Reasoning, Writing, and Research (3)

After the first semester, students from the full-time day division sections whose grade point average places them among the lowest third in each of their respective sections (but no more than 40 students per section) will take *PLA* instead of *Lawyering*.⁸

Second semester [15 credits]

- ◆ Property (4)
- ◆ Criminal Law (3)
- ◆ Legislation and Regulation (2)
- ◆ Written and Oral Advocacy (3)
- ◆ Principles of Legal Analysis (3)

1. Six semester program⁹ (no additional semester):

Third semester [14 credits]

- ◆ Constitutional Law I (3)
- ◆ Doctrinal requirement (4)
- ◆ Professional Responsibility or Evidence (3) (must be taken before graduation)
- ◆ Doctrinal requirement (4)

⁸ When a section is offered in which certain students take some courses in the day and some with the evening division) students in that section are subject to the same requirement 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.

⁹ CCP Students who follow this model six semester program will earn 86 academic credits.

Fourth Semester [14 credits]

- ◆ Constitutional Law II (3)
- ◆ Lawyering (2)
- ◆ Professional Responsibility or Evidence (3) (must be taken before graduation)
- ◆ Doctrinal requirement (4)
- ◆ Skills elective (2)

Fifth Semester [14 credits]

- ◆ New York Law in National Perspective (4) (must be taken in next-to-last semester)
- ◆ New York Practice (4)
- ◆ Doctrinal elective (3)
- ◆ Doctrinal elective (3)

Sixth Semester [14 credits]

- ◆ Consolidated Legal Analysis (4) (must be taken in final semester)
- ◆ Doctrinal elective (3)
- ◆ Additional elective¹⁰ (3)
- ◆ Skills elective (2)
- ◆ Skills elective (2)

2. Seven semester program¹¹ (additional semester)

Third semester [11 credits]

- ◆ Constitutional Law I (3)
- ◆ Skills elective (2)
- ◆ Professional Responsibility or Evidence (3) (must be taken before graduation)
- ◆ Doctrinal elective (3)

Fourth Semester [12 credits]

- ◆ Constitutional Law II (3)
- ◆ Lawyering (2)
- ◆ Doctrinal requirement (4)
- ◆ Professional Responsibility or Evidence (3) (must be taken before graduation)

Fifth Semester [11 credits]

- ◆ Doctrinal requirement (4)
- ◆ Doctrinal elective (3)
- ◆ New York Practice (4)

¹⁰ Students may take additional courses from the doctrinal or skills electives or up to four credits of additional electives to satisfy the Additional elective requirement.

¹¹ CCP Students who complete this model seven semester program will earn 86 academic credits.

Sixth Semester [11 credits]

- ◆ New York Law in National Perspective (4) (must be taken in next-to-last semester)
- ◆ Doctrinal requirement (4)
- ◆ Additional elective (3)

Seventh Semester [11 credits]

- ◆ Consolidated Legal Analysis (4) (must be taken in final semester)
- ◆ Doctrinal elective (3)
- ◆ Skills elective (2)
- ◆ Skills elective (2)

Model for the Part-time Division¹²

All first year part-time students commence law school with the same first year program.

First-year [23 credits total]

- ◆ Contracts (4)
- ◆ Legal Reasoning, Writing & Research (3)
- ◆ Torts (4)
- ◆ Civil Procedure (4)
- ◆ Criminal Law (3)
- ◆ Lawyering (2)
- ◆ Written and Oral Advocacy (3)

After the second semester, part-time day and evening students whose grade point average places them in the percentage represented by the average of the percentages of required participants from the full-time day division sections will be required to take *PLA* and defer *Constitutional Law I* until the fifth semester. All students required to take *PLA* will take *Constitutional Law I and II* during their fifth and sixth semesters with the group of second year part-time students not assigned to *PLA*.

Third semester [12 credits]

- ◆ Property (4)
- ◆ Legislation and Regulation (2)
- ◆ Principles of Legal Analysis (3)
- ◆ Professional Responsibility (3) (may be delayed to a later semester)

After the third semester, part-time students who were placed in *PLA* and whose grade point average places them among the bottom 25% of the part-time division will be required to complete the *CCP*.

¹² CCP students who follow the model part-time program will earn 86 academic credits.

Fourth Semester [12 credits]

- ◆ Doctrinal requirement (4)
- ◆ Evidence (3) (must be taken before graduation)
- ◆ Doctrinal elective (3)
- ◆ Skills elective (2)

Fifth Semester [10 credits]

- ◆ Constitutional Law I (3)
- ◆ Doctrinal elective (3)
- ◆ Doctrinal requirement (4)

Sixth Semester [9 credits]

- ◆ Constitutional Law II (3)
- ◆ Doctrinal requirement (4)
- ◆ Skills elective (2)

Seventh Semester [11 credits]

- ◆ New York Law in National Perspective (4) (must be taken in next-to-last semester)
- ◆ New York Practice (4)
- ◆ Additional elective (3)

Eighth Semester [9 credits]

- ◆ Consolidated Legal Analysis (4) (must be taken in final semester)
- ◆ Doctrinal elective (3)
- ◆ Skills elective (2)

XIV. Additional Information

Please contact the Office of Academic Affairs with any questions or for further information about the Comprehensive Curriculum Program. The Office of Academic Affairs is located on the 2nd floor of the A Building (57 Worth Street). The office can be reached via telephone at 212-431-2310 or via email at academicaffairs@nyls.edu.