Business Law Concentration Requirements

Overview

The School of Law’s Business Law Concentration is designed for students interested in practicing law in a non-litigation environment. Such a practice might be in a private law firm (whether small or large); as an employee of a corporation, LLC, or partnership (i.e., working in-house); as an employee of a nonprofit organization; or in government. In contrast to litigation, which generally looks to the past, a business law practice (sometimes called a transactional practice) looks ahead. The business lawyer helps clients plan future actions. In doing this, the business lawyer may be:

A **counselor** who advises the client;

A **conciliator** who solves disagreements between the client and others; or

A **facilitator** who negotiates a deal, ensures compliance with administrative regulations, and documents a transaction.

Completing the Business Law Concentration has at least three benefits for students.

**First**, it is a way for students interested in the business law curriculum to get advice on selecting and sequencing their upper level courses to derive the greatest benefit for their future practice. **Second**, completion of the Concentration is noted on a student’s transcript, which shows that the student has selected a rigorous academic focus and has achieved a high level of success in business law courses. **Third**, participating in, and completing, the Business Law Concentration signals to prospective employers that the student’s interest in business law is genuine and abiding, and that the student at graduation will have the substantive competence to be a successful new lawyer in the business law area.

Concentration Requirements

To complete the Business Law Concentration a student must:

Submit the Intent to Complete form attached to this document to the Director before the beginning of the student’s final year in the School of Law;

Complete the required and elective courses described below and achieve at least a 3.00 grade point average in all such courses calculated together;

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1 Students who submitted the Intent to Complete form before October 1, 2019 may elect to continue to be subject to the requirements contained in the April 12, 2017 revision of this document.
Submit evidence of exposure to basic principles of accounting, as described below; and

Complete a scholarly research paper on a topic related to business law, as described below.

**Required and Elective Courses**

Every student must complete the following **required courses**:

- Business Entities (6435);
- Commercial Law (6420); and
- Income Tax (6434).

Every student must satisfy the following **elective course** requirement:

Complete at least four elective courses, totaling at least ten credit hours, and subject to the following **distribution requirement**:

- Two or more core elective courses, listed below, totaling five credit hours or more and
- Up to two specialty elective courses, listed below, totaling up to five credit hours

The **core elective courses** are:

- Advanced Bankruptcy Law (6087)
- Advanced Business Entities (6098)
- Corporate Taxation (6309)
- International Business Transactions (6306)
- Mergers & Acquisitions (6053)
- Partnership Taxation (6313)
- Securities Regulation (6028)
- Taxation of Business Entities (6041)
  (NOTE this course may not be designated as an elective if either Corporate Taxation or Partnership Taxation is designated)

The **specialty elective courses** are:

- Agricultural Law (6254)
- Banking Law (6317)
- Consumer Law (6226)
- Copyright Law (6063)
- Corporate Restructuring (6242)
- Creditors’ Rights & Bankruptcy (6001)
- Discrimination in Employment (6065)
- Employment Law (6071)
- Entertainment Law (6217)
- Gaming & Racing Law (6090)
Evidence of Exposure to Basic Principles of Accounting

Every student must submit evidence of exposure to basic principles of accounting. This requirement may be met by:

- Completing Accounting for Lawyers (6018) with a grade of at least B;
- Completing Financial Accounting (ACCT 2300) or Financial and Managerial Accounting (ACCT 5301) offered by the Texas Tech University Rawls College of Business with a grade of at least B; or
- Approval of the Director upon demonstration that the student has completed another course in accounting, comparable to those listed above, with a grade of at least B, or has had the equivalent exposure to basic principles of accounting through work experience.

Scholarly Research Paper

Every student must complete a scholarly research paper. The paper must be:

- At least 6,000 words, including notes. Notes must be in Bluebook form; and
On a topic significantly related to business law either

In the opinion of the Director or

In the opinion of the student’s assigned Concentration Advisor where the paper is prepared in connection with a course taught by, or an independent research project supervised by, the Concentration Advisor.

If the above requirements are met, the scholarly research paper may be (a) a paper that is used to satisfy the School of Law’s upper level writing requirement, (b) a paper that was prepared for a course in the School of Law, an independent research project in the School of Law (7001), or as a member of the Texas Tech Law Review or Estate Planning and Community Property Law Journal; or (c) both.

If the paper was prepared for a course or an independent research project, the student must have received a grade of at least B on the paper (or in the course as a whole if the paper was not separately graded) or CR (credit) if the course or independent study was graded CR/NL (credit/no credit). If the paper was not prepared for a course or an independent research project, the Director or the student’s Concentration Advisor must conclude that the paper would have received a grade of at least B had it been submitted in a course.

Assigned Concentration Advisors

Each student will be assigned a Concentration Advisor after the student submits the Intent to Complete form for the Business Law Concentration. A reassignment may be made by the Director upon the request of the student or the Concentration Advisor.

Modifications

The Director may change the lists of required, core elective, and specialty elective courses. A student who has completed a course and intends to submit that course as a required, core elective, or specialty elective course, may continue to do so even if the course has been deleted from the lists or has been moved from one list to another.

The Director may change the requirements of the Concentration and may waive or modify any requirements where necessary or appropriate to achieve equity or fairness.

Award of Concentration Notation on Transcript

Upon the Director’s certification that the student has completed all the Business Law Concentration requirement described in this document, a completion of Concentration notation will be placed upon the student’s transcript. It is the student’s responsibility to complete and to submit to the Director in timely fashion the Requirements Summary form attached to this document.
Administration of the Concentration

Director
Eric A. Chiappinelli
Frank McDonald Endowed Professor of Law

Concentration Advisors
Sally M. Henry
John E. Kramer Banking and Commercial Endowed Professor of Law

Alyson Outenreath
Erwin and Elaine Davenport Endowed Professor of Law
Associate Dean for Faculty Development

Administrative Support
Michele Thaetig
Senior Business Assistant
# Business Law Concentration Program

## INTENT TO COMPLETE

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<td><strong>2.</strong> Expected Graduation Date:</td>
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<td><strong>4.</strong> Email Address:</td>
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**7.** Has any form of academic disciplinary action been taken against you, or any form of academic sanction been imposed upon you, at TTU School of Law?  
Yes:  No:  
If yes, please attach a brief explanation.

**8.** How do you intend to complete the writing requirement?  
Indep. Research Course:  Paper Course:  Journal Article:  
Which semester do you intend to complete writing requirement?  

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<th><strong>9.</strong> Required Courses—Projected Schedule</th>
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<td>Course</td>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>Credits</td>
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<td>Business Entities</td>
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<td>Commercial Law</td>
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<td>Income Taxation</td>
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<td>Accounting:</td>
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**10.** Core Electives—Projected Schedule  
(at least 2 courses totaling at least 5 credit hours)  
Course | Semester | Credits |   |
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**11.** Specialty Electives—Projected Schedule  
(core plus specialty electives must total at least 4 courses and 10 credit hours)  
Course | Semester | Credits |   |
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**12.** Student Signature:  Date:
Business Law Concentration Program

REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY
[To be submitted the semester prior to graduation]

1. Name:
   Last
   First

2. Graduation Date:

3. Writing Requirement
   Title:
   Indep. Research, Paper Course, or Journal Article?
   Faculty Supervisor:
   Grade:
   Date Completed:
   Approved by Bus. Law Advisor:

4. Required Courses
   Course | Semester | Grade | Credits
   Business Entities | 4
   Commercial Law | 4
   Income Taxation | 4
   Accounting:

5. Core Electives
   (at least 2 courses totaling at least 5 credit hours)
   Course | Semester | Grade | Credits

6. Specialty Electives
   (core plus specialty electives must total at least 4 courses and 10 credit hours)
   Course | Semester | Grade | Credits

7. Student signature:

8. Admin. Assistant:

9. Advisor: