

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; 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 Business Entities (6098)
 Bankruptcy Law (6001)
 Corporate Taxation (6309)
 International Business Transactions (6306)
 Mergers & Acquisitions (6053)
 Securities Regulation (6028)
 Taxation of Business Entities (6041)

The **specialty elective courses** are:

Accounting for Lawyers (6018)
 Agricultural Law (6254)
 Banking Law (6317)
 Copyright Law (6063)
 Corporate Restructuring (6242)
 Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy (6001)
 Discrimination in Employment (6065)
 Employment Law (6071)
 Energy Law (6302)
 Energy Tax (6259)
 Energy Transactions (6263)
 Entertainment Law (6217)
 Gaming & Racing Law (6090)
 Insurance Law (6009)
 Introduction to Intellectual Property (6039)
 (NOTE this course may not be designated as an elective if either Patent Law or Trademarks and Unfair Competition is designated)
 Law Office Management (6243)
 Negotiation Workshop (6035)

Non-Profit Organizations (6312)
 Oil and Gas I or II (6311, 6318)
 (NOTE only one Oil and Gas course may be designated as an elective)
 Oil and Gas Lease Negotiation (6112)
 Patent Law (6294)
 Real Property Finance and Transactions (6304)
 Sports Law (6255)
 State and Local Taxation (6049)
 Taxation of International Transactions (6012)
 Technology Transfer Taxation (6232)
 Telecommunications Law and Policy (6014)
 Trademarks and Unfair Competition (6034)
 Transactional Practice (6016)
 Vineyard and Winery Law (6057)

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

Business Law Concentration Program
REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY

[To be submitted the semester prior to graduation]