

University of Arkansas at Little Rock
William H. Bowen School of Law
Academic Rules

Adopted in Revised Form: August 22, 2002

Revised: September 9, 2004; December 14, 2004; June 5, 2006; March 13, 2007; April 10, 2007; March 11, 2008,
May 11, 2009

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I. GENERAL DUTIES OF STUDENTS

A. PRESUMPTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF RULES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. A student is presumed to know all the academic rules and all other requirements and rules of the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law.
2. A student is under an obligation to read regularly the notices posted on the official glassed-in bulletin boards or on the website, placed in student mailboxes, or delivered to students' email accounts. Students will be on constructive notice of any matter announced by any of the above methods.

B. BURDEN TO COMPLY WITH ACADEMIC RULES

1. The burden is on the student to demonstrate compliance with all requirements.
2. This includes such matters as following up on written petitions and making certain that granted petitions are signed by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
3. A student is responsible for keeping track of the student's own residency credits pursuant to these rules, as well as credit hours for graduation.
4. Any misrepresentation by a student in submitting petitions or other matters with respect to the academic rules will be deemed a violation of the Code of Student Conduct as well as the academic rules.

II. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A. COURSE REQUIREMENTS: A student admitted to the School of Law must earn credit for courses totaling 90 hours with an overall grade point average of 2.0 or better in order to receive the J.D. degree, subject to the following conditions:

1. A student must earn credit for all required courses and a course satisfying the policy and perspectives requirement, and must satisfy the upper level writing requirement.
2. A student must earn at least 48 hours in courses at this law school.
3. Not more than 25 percent of the credit earned in law courses in the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and presented to meet the requirements for the degree may be of "D-Plus" or "D" grades.
4. Not more than eight of the hours presented for graduation shall represent credit for "co-curricular" activities; e.g., Law Review, Journal of Appellate Practice and Process, Independent Study, Moot Court Travel Team, Trial Competition Travel Team, externships, or other similar activities designated as co-curricular by the curriculum committee. (Revised:

5/11/09)

B. DEGREE WITH HONORS

1. A degree with honors will be conferred on a student who at graduation has earned a cumulative average grade of 3.25.
2. A degree with high honors will be conferred on a student who at graduation has earned a cumulative average grade of 3.50.

C. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

1. All degree candidates must complete the prescribed course of study
 - a. In residence,
 - b. With not fewer than 58,000 minutes of instruction time, and
 - c. Extending over not fewer than six academic semesters. (Revised: 5/11/09)
2. To receive residence credit for an academic semester, a student shall be enrolled for not fewer than eight credit hours.
 - a. To graduate in six semesters a student shall be enrolled in each semester for not fewer than ten credit hours and must receive credit for nine credit hours.
 - b. If a student fails to receive credit for the specified number of hours, the student may receive residence credit only in the ratio that the hours enrolled in or in which credit was received, as the case may be, bear to the minimum specified.
 - c. Pro rata residence credit will be awarded for study during a summer session on a basis that fairly apportions a student's effort to the usual residence period.
3. A student may graduate in fewer than six academic semesters by earning not more than one semester of residence credit for taking summer courses if the student
 - a. Meets the class minute requirements stated above, and
 - b. Meets the employment limitations.
 - c. As applied to the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law, a student must
 - (1) attend law school for at least 5 semesters and 2 summer sessions, and
 - (2) earn at least 10 credit hours during summer sessions, not including co-curricular credits, and
 - (3) earn at least 2 credit hours during each summer session.

- D. TIME LIMIT FOR COMPLETION OF DEGREE:** Students must complete their degree requirements within seven years after first enrolling, except that students who are readmitted to law school and begin their studies anew pursuant to Rule IV B (Exclusion and Readmission) must complete their degree requirements within seven years of the date they begin their studies anew. (Revised: 9/9/04; 5/11/09)

III. CURRICULAR STANDARDS

A. RULES GOVERNING COURSE SELECTION

1. The first year curriculum is prescribed.
 - a. First year full-time students must enroll for the 15-hour fall curriculum and 15-hour spring curriculum.
 - b. First year part-time students must enroll for the 9-hour fall curriculum and 9-hour spring curriculum prescribed, with the option to take Legal Profession in the spring and thereby increase their first-year spring semester load to 11 hours.
2. All students must enroll in required courses in the semester and in the sequence prescribed in the required curriculum.
3. Deviations from the required curriculum will not be permitted except with the advance permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
4. No student may enroll in and attend a course requiring a prerequisite if the student has not already completed the prerequisite, except with the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, after consultation with the faculty member teaching the course.
5. No student may earn more than a total of two hours credit in Independent Study, and no student may enroll for more than one hour of Independent Study in any single academic year, except that the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may allow two hours in special cases.

B. THE REQUIRED CURRICULUM

1. The required curriculum is set forth as Appendix A to the Academic Rules and is incorporated by reference.
2. The upper level writing requirement is set forth as Appendix B to the Academic Rules and is incorporated by reference.
3. The upper level policy and perspectives requirement is set forth as Appendix C to the Academic Rules and is incorporated by reference.

C. REGULAR AND PUNCTUAL ATTENDANCE

1. Regular and punctual attendance is required in all courses.
2. A student who fails to maintain regular attendance may be excluded from
 - a. The school by the faculty or for
 - b. From the course by the instructor or both.
3. Prompt and regular attendance and preparation, or lack thereof, and class participation may be considered by the individual faculty member in regard to grades and by the faculty and the Dean in regard to honors, awards, scholarships, recommendations, and similar matters.
4. Specific attendance, preparation, and class participation requirements by an instructor in a particular course
 - a. Shall be announced by the instructor at the beginning of the course and
 - b. Shall be made known to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

5. Faculty shall not schedule a class session for presentation of new material during days reserved for student review for exams, commonly referred to as the “reading period” or “dead week” unless
 - a. Approved in advance by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs because of extraordinary circumstances.
 - b. Faculty may schedule review sessions during this period, but shall not require attendance as part of a course attendance policy.

D. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS FOR WHICH STUDENTS MAY REGISTER

1. Maximum Number of Hours. A full-time student shall not register for more than 16 credit hours in either the fall or spring semester, or for more than 9 credit hours in the summer (10 credit hours if the student is registered for a Legal Clinic course). For the final semester of law school study, a student graduating during or prior to the Spring 2011 semester may enroll for a maximum of 17 credit hours.
2. A part-time student may not register for more than 12 credit hours in either the fall or spring semester, or for more than 6 credit hours in the summer (7 credit hours if the student is registered for a Legal Clinic course).
3. Credit hours earned in courses which are held during an intersession (for example, between the end of the summer term and the beginning of the fall semester) do not count for purposes of this limitation on credit hours.
4. Overloads will never be allowed under any circumstances.
5. Minimum Number of Hours.
 - a. A full-time student shall not register for fewer than 10 credit hours.
 - b. A part-time student shall not register for fewer than 8 credit hours, in either the fall or spring semester.
 - c. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may approve a petition to register for fewer hours.
 - d. Any student who registers for more than 12 credit hours is considered a full-time student and must comply with Rule III E (Rule Governing Student Employment).

E. RULE GOVERNING STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

1. Because the curriculum in the full-time division is designed to occupy substantially all of a student’s working hours,
 - a. A first year full-time day student is not allowed to work for an employer other than the law school, and for the law school no more than 10 hours per week when school is in session.
 - b. A student shall not engage in employment for more than 20 hours per week in any semester in which the student is enrolled in more than 12 class hours.
2. Each student who registers for more than 12 credit hours shall
 - a. Certify compliance with this rule in the manner prescribed by the

- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and
- b. Must disclose whether and by whom the student is employed or expects to be employed during the semester.
3. The Law School will publicize this 20 hour per week maximum to employers.
 4. Any student who works or will work more than 20 hours per week shall not register for or continue to be enrolled in more than 12 credit hours. (Revised 9/9/04, effective 8/15/05.)

F. RULES GOVERNING TRANSFER FROM ONE DIVISION TO THE OTHER AND GOVERNING COURSE REGISTRATION IN THE DIVISION IN WHICH A STUDENT IS NOT ENROLLED

1. Full-time students take day classes and part-time students take night classes.
2. A student who has been admitted to either the full-time or part-time division may not register for a course or courses offered in the other division unless
 - a. The course is designated as open to all students or
 - b. In the case of a non-required course, the closed registration period has ended, and there are still openings in the course.
3. A student who has been admitted to either the full-time or part-time division shall not transfer to the other division unless
 - a. The student petitions the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the petition is granted.
 - b. First year part-time students shall not transfer division.

G. RULE WITH RESPECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSES

1. During the first five class days of a semester, a student may enter or withdraw from an upper-year class by following the procedures prescribed by the Office of Student Records of the law school.
2. After the fifth class day of a semester, a student
 - a. Must have the written permission of the instructor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to enter or withdraw from a class and
 - b. File such written permission with the Office of Student Records of the law school.
3. A student will not be allowed to withdraw from a course
 - a. After the final examination for that course has commenced, or
 - b. In the case of a course without a final examination, after 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the examination period of the semester in which the student registered for the course.
4. First year part-time students shall not drop a course, except that a first-year part-time student may drop Legal Profession.

5. First year full-time students shall not drop courses except
 - a. When transferring from the full-time to the part-time division, and
 - b. The student remains enrolled in the part-time curriculum. (Revised: 5/11/09)

H. AUDITING OF COURSES BY AN ENROLLED LAW STUDENT

1. With the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the faculty member involved, an enrolled law student will be permitted to audit a law course; that is, to take a course without receiving either a final grade or credit.
2. No student taking a normal load of credit courses may audit more than one additional course.
3. No student carrying a partial load may audit more courses than would constitute a full load giving such audit courses one-half normal credit.
4. An auditor is held responsible for regular attendance and for all course work except examinations.
5. No audit course may be counted as credit toward a degree.

I. RULE REGARDING COURSES TAKEN FOR CREDIT AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS

1. Prior approval required. Students wishing to take courses for credit toward our degree at another law school shall apply to the Associate Dean for permission to do so before the student enrolls in such course and provide information on the specific course or courses to be taken. Such prior approval will be required to receive credit toward our degree for such courses.
2. Standards for Approval of Courses. The Associate Dean may deny approval or grant approval only for a reduced number of transfer credit hours in the following circumstances:
 - a. Transfer credit shall be denied for courses in subjects not comparable to courses offered at this school and not considered by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to be of substantial value as preparation for entry into the legal profession.
 - b. The number of hours of transfer credit granted for any course taken at another law school may be limited to such number of semester hours as are granted for a comparable course offered at this school, or, in the case of a course not comparable to any course offered at this school, to such number of semester hours as the Associate Dean deems appropriate;
 - c. The amount of transfer credit granted for any course will not exceed the semester hour credit (or the semester hour equivalent for quarter hour credit) earned at the school where the course was taken; and
 - d. Credit hours granted for study at a law school accredited by the

state in which it is located but not by the American Bar Association may not exceed one-third of the total required by this school for its J.D. degree, and credit hours granted for study at a law school which is not a member of the Association of American Law Schools may not exceed 42 hours.

3. Minimum grade required.. Transfer credit will be granted only for courses in which the student earned a grade of “C-“ (2.00) or higher (or the equivalent) or, for courses taken on a “credit/no credit” basis, only for courses in which the student earned a “credit.”
4. Grade point average, class rank, honors, and prizes.
 - a. For purposes of cumulative grade point average, transfer credits will not enter into the computation for purposes of class rank, honors, and prizes; the courses will be treated as pass-fail courses for purposes of cumulative grade point average.
 - b. Students with such credit granted for courses taken at another law school will remain eligible for general class ranking, honors, and prizes as long as they complete 56 hours of credit at this institution.

J. TREATMENT OF CUMULATIVE AVERAGES OF STUDENTS ADMITTED WITH ADVANCED STANDING

1. Students admitted with advanced standing, i.e., students who do not complete at least 56 hours at this law school, will not be given a class rank based on cumulative weighted average and will not be eligible for prizes or awards based thereon.
 - a. For purposes of employment only, such students shall be given their average on the work done at UALR and an indication if they desire as to what “constructive rank” such an average would be given if all work has been done here.
 - b. For graduation honors based on cumulative weighted averages, such students shall be considered on the basis of their work at this institution if they have completed 56 hours here.
2. After completion of some work here, transfer students, under appropriate circumstances, may be considered for selection by the Law Review.

K. DUTY TO TAKE EXAMINATIONS AND COMPLETE OTHER COURSE WORK AS SCHEDULED

1. Students are expected to take final examinations when scheduled and complete other course work as assigned and as due.
 - a. An examination schedule is posted before the beginning of each examination period.
 - b. Ordinarily, all students will be required to take examinations at the time indicated on the schedule.
 - c. If the examination schedule creates an extraordinary hardship for a student, e.g., exams scheduled at conflicting times, two exams

- scheduled on the same day, or three exams scheduled on three successive days, the student should request as quickly as possible a rescheduled examination time from the faculty member involved.
- d. If such an extraordinary request receives the permission of the faculty member, the examination may be rescheduled at a time agreed upon.
 - e. The faculty member shall communicate the date and time of all rescheduled exams to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
2. If, once the examination period has begun, a student is unable to take a final examination when scheduled or in a timely manner complete other course work as assigned or as due by reason of illness or other suddenly arising imperative cause, the student should, before the examination is scheduled, or work due, inform the faculty member involved.
 3. If a prior excuse has been given and a student has received permission to take an examination at other than the scheduled time, the examination will be rescheduled and taken at that time.
 - a. If a grade is not available at the time grades are entered for the term, with the permission of the faculty member, a grade of "I" for "incomplete" will then be entered in the student's record.
 - b. Ordinarily, a student will have no more than 90 days from the end of the examination period to complete the work or receive an "F" in place of the "I."
 4. *Consequences of missing scheduled examination.*
 - a. *General rule:* If a student fails to appear for a final examination at the proper time without giving the required prior notice to the faculty member and having been given permission not to appear by the faculty member involved, the student will be given an "F" for the course unless the student can show that the failure to give prior notice was due to a physical incapacity to do so.
 - b. *Exceptions.* The following are exceptions to the general rule stated above:
 - (1) If the student fails to appear for a final examination on account of illness or other suddenly arising imperative and is unable to communicate the request for postponement of the examination to the faculty member due to a physical incapacity to do so, which physical incapacity is documented by the student to the satisfaction of the faculty member, then the faculty member is permitted to waive the general rule.
 - (2) If the student fails to appear for a final examination without permission and under circumstances other than those described above, the faculty member is permitted to allow the student to withdraw from the course or take the exam at the discretion of the faculty member when:

- (a) The faculty member certifies that the faculty member would have assigned the student a final grade for the course not lower than the student's "blue book" grade; and
- (b) The faculty member concludes that the student's failure to appear was not the result of an intentional effort on the student's part to avoid receiving a low grade in the course or to avoid taking the exam at the scheduled time.
- (c) No student will be allowed to withdraw from more than one course, throughout the student's career at this law school, pursuant to this rule.

IV. ACADEMIC STANDARDS

A. GRADING

1. The scholastic achievement of students shall be evaluated by written examinations of suitable length and complexity, papers, or other documents, except that evaluation also may include assessment of performances in the role of lawyers.
2. The law school gives each faculty member the option to allow students to type their exams. If a professor allows typing, students must use a software program approved for this use by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. This policy does not apply to courses with take-home exams or papers.
3. Written examinations are given by the faculty according to procedures designed to assure that during the grading of the examination itself, the identity of the writer of any particular examination paper will remain unknown to the faculty yet which permits adjustments of final grades, at the discretion of the teacher of that course to take into account class attendance and/or performance.
 - a. The Office of Admissions and Records will provide each faculty member with a list of the student exam numbers for each course.
 - b. Faculty will grade examinations by exam numbers.
 - c. Faculty will submit grades to the Office of Admissions and Records by exam number.
 - d. In addition, faculty will submit the names of those students whose grades require adjustment and the precise change(s) that need to be made.
 - e. The Office of Admissions and Records will enter the grades on the students' records.
 - f. The foregoing does not apply to clinic courses, skills courses, seminars, supervised research, and other courses in which grades are based on observation and evaluation of students' performance or written work, or in which for other reasons anonymous grading is not practicable.

4. The numerical value to each letter grade per hour credit for purposes of computing grade point average (GPA) is as follows: A=4.00, B+=3.50, B=3.25, B-=3.00, C+=2.50, C=2.25, C-=2.00, D+=1.50, D=1.00, and F=0.00.
5. The Registrar shall record as a C any final grade of C- reported for a transient student enrolled in courses at the school and shall report the grade as a C to the student's home institution.
6. A faculty member shall not change a student's grade after submitting his or her final grades to the registrar except for a computational error or for a clerical error in recording the grade or to change a grade of Incomplete to a final letter grade. (Revised 12/14/04.)

B. EXCLUSION AND READMISSION

1. *Academic dismissal*
 - a. *General rule:* A student will be automatically dismissed from the school if either:
 - (1) After completing one semester of work at this school, the student's cumulative GPA is less than 1.50 in all courses taken at this school; or
 - (2) After completing two semesters of work at this school or any time thereafter, the student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) is less than 2.00 in all courses taken at this school.
 - b. *Exception for Student Readmitted:* A readmitted student will be automatically dismissed from the school if, after completing one semester of work following readmission or at any time thereafter, the student's cumulative GPA is less than 2.00 in all courses taken at this school.
 - c. *Effect of academic dismissal on student currently enrolled:* Dismissal of a student pursuant to subparagraph (1) shall take effect immediately. Immediate dismissal is required even if, at the time it is determined that dismissal is required, the student is enrolled in classes; and even if the student petitions for readmission. (Revised: 5/11/09)
2. *Eligibility to petition for readmission following academic dismissal:* A student dismissed for academic deficiency, who has not previously petitioned for readmission, may petition in writing for readmission within eighteen months from notice of dismissal, if either:
 - a. The student's cumulative GPA is 1.80 or higher; or
 - b. The student has completed only two semesters of law school work at this school and has earned at least a 2.25 GPA in either semester; or
 - c. The student has completed only one semester of law school work at this law school and the student's cumulative GPA is 1.30 or

higher. (Revised: 5/11/09)

3. *Standards for deciding readmissions petitions:* Readmission will be granted only if the student establishes both of the following:
 - a. The reasons for his or her inadequate performance have been resolved and will not interfere with the success of his or her studies in the future; and
 - b. It is reasonable to expect the petitioner to be an effective and ethical lawyer after graduation.
4. *Procedures for deciding re-admissions petitions.*
 - a. The petition will be granted or denied by the faculty Readmissions Committee before which the petitioner may personally appear.
 - b. If the committee denies the petition for readmission, the petitioner may have the committee's decision considered by the faculty on the basis of the faculty's knowledge of the petitioner and the petitioner's written submission.
 - c. To obtain faculty consideration of an adverse decision of the committee, the petitioner must deliver a written request for faculty consideration to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs within twenty-one days after the date of notification of the committee's decision.
 - (1) The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will notify the petitioner concerning the time in which additional materials may be submitted for faculty consideration.
 - (2) The petitioner may not, however, raise any issue before the faculty that was not previously raised before or considered by the committee.
 - d. If the petitioner does not make a timely request for faculty consideration of the committee's decision, or if the faculty denies readmission, denial of readmission is final, and no further petition will be entertained.
5. *Conditions of readmission. NOTE: This section applies to students who matriculated at the law school before August 2007.*
 - a. General Rule: Readmission will be on condition that the student begin his or her legal studies anew.
 - b. The student will receive no credit for courses completed, and grades earned will be disregarded in computing the student's GPA.
 - c. *Exception.* Notwithstanding the general rule for beginning legal studies anew,
 - (1) if a student earned at least 45 hours in semesters prior to the semester in which the student's GPA dropped below 2.0, the committee or the faculty, in their discretion, can readmit the student without requiring that the student begin his or her studies anew.
 - (2) In that case, the committee or the faculty can impose any

- other conditions on readmission that they deem appropriate.
- d. *Transfer student.* In the case of transfer students, the exception to the general rule for beginning legal studies anew stated above shall apply only if the student has earned at least ten hours at this school with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0.
 - e. If a readmitted student is required to begin his or her studies anew, the six-year period referred to in Rule II C 4 shall be deemed to commence when the student first enrolls following readmission. This subparagraph shall be effective retroactively.
6. *Conditions of readmission. NOTE: This section applies to students who matriculated at the law school during or after August 2007.*
- a. The following rules apply to students who are readmitted following academic dismissal pursuant to Academic Rule IV B 1:
 - (1) Readmission will be granted on condition that the student begin his or her legal studies anew.
 - (2) A readmitted student will receive no credit for courses completed prior to readmission, and grades previously earned will be disregarded in computing the student's GPA.
 - (3) A readmitted student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.25 or above. If at any time the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.25, the student will be dismissed and will not be eligible to petition for readmission.
 - (4) A readmitted student must complete at least six of the following seven courses prior to graduation: Business Associations, Commercial Paper Transactions, Criminal Procedure Pre-Trial Process, Decedents' Estates and Trusts, Family Law, Sales Transactions and Secured Transactions.
 - (5) A readmitted student must complete at least one of the following two courses prior to graduation: Conflict of Laws and Remedies.
 - (6) The Assistant Dean for Academic Support must approve a readmitted student's schedule in writing before the student can register for classes.
 - b. In the case of a student who is readmitted but who has not been academically dismissed pursuant to Academic Rule IV B 1, readmission will be on whatever terms the faculty Readmissions Committee deems appropriate.

C. RULES FOR TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LAW SCHOOL

- 1. Any student who withdraws prior to completing one academic year's work must file a new application for admission which will be considered pursuant to the then applicable admission policy.
- 2. The performance of an applicant who has attended law school is

- considered by the Admissions Committee in the admissions process.
3. A student who has completed only one semester of law school and who has been admitted to law school again, may, after admission, apply to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to receive credit for work previously completed.
 - a. The Associate Dean will base the decision to award credit upon the quality of the work completed and the length of time which has elapsed since its completion.
 - b. The Associate Dean will not award credit for
 - (1) Courses in which a grade of C- or lower was received, or for any course work completed more than two academic years before the year of admission.
 4. A student who has completed one academic year must petition the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for a leave of absence prior to withdrawal.
 - a. The student must show good cause for a leave of absence.
 - b. Upon a finding of good cause, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will grant a leave of absence of a specific duration, subject to any conditions stipulated by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
 - c. A student who withdraws without a leave of absence being granted will not be considered in good standing at the law school. Such a student must petition the Readmissions Committee for readmission.
 - d. Any leave of absence granted in accordance with the foregoing rules shall not in any way affect the rule that a candidate for the J.D. degree must complete course requirements for graduation within seven years of initial enrollment. (Revised: 5/11/09)

V. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

A. WAIVER OF RULES

1. Any provision of these Academic Rules can be waived or modified by the Dean or the Dean's designee (who may be an individual or a standing or ad hoc committee of the faculty) if the Dean or the Dean's designee determines that failure to waive or modify such provision would place the Law School in violation of law.
2. Before waiving or modifying any provision pursuant to section (a) of this Rule, the Dean or the Dean's designee should consult with any appropriate committee of the faculty (not including the student members of such committee), or with any appropriate ad hoc committee, to the extent such consultation is practicable and would not place the Law School in violation of law.
3. After waiving or modifying any provision of the Academic Rules pursuant to section (a) of this Rule, the Dean or the Dean's designee should notify

the faculty of any such waiver or modification, to the degree such notification can be given without placing the Law School in violation of law. For example, the faculty might be advised that a particular Academic Rule had been waived or modified without naming the student on whose behalf such waiver or modification was granted.

B. EFFECTIVE DATE

1. These rules shall go into effect on August 26, 2002.
2. Revisions to these rules will go into effect on the date of their approval by the faculty or on some other date as specified by the faculty.

Revised: 9/9/04, 12/14/04, 6/05/06, 3/13/07, 4/10/07, 3/11/08, 5/11/09

Appendix A

Required Curriculum - 90 Hours

Full-Time Division				Part-Time Division			
First Year				First Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester		Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Civil Procedure I	2	Civil Procedure II	3	Contracts I	3	Contracts II	3
Contracts I	3	Contracts II	3	Torts	4	Criminal Law	3
Legal Research I	1	Legal Research II	1	Legal Research I	1	Legal Research II	1
RWA I	2	RWA II	2	RWA I	2	RWA II	2
Property I	3	Property II	3			Legal Profession*	2
Torts	4	Criminal Law	3				
Total	15	Total	15	Total	10	Total	9-11
* May be deferred until a later semester							
Second Year				Second Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester		Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Lawyering Skills I	2	Lawyering Skills II	3	Civil Procedure I	2	Civil Procedure II	3
Constitutional Law	4	Legal Profession	2	Property I	3	Property II	3
Evidence	3	Electives	8-11	Constitutional Law	4	Elective	2-6
Electives	4-7			Elective	0-3		
Total	13-16	Total	13-16	Total	9-12	Total	8-12
Third Year				Third Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester		Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Electives	13-16	Electives	13-16	Lawyering Skills I	2	Lawyering Skills II	3
				Evidence	3	Electives	5-9
				Electives	3-7		
Total	13-16	Total	13-16	Total	8-12	Total	8-12
Fourth Year				Fourth Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester		Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
				Electives	8-12	Electives	8-12
				Total	8-12	Total	8-12

Appendix B

Upper Level Legal Writing Requirement Rules

The purpose of the upper level writing requirement is to have each student undertake at least one rigorous writing experience (in addition to RWA) prior to graduation. Though the focus of the requirement is writing skills, effective legal writing requires application of the broad spectrum of skills essential to effective lawyering generally. Thus, research, analytical and organizational skills are important components in the preparation of any quality product of legal writing. For this reason, the goal of the upper level writing requirement is to require each student to demonstrate his or her ability to apply each of these skills in producing one substantial, cohesive piece of legal writing prior to graduating from law school.

- (1) No required course shall be eligible to meet the upper level legal writing requirement.
- (2) The Curriculum Committee shall be responsible for determining whether a course (other than a required course) meets the upper level legal writing requirement.
- (3) The Curriculum Committee shall apply the following standards in determining whether a course or an individual writing project meets the upper level legal writing requirement.
 - a. The upper level legal writing requirement is satisfied by the completion of a paper, brief, casenote, or other piece of legal writing that combines writing, research, analytical and organizational skills into one written product of substance.
 - b. Though no hard and fast rule applies, a general guideline for measuring what constitutes a paper of substance is that it be approximately 20 typewritten pages long (double spaced), including footnotes.
 - c. There must be meaningful one-on-one consultation and critique between the student and the instructor. "Instructor" is construed broadly to include any person properly designated to supervise a student's completion of a writing project in accordance with these standards (e.g., professor, legal writing instructor, law journal staff.)
 - d. It is recommended (but not required) that the instructor require the student to submit an outline of the writing project prior to commencing the first draft, which the instructor should discuss with the student.
 - e. The student should be required to conduct at least one rewrite of the paper after critique by the instructor.
 - f. The upper level writing requirement may be satisfied by successfully

completing, in accordance with these guidelines: (i) a casenote of the UALR Law Journal; (ii) a brief for the course of Advanced Appellate Advocacy; (iii) Supervised Research; (iv) a paper for any class that has been approved by the Curriculum Committee as satisfying these standards; or (v) any other legal writing project undertaken in accordance with these standards in a course that does not otherwise meet the standards for satisfying the upper level writing requirement. (This standard is intended to permit flexibility in the manner in which the upper level writing requirement may be satisfied. Even if the Curriculum Committee should find that the Legal Clinic course, for example, does not meet the upper level writing requirement standard, it would permit a student who has written a qualified writing in connection with a case being handled by the Legal Clinic to apply to the Curriculum Committee for a determination that the qualified writing was prepared pursuant to these standards and, therefore, satisfied the upper level writing requirement.)

- g. Any instructor wishing to designate his or her class as one satisfying the upper level writing requirement must first obtain authorization from the Curriculum Committee. Authorization shall be given only if the Curriculum Committee determines that the writing requirements of the class meet these standards.

Appendix C - Policy and Perspectives Requirement

Each student is required to take at least one course from selections designated by the Law Faculty or the Curriculum Committee which are grounded in jurisprudential, historical, and public policy concepts. Courses are so designated based on subject matter which requires the student to consider factors which govern the development of legal doctrine, rather than simply the application of doctrine in the solution of problems or regulation of the activities of a community governed by principles of law. Conflict of Laws; Introduction to International Law (if taken with another International Law course); Jurisprudence; Law and Economics Seminar; Law and Literature; Law and Religion; Legal History; Public International Law; Race and the Criminal Justice System Seminar; and Tax Policy have been designated as fulfilling this requirement. Other courses satisfying this requirement may be designated each semester by the Curriculum Committee.