

SCHOOL OF LAW

Office of Vice Dean



March 30, 2015

To: Tim Scott, Chair
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Mark Zoran, Chair
Graduate Council

From: Aric Short, Vice Dean and Professor
Texas A&M University School of Law

Aric Short

Approved by GC:

[Signature]
6-19-15

Ann Kenimer, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies

Re: Special Consideration, 3+3 Bachelor's/JD Program

Texas A&M University School of Law proposes a 3+3 educational program that would allow qualified Texas A&M University undergraduates the opportunity for early admission and expedited professional degree completion. The proposed framework would allow students to satisfy up to one quarter of their required undergraduate credit hours by successfully completing professional-level coursework at the School of Law. Applicability of professional-level coursework to undergraduate degree requirements will be at the discretion of the student's undergraduate college. At a minimum, students would complete 180 credit hours of coursework for both degrees. Because the proposed program requires a good deal of flexibility in the undergraduate curriculum, it may not be applicable to all undergraduate majors. However, we believe that high-achieving students across many majors will be able to take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

The attached proposal addresses completion of core curriculum and graduation requirements, the application process, grade requirements, and timelines for awarding degrees.

**Texas A&M University
Proposed 3+3 Bachelor's / JD Program
Proposed Framework**

1. Prior to enrolling in the School of Law, students must have completed at least 75% of their required undergraduate credit hours plus all undergraduate degree requirements that cannot be fulfilled through completion of coursework offered by the School of Law. Upon successful completion of the first year of coursework required of full-time students at the School of Law (or at whatever later point students successfully complete at the School of Law the required number of credit hours remaining for their undergraduate degree), 3+3 students will be awarded their bachelor's degree. Those equivalent credit hours will also count toward the 90 hours that students must earn for their Juris Doctor degree.

2. Credit for advanced placement, transfer, and dual credit courses are subject to the approval of each student's undergraduate degree program. Students must complete the core curriculum requirements, thirty-six upper-level credit hours to satisfy university residency requirements (at least twelve upper-level credit hours must be in the major), and all additional graduation requirements published in their undergraduate catalog.

3. Student Application Process
 - a) Student should meet with pre-law advisor at Texas A&M University as soon as possible (at the latest by the completion of sixty acceptable degree program credit hours).

 - b) Student must meet with academic advisor at Texas A&M University no later than completion of sixty acceptable credit hours and must prepare a tentative degree plan for entry into the 3+3 program (all core curriculum hours, credit hours required to satisfy residency and major requirements, and graduation requirements to be included).

 - c) After completing between forty-five and sixty hours of credit, student
 - 1) prepares for LSAT, takes test, and applies to the School of Law or

 - 2) applies to the School of Law through the "10% Rule." The 10% Rule is a new American Bar Association Standard that allows a law school to admit up to 10% of its incoming class from its home institution without requiring those students to

take the LSAT. In particular, the 10% Rule requires the following:

- i. Student must have scored at or above the 85th percentile on the ACT or SAT; and
 - ii. Student must be ranked in the top 10% of their undergraduate class through six semesters of academic work or have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above through six semesters of academic work.
- d) Fall of the junior year (having completed approximately sixty credit hours): Student applies for admission to the School of Law through the normal law school admissions process.
- e) Fall/Spring of the junior year: School of Law admissions office interviews selected applicants and makes a decision on whether to accept or deny each applicant.
- f) Successful applicants begin law school in the fall of the accepted year.

4. Grade Point Requirements

- a) Students applying through the 3+3 program must have an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.25. Each student is allowed one semester of grades below a 3.25.
- b) If a student requests to be considered for the 10% Rule, that student must have attained a 3.5 (or above) grade point average through six semesters at the time of application. A student requesting to be considered for the 10% rule must maintain a 3.5 grade point average on all coursework completed before entering the School of Law.

5. All students applying through the 3+3 program must complete normal procedures required by the School of Law for admission (including application, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and LSAT [if applicable]). In addition, those students must interview with the School of Law during the application process and submit secondary application materials designed for prospective 3+3 students.
6. The decision of whether to admit a student to the School of Law, including any student who has applied to or been accepted into any 3+3 program at the undergraduate level, rests exclusively with the School of Law.

AWARDING OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE TIMELINE

Students entering law school through the 3+3 program must enroll at the School of Law on a full-time basis. Their undergraduate degree will be awarded after successful completion of all coursework required for full-time, first-year law students at the TAMU School of Law (or at whatever later point students successfully complete at the School of Law the required number of credit hours remaining for their undergraduate degree), and successful completion of all undergraduate degree and graduation requirements at TAMU.

The student will be responsible for initiating graduation procedures with the Office of the Registrar to verify completion of degree requirements. The participating undergraduate department or program will complete the required degree audit, approve the necessary substitutions, and clear the student to graduate. Students accepted into the 3+3 program will be able to graduate after completion of all of their undergraduate degree and graduation requirements at TAMU, but no earlier than completion of the required first-year full-time coursework at Texas A&M University School of Law.

Texas A&M University School of Law
Lockstep Courses for Full-Time 1L Students
2014-2015

I. Overview

Law students enrolled on a full-time basis take a total of 29 credit hours in their first year of study: 14 in the fall and 15 in the spring. All students take the following foundational courses in the prescribed fall/spring order.

Fall

- Criminal Law (4 credit hours)
- Torts (4 credit hours)
- Legislation and Regulation (3 credit hours)
- Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing I (3 credit hours)

Spring

- Civil Procedure (4 credit hours)
- Contracts (4 credit hours)
- Property (4 credit hours)
- Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing II (3 credit hours)

Additional information about the law school's course of study, as well as its academic rules, can be found at http://law.tamu.edu/Portals/0/docs/ProgramsPolicies/2014-15_Programs_Policies_v3_28Oct14.pdf.

II. Course Descriptions

Criminal Law (LAW-7021)

An inquiry into the sources and goals of criminal law, the concepts of actus reus and mens rea, characteristics of specific offenses, inchoate crimes, accomplice liability, and general defenses.

Torts (LAW-7042)

A study of the basic principles of civil liability for harm to persons or property. Topics include intentional torts, negligence, strict liability, defenses, and damages. Additional topics may be included.

Legislation & Regulation (LAW-7418)

An introduction to the role of statutes and administrative regulations in the practice of law, including their creation, amendment, and interpretation. Students will explore such topics as the interpretive and lawmaking roles of the three branches of government; statutory interpretation; delegation and administrative agency

practice; and regulatory governance. The course is a building block for courses in legislation, administrative law, constitutional law, and a wide range of specialized courses that rely on statutory and regulatory law, including bankruptcy, commercial law, environmental law, intellectual property, securities regulation, and tax law.

Legal Analysis, Research & Writing I and II (LAW-7001 and LAW-7002)

A study of analysis, research, and writing skills essential to the solution of legal problems and the practice of law. Analytical skills, essential for all of law school and law practice, are covered throughout each course. Students learn the methods of legal research through hands-on library experience. Students will write at least two legal memoranda and a trial brief in the first year.

Civil Procedure (LAW-7005)

A study of the rules and doctrines that define the process of civil litigation in American courts, with primary emphasis on the U.S. Constitution, the federal judicial code, and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The course may cover topics such as the jurisdiction and competence of courts, conflicts between state and federal law, pleading, discovery, joinder of claims and parties, disposition without trial, trial and post-trial process, appellate review, and the effects of judgment.

Contracts (LAW-7017)

A study of the enforceability of promises, the creation of contractual obligations, performance and breach, the impact of the contract on the legal relationships of nonparties, and the examination of contract doctrine in three settings: personal service, sales of goods, and construction contracts.

Property (LAW-7032)

An introduction to personal property and real property laws, including estates and future interests in land, landlord-tenant problems, and issues relating to private and public land use.