Law and Economics Program
Requirements

Updated: July 20, 2017
The Goal

• The most important endeavor you will take on in Program study is becoming an independent researcher.
Residency

- For joint-degree students, you will have 5 semesters of residency in the Law School. All other semesters will be in the Graduate School. Your last 2 semesters are referred to as in-residence only, signifying no coursework. You should not take any courses in your dissertation year.

- This refers to where tuition is paid by your fellowship awards. This does not relate to the courses that you will take except in years 1 & 2 (core years).
Funding

• The joint-degree program is designed to be completed in 6 years. The Ph.D.-only program is designed to be completed in 4 years.

• Ideally, students should be admitted to candidacy in the first semester of year 5 (and no later than the second semester of year 5).

• Ph.D.-only students will ideally be admitted to candidacy in the first semester of year 3.
Satisfactory Progress for Funding

• With each semester, continued funding is contingent on satisfactory progress toward the degree(s).

• Satisfactory progress means:
  ▫ Earning at minimum a 3.0 in all coursework
  ▫ Meeting the progress markers listed in the Law and Economics Student Handbook (refer to slides 6-8)
Satisfactory Progress for Funding

For joint-degree students:

- 2nd semester: complete first-year Ph.D. core, pass the preliminary examination

- 4th semester: complete the first-year J.D. core

- 6th semester: complete the Ph.D. research paper requirement in LWEC 8406

- 8th semester: complete most coursework for both degrees; substantial work toward dissertation proposal
Satisfactory Progress for Funding Continued

- 10th semester: complete all coursework for both degrees, have Ph.D. committee appointed, submit dissertation proposal, pass oral qualifying examination, admission to candidacy for the Ph.D.

- 12th semester: pass final defense of the dissertation, submit dissertation, graduate

- Refer to the Admission to Candidacy and the Dissertation: Requirements slideshow
Satisfactory Progress for Funding

- For Ph.D.-only students:
  - 2\textsuperscript{nd} semester: complete first-year Ph.D. core and pass the preliminary examination
  - 4th semester: complete the Ph.D. research paper requirement in LWEC 8406
  - 6th semester: complete all coursework for the Ph.D., have Ph.D. committee appointed, submit dissertation proposal, pass oral qualifying examination, admission to candidacy for the Ph.D.
  - 8th semester: pass final defense of the dissertation, submit dissertation, graduate
Overview of Ph.D. Requirements

• 72 hours of Ph.D. study, including:
  ▫ a minimum of 48 hours of formal coursework
  ▫ 6 hours (2 semesters) of LWEC 8490: Ph.D. Workshop
  ▫ 12 LAW credit hours will count toward your Ph.D.
    (the program manager must submit Request for Graduate Credit forms)
  ▫ up to 6 hours of LWEC 8999: Non-Candidate Research and LWEC 9999: Dissertation Research

• A minimum GPA of 3.0 in all coursework is required for graduation.
Formal Coursework for the Ph.D.

- Formal, didactic courses are all of your graduate courses except LWEC 8490: Ph.D. Workshop, LWEC 8349: Readings in Law and Economics, LWEC 8999: Non-Candidate Research, and LWEC 9999: Dissertation Research.

- The formal coursework requirement includes:
  - 30 hours of required core courses
  - 12 hours of field courses in 2 of the 3 approved fields in law and economics
  - A minimum of 6 hours in elective graduate courses
Required Core Courses for the Ph.D.

- LWEC 8401 Law and Economics Theory I (3)
- LWEC 8402 Law and Economics Theory II (3)
- LWEC 8403 Behavioral Law and Economics I (3)
- LWEC 8405 Econometrics for Legal Research (3)
- LWEC 8406 Research in Law and Economics (3)
- ECON 8000 Mathematics for Economists (3)
- ECON 8100 Microeconomic Theory I (3)
- ECON 8110 Microeconomic Theory II (3)
- ECON 8300 Statistical Analysis (3)
- ECON 8310 Econometrics I (3)

TOTAL 30 hours
Preliminary Examination

• Each year in late May, the law and economics program administers the preliminary examination for students who have just completed the first-year Ph.D. core.

• If the student does not pass the preliminary examination, he or she will not be considered to be making satisfactory progress, which may have implications for funding.

• Students will be given a maximum of 2 attempts to pass the preliminary examination.
Field Requirements

- 2 fields
- 6 hours of graduate coursework in each field
- 5-6 hours per field of related courses that are not LWEC courses (paired law courses)
- Maintain a 3.0 in all field courses

Related courses should be primarily law courses, but with DGS and Co-Director approval, other relevant courses may be paired with the graduate field courses.
Fields

• The 3 approved law and economics fields are:
  ▫ Behavioral law and economics
  ▫ Labor markets and human resources
  ▫ Risk and environmental regulation

• In some circumstances, and with DGS and Co-Director approval, students may develop a new field.

• Economics fields may meet law and economics program requirements with DGS and Co-Director approval.
Taking Professional Courses for Graduate Credit

• With DGS and Co-Director approval, you may take a professional course for graduate credit. The instructor must give written approval and agree to give you extra assignments that will bring the class to the graduate level.

• After DGS approval the form is submitted to the graduate school for credit(s) to apply in YES.
REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO RECEIVE GRADUATE CREDIT FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL OR PROFESSIONAL COURSE

Student's Name ___________________________ Date ____________

(Last, First & Middle)

Student's VU ID ___________________________ Semester ____________

Print Name of Instructor ___________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course (Dept.) Prefix</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Section Number</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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Describe why you need to take this course as a part of your graduate program:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

List the assignments you must complete which are in addition to the work assigned to the undergraduate or professional student:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Student ___________________________ Date ____________

Signature of Instructor ___________________________ Date ____________

Signature of Director of Graduate Studies ___________________________ Date ____________

Return completed form to the Graduate School, 117 Alumni Hall, no later than the tenth day of classes (the end of the change-of-course period).
Courses not in economics or law and economics

You should obtain approval from the DGS before enrolling in a graduate course that is outside of economics or law and economics.
Field: Behavioral Law and Economics

NOTE: LWEC 8403: Behavioral Law and Economics I (3) is a required core course, not a field course.

To complete a field in Behavioral, take:
• LWEC 8404: Behavioral Law and Economics II (3)

Take one related graduate school course such as:
• PSY 8310: Research Methods in Clinical Psychology (3)
• PSY-GS 8360: Human Cognition (3)
• PSY-GS 8480: Educational Neuroscience (3)
Example: Behavioral Law and Economics

Here is an example of a completed field in Behavioral Law and Economics:

- LWEC 8404: Behavioral Law and Economics II (3)
- PSY 8744: Seminar in Neuroscience (3)
- LAW 8000: Actual Innocence (3)
- LAW 9088: Law and the Emotions Seminar (3)
Example: Risk and Environmental Regulation

Here is an example of a completed field in Risk and Environmental Regulation:

• LWEC 8430: Risk and Environmental Regulation I (3)
• LWEC 8431: Risk and Environmental Regulation II (3)
• LAW 7000: Administrative Law (3)
• LAW 7184: Environmental Law I (3-4)
Example: Labor and Human Resources

Here is an example of a completed field in Labor and Human Resources:

- LWEC 8420: Labor and Human Resources I (3)
- LWEC 8421: Labor and Human Resources II (3)
- LAW 7164: Employment Discrimination Law (3)
- LAW 7168: Employment Law (3)
LWEC 8406: Research in Law and Economics

• Joint-degree students are required to complete an original research paper in their third year.

• The timing of this original research paper for Ph.D.-only students will be determined by the DGS.

• The paper is developed within LWEC 8406: Research in Law and Economics.
LWEC 8406: Research in Law and Economics

- There are two options for the paper:
  - The paper may pose an original research question, including an explanation of the methods, model, and data that will be used in the investigation.
  - The paper may be a replication of an existing empirical result, containing details of the research methods and trying to account for any differences in findings.

- This paper is an opportunity to prepare for the dissertation research and proposal.
LWEC 8490: Ph.D. Workshop

- 2 semesters of Ph.D. Workshop are required.

- LWEC 8490: Ph.D. Workshop is usually taken for credit in both year 4 and year 5. You will be expected to attend some Ph.D. Workshops in all years of your program.

- Requires attending all Program seminars/lunch talks.
Work Responsibilities

- Students who are not in the first year of Ph.D. study and the first year of J.D. study, are required to work up to 20 hours per week as research assistants for program faculty.

- Any student participating in an editorial role for a law review must continue to meet the work responsibilities of the program, although a reduced load of 10 hours per week is available to students currently staffing the Vanderbilt Law Review or with senior editorial responsibilities on another Vanderbilt-sponsored law review.

- NOTE: Your stipend is still designated SFS for tax purposes.
Summer Work

• You do not receive a monthly stipend during the summer. You may work in outside employment or on research projects with Program or other Vanderbilt faculty.

• You should work on your independent research throughout all summers after the 2nd year if you are joint-degree and after the 1st year if you are Ph.D.-only.
Clerkships

• Your timing of applying for clerkships is different than for J.D.-only students. Please attend the Clerkship information sessions and meet with Professor Michael Bressman to plan ahead.
Coauthoring

- Remember that no part of your dissertation can be coauthored. You may have opportunities to coauthor papers with Program or other Vanderbilt professors. Producing a quality dissertation will take all of your time.
Overview of J.D. Requirements

• 76 hours of J.D. study (88 are required; 12 of your Ph.D. hours will double-count toward your J.D. if degrees are conferred at the same time), including:
  ▫ 31-32 hours of required first-year J.D. core courses
  ▫ LAW 7078: Constitutional Law I (3)
  ▫ LAW 7600: Professional Responsibility (3)
  ▫ Experiential learning requirement (6)*
  ▫ Writing requirement (seminar paper) (3)

*See Law School Handbook for list of experiential learning courses.
Overview of J.D. Requirements

• The remainder of your J.D. hours will come from paired law courses for your graduate fields and electives.

• Program students must maintain a 3.0 average in J.D. classes.

• You may receive a maximum of 5 extracurricular credit hours. NOTE: YES does not recognize this limit.

• Published Notes for Law Review and ELPAR credits are for academic credit.

• Regular Law Review credits and Moot Court credits are for extracurricular credit.
Order of the Coif

- 66 hours of graded J.D. credits are needed in order to be eligible for nomination to the Order of the Coif after graduation.
First-Year J.D. Core

- LAW 6010: Civil Procedure (4)
- LAW 6020: Contracts (4)
- LAW 6030: Criminal Law (3)
- LAW 6040: Legal Writing I (2)
- LAW 6050: Legal Writing II (2)
- LAW 6060: Life of the Law (1)
- LAW 6070: Property (4)
- LAW 6080: Regulatory State (4)
- LAW 6090: Torts (4)
- LAW elective (3-4)

TOTAL: 31-32 hours
Transferring Credits

• 12 hours of LAW credits will count toward the Ph.D. for all joint-degree students. The program manager will submit a Request for Transfer Credit form to the Graduate School Registrar in the Spring of year 5 for all 5th year students.

• 12 hours of GRAD credits will count toward the J.D. for all joint-degree students. The program manager will work with Dean Pavlick to initiate this transfer in the Spring of year 6 for all 6th year students.
Admission to Candidacy, the Dissertation, and Graduation

Refer to the Admission to Candidacy and the Dissertation: Requirements slideshow.