

# Course Selection: Many Goals

- Course selection meets many purposes, and students must try to balance them.
  - Many courses meet more than one important goal
1. Graduation requirements and pre-requisites
  2. Bar-tested subjects
  3. Courses that help you build knowledge and/or skills in areas of practice you wish to pursue or explore
  4. X-Factor classes: subject matter you are passionate about but in an area where you may not practice; or classes taught by an outstanding teacher

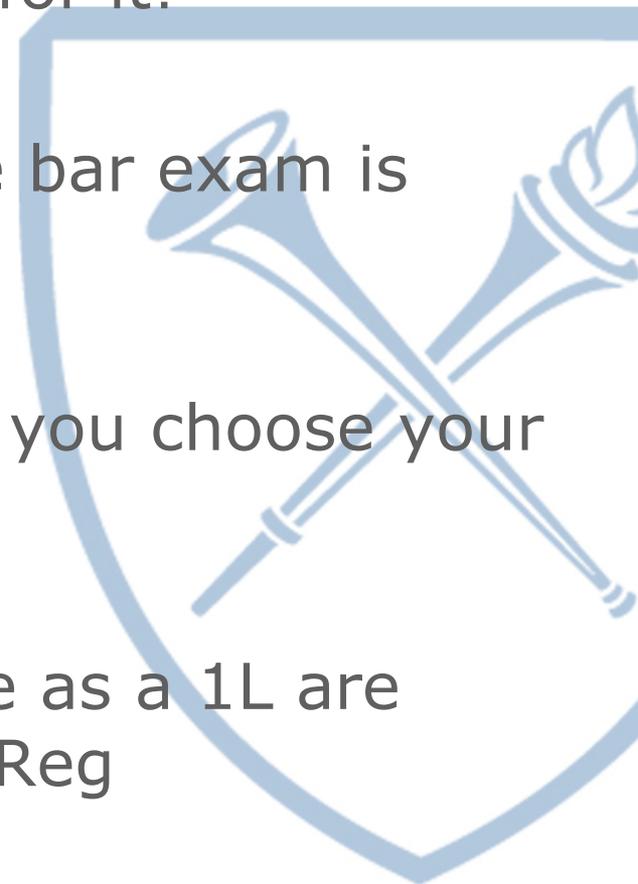
All are important and valid goals. Try to balance!

# Course Selection: Requirements

- The specific requirements for your degree program are detailed in the online Student Handbook.
- If you pursue an optional program like the Transactional Law Certificate, or the TI:GER program, their additional requirements are listed on the law school website on their specific webpages.
- You can get to all of those here: [Experiential and Practical Training](#), under Academics at law.emory.edu
- You must earn at least 6 experiential learning credits

# Course Selection and Bar Readiness

- Don't fear the bar exam – prepare for it!
- Part of preparing to succeed on the bar exam is careful course selection
- This starts when you are a 1L, and you choose your one Spring elective
- All the other courses you must take as a 1L are tested on the bar exam except LegReg
- Bar readiness is one factor to consider



# Course Selection and Bar Readiness

- For overall information about the bar exam, go to:
- [Office of Academic Engagement: Bar Readiness](#)  
(law.emory.edu, >Academics, >Academic Support)
- For a JD/AJD Checklist for graduation and bar readiness, go to:
- [Office of Academic Engagement: Course Selection](#)
- Spring 2021 electives open to 1Ls that cover bar-tested subjects:
- Business Associations
- Evidence
- Family Law

# Course Selection: Spring 1L Electives

Other spring electives open to 1Ls, not bar-tested:

- Administrative Law
  - Environmental Law
  - Intellectual Property
  - Law & Economics
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- Important for different reasons, as pre-requisites for other upper-level courses, or as related to your preferred practice area



# Course Selection and Practice Areas

- As a 1L, many of you may not yet know which practice area will interest you the most – that’s okay!
- Start exploring: [Practice Areas & Practice Societies](http://law.emory.edu/Career_Center/Practice_Societies) (law.emory.edu>Career Center>Practice Societies)
- Link on right side offers “Practice-Focused Academic Guidance”; describes 20 practice areas, their settings, the skills needed, the faculty and courses in that area
- You can explore course descriptions online, and make appointments to meet with faculty to ask questions
- You can also talk with Dean’s Teaching Fellows, and/or upperlevel students in the Practice Societies

# Course Selection and Bar Readiness Sequence

## 1L year:

- Focus on mastery of foundational subjects; think about bar-tested electives but also other options
- Pay close attention to analytical skills you learn in ILARC and ILA; you'll need to keep them strong

## 2L year:

- Become more familiar with the bar exam and admission process; start thinking about jurisdictions
- Average two bar-tested subjects per semester
- Link bar-tested courses with your practice area(s)

## 3L or final year:

- Decide bar jurisdiction; get familiar with its requirements; manage your bar process all year

# Straight Talk about Bar Readiness

- Don't fear the bar exam – prepare for it!
- Success on the bar exam is all about attitude, not aptitude. Sweat equity – your time and effort, which YOU control – dictates the outcomes in most cases
- Different stages of planning depending on where you are in your law school journey
- 1Ls only need to think about bar readiness in terms of choosing a Spring elective and, most importantly, mastering the foundational subject matter of the 1L curriculum. All tested on the MBE part of the bar

# Straight Talk about Bar Readiness

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- Success on the bar exam is all about attitude, not aptitude. Sweat equity – your time and effort, which YOU control – dictates the outcomes in most cases
- Different stages of planning depending on where you are in your law school journey
- 2Ls should continue building on that foundation, but also address any lack of understanding they may have in those foundational courses, as the rest of law school AND the bar exam will build on them

# Straight Talk About Bar Readiness

- Our analysis of Emory Law's bar passage rates over the last couple of years tells us that if you are an Emory JD student who graduates with a cumulative law school GPA below 3.2, regardless of LSAT or undergraduate GPA, you are at some risk of not passing the bar the first time you take it.
- If your final Emory Law GPA is below 3.05, you are at higher risk of a poor outcome on the bar. Law school GPA is not the only risk factor an individual student might have; others are described in the book "Pass The Bar!" by Riebe and Schwartz; highly recommended. It offers specific solutions.

# Straight Talk About Bar Readiness

## **RISK IS NOT DESTINY!**

- Every year, we work with Emory Law students with various risk factors who work hard to address them, who invest the time and effort to understand where they need work, who persist and pass the bar on their first attempt. This is something you can control!
- What can 2Ls do? Reinforce your understanding!
- Use the West Academic Assessment subscription to review material you had as a 1L; each subject has a comprehensive practice review with questions, answers, explanations. Info is on The Fourth Floor.

# Straight Talk About Bar Readiness

What can 2Ls AND 3Ls or other graduating students do?

- Course selection: we recommend taking eight upperlevel courses that cover bar subjects by the time you graduate, an average of two each semester.
- Some of those courses are also graduation requirements, like Evidence and Legal Profession
- Some are pre-requisites for other courses, like Contract Drafting or Family Law
- Some are continuations of 1L material, like Complex Litigation, Constitutional Criminal Procedure, Real Estate Finance
- Some are offered only in Fall, or only in Spring
- Start reading “Emory Law Bar Readiness” blog

# Straight Talk About Bar Readiness

What can 3Ls or other graduating students do?

- Confirm what subjects your chosen bar jurisdiction might test on its exam. If you're not sure, assume you'll take the UBE and prepare for that.
- Course selection: count up how many upperlevel courses that cover bar subjects you have taken; use your last Spring semester to fill any gaps
- Research commercial bar review courses; choose now
- Start using that course's early start materials during long winter break

# Straight Talk About Bar Readiness

What can 3Ls or other graduating students do?

- Get a copy of “Pass The Bar!” and follow its action plan checklists; the first one covers the period 6-12 months before you will start a post-graduation course
- Continue rigorous and productive self-assessment, using the West Academic Assessment materials now and over the long winter break
- The more time you give yourself, the more you can stretch out the learning; spaced repetition works

# Other Considerations for Course Selection

- Stay on top of requirements for optional programs like the Transactional Law Certificate; confer often with the directors/academic advisers of that program
- Remember to fulfill your upperlevel writing requirement if you aren't already in process via a journal, seminar, or directed research
- Consider taking Legal Profession in the same semester when you plan to take the MPRE (Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam), which is offered several times a year (see [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org)), to save some time and effort

# Other Considerations for Course Selection

- Don't be afraid to explore; you're at a great law school at a top university, with great faculty
- X-factor courses might include subject matter that you expect might be a focus of volunteer or pro bono work, during or after law school, even if not the area in which you will practice primarily for pay, or topics that pose important intellectual challenges
- Examples: Access to Justice, Child Law & Policy, Critical Race Theory, Environmental Law, Immigration Law, International Human Rights, Juvenile Defender Clinic – many options!

# Questions?

