

UMass Law Curriculum – Full-Time Program and Sequencing
(effective as of fall 2025 for students matriculating before 2023¹)

First Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Law 545 Civil Procedure I	3	Law 546 Civil Procedure II	3
Law 540 Contracts I	3	Law 541 Contracts II	3
Law 510 Legal Skills I	3	Law 511 Legal Skills II	3
Law 530 Property I	3	Law 531 Property II	3
Law 515 Torts I	3	Law 516 Torts II	3
Law 500 Academic Skills Lab			
Total Credits	15	Total Credits	15
Second Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Law 555 Constitutional Law I	3	Law 556 Constitutional Law II	3
Law 520 Criminal Law	3	Law 521 Criminal Procedure ²	3
Law 512 Legal Skills III	3	Law 576 Evidence or Elective	3
Law 525 Professional Responsibility or Elective	3	Remaining requirements and electives	4-7
Law 576 Evidence or Elective	2-4		
Total Credits	14-16	Total Credits	13-16
Third Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Remaining requirements and electives	13-16	Law 694 Bar Preparation	3
		Remaining requirements and electives	10-13
Total Credits	13-16	Total Credits	13-16

Graduation Requirements (as modified by the faculty effective in fall 2025):

You must earn passing grades in 90 credits, earn grades of D+ or higher in all required courses (see the listing of required courses below), and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.3 or higher.

You must take Law 694 Bar Preparation in your final semester.

You must complete the 30-hour Pro Bono Requirement (see [Pro Bono Requirement](#)).

When choosing electives, remember that you must complete the following (see details on the next page):

- Foundation Distribution -- 6 credits
- Practice Distribution -- 6 credits (at least three must be a Clinic or Field Placement course)
- Upper Level Writing Requirement -- 2 credits

¹ Adjusted to reflect graduation requirement reductions to take effect in fall 2025.

² Law 520 Criminal Law was required at the time of matriculation but now counts toward the Foundation distribution.

UMass Law Juris Doctor Degree Checklist

Curriculum Requirements

1. Core Required Courses: Required Credits: (varies)

Earned Credits: _____

___ Law 500 Acad. Skills Lab (0cr)	___ Law 510 Legal Skills I (3cr)	___ Law 555 Con Law I (3cr)
___ Law 515 & 516 Torts I & II (6cr) OR ___ Law 503 Torts (4cr)	___ Law 511 Legal Skills II (3cr)	___ Law 556 Con Law II (3cr)
___ Law 530 & 531 Property I & II (6cr) OR ___ Law 504 Property (4cr)	___ Law 512 Legal Skills III (3cr)	___ Law 576 Evidence (3cr)
___ Law 545 & 546 Civ Pro I & II (6cr) OR ___ Law 505 Civ Pro (4cr)	___ Law 520 Criminal Law (3cr)	___ Law 694 Bar Prep. (3cr)
___ Law 540 & 541 Contracts I & II OR ___ Law 506 Contracts (4cr)	___ Law 525 Prof. Resp. (3cr)	

2. Distribution Requirements: Required Credits: 14

Earned Credits: _____



Foundation Distribution – Minimum 6 Credits:		
___ Law 521 Crim Pro. (3cr)	___ Law 580 Trusts & Estates (4cr)	___ Law 613 Fed. Income Tax (4cr)
___ Law 560 Admin. Law (3cr)	___ Law 585 Business Orgs. (3cr)	___ Law 615 Secured Trans. (3cr)
___ Law 565 Payment Sys. (3cr)	___ Law 611 Consumer Bankr. (3cr)	___ Law 658 Family Law (3cr)
___ Law 566 Sales Law (3cr)		
Practice Distribution – Minimum 6 Credits (including at least 3 in a Clinic or Field Placement):		
Clinical		
___ *Law 601 Mashpee Clinic (3cr)	___ Law 692 Adv. Comm. Dev. Clinic (3cr)	___ *Law 730 Housing & Evic. Def. Cl. (3cr)
___ Law 606 Immigration Law Clinic (6cr)	___ *Law 703 Crim. Prosecution Clinic (3cr)	___ *Law 731 State AG Clinic (5cr)
___ Law 640 Community Dev. Clinic (3cr)	___ Law 708 Hum. Rts. at Home Cl. (3-6cr)	
___ Law 667 Adv. Immig. Law Clinic (6cr)	___ Law 709 Adv. HRAH Clinic (3-6cr)	
Field Placement		
___ *Law 639 Field Placement (3-4cr)	___ *Law 693 Adv. Field Placement (3-4cr)	___ *Law 723 Legislative Practicum (3cr)
Simulation		
___ Law 620 Trial Practice (3cr)	___ Law 681 Real Estate Transactions (3cr)	___ Law 732 Adv. Evidence and Advoc. (3cr)
___ Law 621 Alt. Disp. Res. Pract. (3cr)	___ Law 701 Mass. Probate Practice (3cr)	___ Law 734 Zealous Advoc. - Crim. Cts. (3cr)
___ Law 629 Appellate Advocacy (3cr)	___ Law 702 Criminal Motion Practice (3cr)	___ Law 738 Mental Health Litigation (3cr)
___ Law 634 Mass. Workers' Comp. (3cr)	___ Law 705 Family Law Practice (3cr)	
___ Law 672 Resid. Landlord-Ten. Pract. (3cr)	___ **Law 710 Transac. Draft. (online/hybrid) (3cr)	
Upper-Level Writing Requirement – Minimum 2 Credits:		
___ Law 695 Independent Legal Research* (20 pages for 2 credits; 30 pages for 3 credits)		
___ Any course listed on the class schedule as eligible to satisfy the ULWR (2-3cr)		
<p>*As a condition for graduation, a student may not earn more than 25 credits of instruction in these courses for the J.D. completion. (Course work completed in another department or university as part of a joint degree program counts in the 25 credits of instruction.)</p> <p>**Students may not earn more than 10 credits in distance (online) education courses during their first 30 credits of J.D. study. Students may earn not more than 30 credits in distance (online) education courses during their entire J.D. program.</p>		

3. Electives:

Earned Credits: _____

Course #	Course Name	Credits

TOTAL CREDITS EARNED: _____
(go credits required)

4. Pro Bono Requirement  See Pro Bono Program web page	5. Graduation Requirements  See Student Handbook Section 24
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