

J.D. Student Guide to the Civil Law Studies Certificate and the Louisiana Bar Exam

Civil Law Certificate

In total, students are required to complete courses totaling at least 15 hours from the following:

Required Course - Students are required to complete the following course:

- **LAW 707, Civil Law Obligations, 3 hours** (strongly encouraged to take in your 2L Fall semester, offered every Fall semester)
 - Offered in two separate sections: “In-Person” and “Asynchronous”^{***}

^{***} The asynchronous version of this course counts against a student’s maximum number of distance-learning hours permitted within the J.D. Program. The MC Law Catalog provides: “A student may take a total of fifteen (15) credit hours through distance education courses. In exceptional circumstances the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may give a student permission to exceed 15 credit hours in distance education courses, but no student may take more than 30 credit hours in distance education courses.” p. 32, 2024-25 Catalog.

Students are required to complete courses totaling at least 12 hours from the following:

Civil Law “Core” Electives –

- **LAW 708, Civil Law of Persons and Family**, 3 hours (Fall 2025)
- **LAW 709, Civil Law of Successions and Donations**, 3 hours (Spring 2026)
- **LAW 711, Civil Law Property**, 3 hours (Spring 2027)
- **LAW 713, Louisiana Security Devices**, 3 hours (Spring 2027)
- **LAW 717, Louisiana Civil Procedure**, 3 hours (Fall 2025)
 - Offered in two separate sections: “In-Person” and “Asynchronous” ***
- **LAW 718, Civil Law Matrimonial Regimes**, 2 hours (Fall 2026)
- **LAW 735, Civil Law Sales and Leases**, 3 hours (Spring 2026)

Civil Law “Restricted” Electives – Students may take a maximum of one course from the following to count towards their required “Core” Electives (12) hours:

- **LAW 521, Comparative Law**, 2-3 hours (tentatively Spring 2026) (also may be offered through Mexico Study Abroad Program)
- **LAW 736, Louisiana Mineral Law**, 2-3 hours (Fall 2026)
- **LAW 746, Contemporary Issues in Civil Law Seminar**, 3 hours (Spring 2027, also satisfies Upper-Level Writing Requirement)

*** The asynchronous version of this course counts against a student’s maximum number of distance-learning hours permitted within the J.D. Program. The MC Law Catalog provides: “A student may take a total of fifteen (15) credit hours through distance education courses. In exceptional circumstances the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may give a student permission to exceed 15 credit hours in distance education courses, but no student may take more than 30 credit hours in distance education courses.” p. 32, 2024-25 Catalog.

You must receive at least a C in each course counted toward the certificate.

If you are pursuing the certificate, prior to graduation, you must visit <https://law.mc.edu/academics/jd-program/certificate-programs> and <https://law.mc.edu/academics/jd-program/certificate-programs/certificate-civil-law-studies> to complete the worksheet at the bottom of the page before graduation. Ask Professor McIntosh and/or Professor Hernandez any questions you may have.

A total of 15 credits is required for the certificate, as outlined above. However, you should take as many of the courses that will be tested on the Louisiana Bar exam as your schedule permits. You should consult Professor McIntosh and/or Professor Hernandez as you consider your course schedule in connection with preparing for the Louisiana Bar Exam.

LAW 777 - Louisiana Advanced Legal Analysis (1-3 hours)

IMPORTANT!!

Louisiana Advanced Legal Analysis (LALA) is a new course at MC Law. It is designed to prepare students, in their final semester, for the Louisiana Bar Exam. **If your schedule permits, you should take LALA to better prepare you for the Bar Exam.**

Relatedly, the MC Catalog provides that all students must take the LAW 798 – Advanced Legal Analysis (ALA) course. The ALA course is designed to prepare students for the Uniform Bar Exam, which is NOT the Louisiana Bar Exam. **We do NOT recommend you take ALA.**

With that being said, LALA IS NOT the equivalent of the ALA course for GRADUATION purposes. Instead, in lieu of taking the required ALA course, students who plan to take the Louisiana Bar Exam can take LAW 711 – Civil Law

Property instead of ALA. ***

*** See p. 34, 2024-25 Catalog. “Advanced Legal Analysis is required in the final semester. Students who plan to take only the Louisiana Bar Exam may, at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, take LAW 711 Civil Law Property in place of Advanced Legal Analysis.”

Louisiana Bar Exam

- Websites:

<https://www.lascba.org/index.aspx>

<https://www.lascba.org/info/BarExam/#partI>

You should check these websites out carefully to determine when you should register for the bar exam, requirements for character and fitness, etc. **You should begin looking at these websites to determine relevant dates for applications and registration at the start of your 2L Fall semester.** You can begin the application process (and possibly save money) by applying earlier. Consult with Professor McIntosh and/or Professor Hernandez if you have questions.

Subjects Tested on the Bar Exam & Corresponding Courses at MC Law

The following is a breakdown of the nine separate exams of the Louisiana Bar Exam and which courses offered at MC Law teach the subjects tested on those exams.

Civil Code I

- Persons and family law -- **Civil Law of Persons and Family**
- Matrimonial regimes & community property – **Civil Law Matrimonial Regimes**
- Property law – **Civil Law Property**
- Conflict of Laws (general provisions and related to marriage and community property) – **Conflict of Laws** or as covered in **Civil Law of Persons and Family & Matrimonial Regimes**
- Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure – **Louisiana Civil Procedure** and as covered in other courses (**Civil Law Property, Persons and Family, etc.**)

Code II

- Intestate successions, testate successions, donations inter vivos, Louisiana Trust Code – **Civil Law Successions & Donations**
- Note we do not have a Louisiana Trusts course. However, currently, we address the Louisiana Trust Code in **Civil Law Successions & Donations**. Additionally, the **Wills & Trusts** course, which covers common law trusts could be beneficial as there are many common characteristics and the Louisiana Trust Code is derived from the common law trust.

Code III

- Obligations including contracts; sale & exchange; lease, deposit, compromise and security rights, including mortgages, pledges, privileges and suretyships; liberative prescription; and conflict of laws– **Civil Law Obligations; Civil Law Sales & Leases; Louisiana Security Devices; Conflict of Laws; Civil Law of Property**. Note, the Code III Exam does not include the law of security interests under Chapter Nine of the U.C.C.

Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure and ancillary statutes – **Louisiana Civil Procedure**

Torts – Torts I, Torts II, Products Liability, Advanced Torts, Workers' Compensation

Louisiana tort law is statutorily based and has its foundation in civil law. However, since the jurisprudence applying the tort articles in the code and in the Revised Statutes is heavily influenced by American common law, Louisiana tort law is similar to other American jurisdictions, your tort courses together with bar prep courses should be sufficient to prepare you for the torts portion of the exam.

Business Entities - This exam covers corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, registered limited liability partnerships, and mandate (agency) – **Business Associations I, Agency**

Business Associations I covers the Model Corporations Act, which Louisiana has adopted. Other kinds of entities such as partnerships and limited liability companies are covered in the course, but you will need to learn Louisiana law on governing partnerships and the law of representation and mandate, to the extent the law of Louisiana differs from other American jurisdictions, through your bar review course.

Note: UCC Article 9 (**Secured Transactions and Creditors Rights**) and UCC Articles 3 & 4 (**Commercial Paper**), as adopted in Louisiana, are not tested on the bar exam, but courses in these areas nevertheless recommended, particularly Article 9 (**Secured Transactions and Creditors Rights**), if you anticipate practicing in the areas of financing, bankruptcy or banking law.

Constitutional Law – **Constitutional Law, First Amendment**

This exam covers topics including separation of powers, federalism, the incorporation doctrine, the contract clause, interstate commerce, due process, equal protection, and the Bill of Rights. Constitutional Law is required for graduation. **First Amendment** is recommended as the Louisiana bar exam often tests on 1st Amendment issues.

Criminal Law, Procedure and Evidence – **Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence**

Louisiana has a Criminal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Evidence Code. The law of Louisiana is nevertheless very similar to the law of other states and, of course, must meet U. S. Constitutional requirements.

Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure – Civil Procedure I, Civil Procedure II, Federal Courts, Removal Jurisdiction, Federal Pretrial Practice

MBE (Multistate Bar Exam on Ethics) – Professional Responsibility and Ethics (required for graduation).

Externships in Louisiana:

You are eligible to do externships for credit (3 or 6 hours) after completion of 45 credit hours. Externship positions are available across Louisiana. MC Law students in the Civil Law Certificate Program are eligible for limited practice as 3L students. If you choose to do an externship in Louisiana, you may do so during the summer following your 2L year or in the spring of your 3L year. Online courses may be available during the summer or spring term while you are externing in Louisiana.

Externships can be very beneficial in giving you practical experience, credit toward your experiential learning requirement for graduation and networking opportunities in a market in which you would like to practice after graduation and passing the bar.

You should consult with the Director of Externships, Professor Reger, and Professors McIntosh or Hernandez and your faculty advisor regarding doing an externship in Louisiana.