Emphasis in Business & Entrepreneurial Law

The Emphasis in Business and Entrepreneurial Law program is designed to provide within the J.D. degree a well-rounded course of study for students interested in an emphasis in business law and transactional practice. Reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of conducting business in compliance with a variety of modern laws and regulations, the required courses and electives for this program have been selected to expose students to a wide range of substantive law education and skills training opportunities. Thus, in addition to required and elective courses in pertinent areas of law, the curriculum requirements include a course with a practical skills component, as well as training in ethics and a research and writing project targeted at business and entrepreneurial law topics. Students who qualify for and successfully complete the credential requirements in the Business and Entrepreneurial Law program should thereby be in an excellent position to pursue and succeed in careers as advisors to entrepreneurs and to for-profit or not-for-profit businesses, whether in private practice or in company legal departments. This program would also be suitable for students destined for public sector careers, particularly in areas involving the regulation of businesses and business transactions.

Admission

To be admitted to the Emphasis in Business & Entrepreneurial Law program, an applicant must have a cumulative law school grade point average of at least 2.5, and must have a grade point average of at least 2.8 in all program courses or prerequisites which the student has taken prior to application for admission to the program. For this purpose, prerequisite business courses will also be counted, including Business Organizations and Federal Income Taxation.

The deadline for application to the program shall be no later than the beginning of the second week of classes of the student's sixth semester of law school. Any student who applies after the beginning of his or her fourth semester must demonstrate that the program can be completed by the end of the sixth semester of law school. Appropriate adjustments will be made to deal with part-time students not on the regular semester schedule. Exceptions to the deadlines may be made with approval of the Emphasis Faculty Advisors, by majority vote.

General Requirements

Minimum Total Hours Required
The program will require a minimum of 15 hours of approved courses. Group A (listed below) contains the courses that are "Required." Group B (also listed below) is a list of courses that students may choose among, designated as the "Grouped Required" courses. Students must take at least three of the courses from the Group B list. Any course in Group A or B may be counted toward the required total hours even if it is also used to satisfy the student's Research and Writing Requirement.

Writing Requirement
Students must complete an academic research paper of high professional quality, sufficient to meet the Research and Writing Requirement standards of publishable quality, concerning a business or entrepreneurial law topic. The research paper must be certified as acceptable by one of the Emphasis Faculty Advisors. Students may fulfill this requirement, with a research paper on a business or entrepreneurial law topic, in conjunction with any of the Group A or B courses, or independently as part of the general Research and Writing Requirement, as part of an Independent Study option, through one of the Law Schools' journal offerings, or through a research project pursued at the Center for the City at UMKC. There is no separate requirement that the research paper be graded.

Practical Skills Component
Students must complete at least one course containing a substantial practical skills component. The following courses satisfy this requirement:
• Business Planning
• Negotiating Mergers & Acquisitions
• Real Estate Transactions Planning Workshop
• Entrepreneurial Legal Services Clinic
• Advanced Legal Drafting (Business)
• Entrepreneurial Lawyering: Solo & Small Firm Practice

The requirement may be met by such other internships, externships, simulation courses, drafting courses, or other courses designed to provide exposure to the type of work commonly performed by lawyers in the business and entrepreneurial law field, as the Emphasis Faculty Advisors may find acceptable. It is intended that courses fulfilling this requirement will include at least one business drafting exercise.

_Ethics Component_
Each academic year, the program will provide at least four contact hours of lectures, seminars, workshops, or other instruction dealing with ethical issues that frequently arise in the business and entrepreneurial law field. Each student must attend at least four hours of these ethics offerings prior to graduation.

_Research Component_
All students in the program must complete an advanced research offering, which will provide advanced skills in research in the business and entrepreneurial law field. This may entail a separate one hour course of study, a one hour component of an existing course, or separate lecture, seminar or workshop offerings as designated by the program Faculty Advisors. Provided, however, this requirement may be waived if the student does not have a reasonable opportunity to take an advanced research offering.

_Curriculum Requirements_

_Prerequisities or Co-requisites_

• Business Organizations
• Federal Taxation

_Required Courses (Group A)_

• Securities Regulation
• Legal Accounting (or other approved accounting education)
• Either (A) Corporate Tax I/SubS Tax and Partnership Tax or (B) Taxation of Business Organizations
• Either Secured Transactions or Real Estate Finance

_Grouped Required Courses (Group B) (Must take three courses)_

• Business Planning
• Real Estate Finance (If not taken to satisfy a Group A course.)
• Real Estate Transactions (May not count both Real Estate Finance and Real Estate Transactions.)
• Negotiating Mergers & Acquisitions
• Secured Transactions (If not taken to satisfy the UCC requirement or as a Group A course.)
• Commercial Transactions (If not taken to satisfy the UCC requirement)
• Sales & Leasing (If not taken to satisfy the UCC requirement)
• Debtor/Creditor
• Bankruptcy (May not count both Debtor/Creditor and Bankruptcy)
• Entrepreneurial Legal Services Clinic or Entrepreneurial Lawyering: Solo & Small Firm Practice or Entrepreneurship & New Venture Creation, (Only one of these courses may be counted.)
• Alternative Dispute Resolution, Arbitration, and Mediation (Only one of these courses may be counted.)
• International Business Transactions or Law of International Trade & Finance (Only one of these courses may be counted)
• Labor Law
• Employment Discrimination Law
• Employment Law (No more than one course of the group including Labor Law, Employment Discrimination Law and Employment Law may be counted)
• Administrative Law
• Intellectual Property Law, Copyright Law, and Patent Law (Only one of these courses may be counted.)
• Antitrust and Competition Law
• Tax Exempt Organizations

The above requirements are in addition to any hours received in connection with the Writing Component (unless done in connection with a listed course), any hours received for the Advanced Research Component, or for the Ethics Component, all as herein described. In addition, courses shall not be required for the program for any student who has not had a reasonable opportunity to take the course due to limited enrollment, or failure of the law school to offer the course at least once after the student has been admitted to the program.

Graduation

For a student to be recognized as having graduated with an emphasis in Business & Entrepreneurial law, the student must have achieved a grade-point average of at least 3.0 in the minimum number of emphasis course requirements listed as Required or Grouped Required; provided that a student may, at the student’s option, omit a grade received in either Corporate Tax I/Sub S Tax (combined) or Partnership Tax, while still counting the course to reach the required number of academic credit hours for the emphasis; and that a student may also omit any grade received in any Grouped Required (Group B) course, so long as the student has grades from at least three (3) Group B courses to be counted in the grade point average necessary for the emphasis.

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