

Make Your Schedule Work for You

Choosing courses for 1Ls and 2Ls

OVERVIEW

Credits required to graduate: All students must complete 87 credits in order to graduate.

Required doctrinal courses: You must take Constitutional Law in the Fall of your second year; there are several sections offered (you are not assigned to a specific section). In addition, you must take Professional Responsibility prior to graduation, but when you take it is up to you.

Required Legal Writing courses: There are three remaining Legal Writing requirements after the first year: Legal Writing 3, Legal Writing 4, and a seminar. You must take Legal Writing 3 and Legal Writing 4 in your second year. Most full-time students will take Legal Writing 3 in the Fall, and Legal Writing 4 in the Spring, but there are some exceptions. (Note: Legal Writing 3 is not a prerequisite for Legal Writing 4.) Certain activities qualify students to opt out of taking a regular Legal Writing 4 class (they will take a Legal Writing 4 Equivalency class instead).

For the seminar requirement, you must have completed both 54 credit hours and Legal Writing 4 prior to taking a seminar in order for the seminar to count for the seminar graduation requirement. (You may take a seminar prior to that point, but you would have to take another one later, after satisfying the 54 credit hour and Legal Writing 4 prerequisites.) You may also satisfy the seminar requirement through Independent Research; see Dean Sowle for details if you are interested in pursuing this option. (Note: Even when done for seminar credit, Independent Research is worth only one credit, and is graded only pass/fail.)

Minimum and Maximum Credits: In your second year, you must take at least 12 credits each semester, and no more than 16 credits. In your final year, you can take as few as 10 credits each semester; the maximum remains 16 credits.

There is one exception to the maximum credit limitation: students selected for Law Review or Moot Court Honor Society, and who wish to register for Law Review or Moot Court credit, may take 17 credits (contact Dean Sowle if this applies to you; we will have to manually increase your maximum credits in the system).

Clinic Limitation: You may take no more than 16 credit hours toward graduation for the following courses combined: in-house clinical courses, externships, and Business Entity Formation. [Students in the Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (LADR) are exempt from this limitation.]

Work Limitation: Full-time students may not be employed more than 20 hours a week during any semester in which the student is enrolled.

CHOOSING YOUR CLASSES

Recommendations from Professors

Courses with an asterisk (*) cover material that is likely to be tested on many states' bar examinations, including Illinois.

- I. Faculty highly recommends every student take **all of the following** courses:
- Business Organization (4 hours)*
 - Evidence (3 hours)*
 - Personal Income Tax (3 hours)
 - Remedies (3 hours)*
- II. The faculty highly recommends that every student should take **at least 15 hours** from the following list of courses, with most courses taken from subsection A and at least one course taken from subsection B.
- A. Courses in major areas of law:
1. Administrative Law (3 hours)*
 2. Civil Litigation: one of the following:
 - a. Appellate Courts and Procedure (3 hours)
 - b. Civil Procedure 2 (3 hours)
 - c. Complex Litigation (3 hours)
 - d. Federal Courts (3 hours)
 - e. Illinois Civil Procedure (2 hrs)*
 3. Commercial Law: one or two of the following:
 - a. Secured Transactions (3 hours)*
 - b. Payment Systems (3 hours)*
 - c. Survey (4 hours)*
 4. Conflict of Laws (3 hours)*
 5. Constitutional Law: First Amendment (3 hrs)*
 6. Criminal Procedure:
 - a. The Adjudicative Process (3 hrs)*, or
 - b. The Investigative Process (3 hrs)*
 7. Estates and Trusts (4 hours)*
 8. Family Law (3 hours)*
 9. International Law (3 hours) or Comparative Law (3 hours)
 10. Products Liability (2 hours)*
- B. Courses focusing on statutory analysis and/or administrative agencies:
1. Antitrust (3 hours)
 2. Bankruptcy (3 hours)
 3. Copyright Law (3 hours) or Patent Law (3 hrs)
 4. Employee Benefits Law (2 or 3 hrs)
 5. Employment Discrimination (3 hrs)
 6. Environmental Law & Policy (3 hrs)
 7. Labor Law (4 hours)
 8. Securities Regulation (3 hours)
 9. Taxation of Business Enterprises (4 hrs)
- III. The faculty believes that every student should take at least **one skills or one clinical course** from the following list of courses.
- A. Skills courses:
1. Business Entity Formation (3 hours)
 2. Business Entity Transactions (3 hours)
 3. Employment Litigation (3 hours) *(for students in the Labor and Employment Law Certificate Program only)*
 4. Pretrial Litigation (3 hours) *(for students in the LADR Certificate Program only)*
 5. Criminal Litigation (3 hours) *(for students in the Criminal Litigation Certificate Program only)*
 6. Trial Advocacy 1 (3 hours)
- B. Clinical courses:
1. In-House Clinic (3 or 4 hours):
 - a. Center for Open Government
 - b. [Criminal Defense](#)
 - c. [Employment Discrimination / Civil Rights](#)
 - d. [Entrepreneurial Law](#)
 - e. [Family Law](#)
 - f. [Health and Disability Law](#)
 - g. [Immigration Law](#)
 - h. [Intellectual Property Law Clinic](#)
 - i. [Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Clinic](#)
 - j. [Tax and Probate Clinic](#)
 2. Externship: [Judicial Externship](#); [Legal Externship](#); Labor and Employment Externship *(for students in the Labor and Employment Law Certificate Program only)*

The above information was taken from the Registration Bulletin distributed by Dean Sowle & Chicago-Kent each semester.

By Interest

All courses listed below were suggested by students or student groups.

I. Certificate Programs

A. [Business Law](#)

Courses: **bankruptcy** (great for students in transactional law or litigation, and great for students interested in all areas of business law); **accounting for lawyers** (having an understanding of basic financial statements can set you apart from your peers); **personal income tax & corporate income tax** (a lot of business decisions are made based on tax implications)

Other Student Advice: Try and find a niche, and take classes that fit in that niche rather than just saying "I want to be a business lawyer."

B. [Criminal Litigation](#)

Courses: **evidence** or **evidence & art of advocacy**; **IL evidence** (after evidence if you want to practice in IL); **advanced evidence**; **criminal procedure – investigatory process**; **criminal procedure – adjudicative process**; **criminal litigation** (a must take class but only available to students in the criminal litigation certificate); **intensive trial advocacy** or **trial advocacy 1** (a must take class); **trial advocacy 2**; **forensic sciences**; **criminal defense clinic**; **intimate partner violence** (great seminar class re: domestic violence and relevant topics); **domestic violence practicum** (involves helping people fill out petitions for orders of protection); **justice & technology practicum**; **juvenile law**; **juvenile justice**; **international human rights**; **lawyer as an investigator**

C. [Environmental & Energy Law](#)

Courses: **environmental law and policy 1** and/or **environmental law and policy 2** (do not need to take both environmental law courses or to take environmental law 1 as a prerequisite); **land use** (helpful for students considering real estate); **water resource management**; **construction law**; **energy law**; **advanced torts**; **environmental law clinic**; **negotiations**; **animal law**; **climate change seminar**; **administrative law** (much of environmental enforcement & energy matters are dealt with before administrative agencies); **bankruptcy** (comes up all the time in environmental cases); **business organizations** (very helpful information that can be applied at internships); **intensive trial advocacy** or **trial advocacy 1** (a must take class); **evidence** or **evidence & art of advocacy** (a must take class)

D. [Intellectual Property Law](#)

Courses: **patent law**; **copyright law**; **trademarks & unfair competition**; **intensive intellectual property trial advocacy**; **patent litigation seminar**; **intellectual property legal writing 4** (for the legal writing 4 requirement); **patent office practice**; **international design law** (offered over spring break)

Other Student Advice: If you plan to sit for the patent bar, do so before graduating.

E. [International & Comparative Law](#)

F. [Labor & Employment](#)

Courses: **employee relationships** (great introductory/survey class); **labor law** (the class; take it as soon as possible); **employment discrimination** (take after employee relationships); **labor & employment legal writing 4** (for legal writing 4 requirement); **trial advocacy** or **intensive trial advocacy**; **evidence** or **evidence & art of advocacy**

G. [Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution](#)

Courses: **IL civil procedure** (teaches the practical skills students need as litigators); **trial advocacy** or **intensive trial advocacy**; **evidence** or **evidence & art of advocacy**

H. [Praxis Program](#)

I. [Public Interest Law](#)

Courses: public interest law & policy; domestic violence courthouse practicum; legislative advocacy

II. Focused Areas of Study

A. [Entertainment & Technology Law](#)

Courses: sports, law & society; negotiations; personal income tax; business organizations; copyright; music law; entertainment law (the class; is a good introduction to the basics of the entertainment business; the professor brings in speakers that work in different entertainment fields outside of law); trademarks & unfair competition (entertainment and sports law is essentially corporate, intellectual property, and labor and employment law within the entertainment field; this course does a great job of teaching you how to gear your practice area towards that focus); labor law; video game law; law of social networks; freedom of the internet; first amendment; negotiations; entrepreneurial law clinic (focuses mainly on start-ups, but the issues that come up are also relevant to the entertainment industry) + any corporate law, intellectual property law, or labor & employment law courses

Other Student Advice: Get involved with Sports & Entertainment Law Society. Attending their events or being on their board can be a great way to make connections. Another great way to make connections and learn about the industry is by joining the "Forum Committee on Entertainment and Sports Industries" through the American Bar Association for \$20/year.

B. [Family Law](#)

Courses: family law (a great intro / overview to family law); estates and trusts (often includes family law implications, such as when someone is a spouse for inheritance purposes); mediation (often arises in divorce); family and employment-based immigration practices (although this class seems to lean more on the immigration side); school law (taught by Nancy Hablutzel – who knows just about everything about child law); juvenile justice (cross between criminal law and child law); personal income tax (important for pretty much any area of law and an entire chapter of the book is focused on divorce); child and divorce (also taught by Nancy Hablutzel); legal rights of children (the class or the seminar; also taught by Nancy Hablutzel); family law clinical program (there is no better way to get practical experience through Chicago-Kent) + any LLM courses

Other Student Advice: Get a 711 license - arguing in front of a real judge is one of the most intimidating situations lawyers can be in, and practice is key. Learning to settle/negotiate is equally as important - taking negotiations, mediation, and/or alternative dispute resolution is an excellent idea. Become familiar with the Daley Center. Learn where to go to file, where the courtrooms are, and just the atmosphere and layout in general – it will become much less intimidating the more often you go.

C. [Financial Services Law](#)

D. [Health Law, Policy and Bioethics](#)

E. [Law, Government and Regulation](#)

F. [Personal Injury Law](#)

Courses: evidence or evidence & art of advocacy; products liability; intensive trial advocacy or trial advocacy 1; trial advocacy 2; Illinois civil procedure; negotiations; medical malpractice; legal writing (beyond the minimum requirement)

J. [Real Estate & Land Use Law](#)

K. [Tax & Estate Planning](#)

III. Student Organization Recommendations

IV. Upperclassmen / Student Mentors

V. Course Descriptions – <http://bit.ly/KentCourseDescriptions>

VI. Faculty Biographies – <http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/faculty>

SBA Presents: the “How to Pick Your Courses” Panel

Moderator:

Casey Brown is a 2L and currently clerks at Anesi, Ozmon, Rodin, Novak & Kohen, Ltd., a mid-sized firm focused on workers’ compensation and personal injury. Last semester, Casey competed in the National Civil Trial Competition in Santa Monica for the Chicago-Kent Trial Advocacy Team. She is actively involved in the Young Lawyers Section of the Chicago Bar Association – where she serves as the Committee Chair for Chicago-Kent – and the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. Casey serves as the Secretary for the SBA. (cbrown36@kentlaw.iit.edu)

Speakers:

***Jake Berger** is a 3L interested in **commercial litigation** and **personal injury**. He is currently a law clerk at McDonald Hopkins LLC, a commercial litigation firm. Prior to working at McDonald Hopkins LLC, Jake clerked for the Illinois Appellate Court and Lane & Lane LLC, a personal injury firm. Jake is on Moot Court, Law Review, SBA, Corporate Law Society, and PAD. (jberger6@kentlaw.iit.edu)

***Fariz Burhanuddin** is a 3L interested in **criminal litigation**. While in law school, Fariz has clerked for the Indian-American Bar Association of Chicago, the Employment Law Clinic at Chicago-Kent, and the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office. He is currently clerking at Caputo & Popovic, PC. Fariz currently serves as Vice President of the SBA and is a member of the Chicago-Kent Trial Advocacy Team. (fburhanu@kentlaw.iit.edu)

Martha Drouet is a 3L graduating with a certificate in **environmental law and policy**. During law school, she has worked for two federal agencies and for three non-profits that focus on environmental enforcement, agricultural pollution, environmental litigation, legislative advocacy, and aviation law. Martha has competed in and coached at the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition. She also founded the Chicago-Kent competitive Alternative Dispute Resolution team that went on to win fifth place nationally at the ABA Negotiation Competition and second place regionally at the ABA Representation in Mediation Competition. (mdrouet@kentlaw.iit.edu)

***Ryan Janski** is a 3L interested in **intellectual property**. Ryan was formerly employed as a law clerk at the Law Office of Steven G. Lisa practicing patent litigation, but now works at Deutsch, Levy & Engel where he handles primarily commercial litigation issues, but also trademark and copyright issues. He is Vice President of the Chicago-Kent Intellectual Property Law Society and a Submissions Editor for the Chicago-Kent Journal of Intellectual Property. (rjanski@kentlaw.iit.edu)

Ian Jones is a 2L who is pursuing the **labor and employment certificate** and the **public interest certificate**. He has volunteered at the Self-Help Web Center and clerked for Magistrate Judge Cox. Ian is currently a law clerk in the Chicago Public School's Legal Department in the Labor and Employee Discipline division. Ian is part of the Labor and Employment Law Society. (ijones1@kentlaw.iit.edu)

Sasha Kakabadse is a 3L interested in **business law**. During law school, he has worked for JPMorgan Chase (in both the Legal and Compliance Departments), the Natural Resources Defense Council, and for a sole practitioner in commercial real estate litigation. After graduation, Sasha will be working at JPMorgan Chase in Commercial Banking Compliance. Sasha serves as the President of the SBA and as a Notes and Comments Editor of the Chicago-Kent Law Review. (akakabadse@gmail.com)

Helen Kim is a 3L and a candidate for the **intellectual property certificate** program. While at Chicago-Kent, Helen has done research for Lori Andrews on privacy issues with social networks and big data and gene patents. She has also done research on health law issues for an attorney at Thompson Coburn. Helen is Managing Editor of the Chicago-Kent Journal of Intellectual Property and is a member of the SBA, APALSA, IPLS and the Society of Women in the Law. (hkim88@kentlaw.iit.edu)

***Melanie Matias** is a 2L is in the **criminal litigation** certificate. She is currently at the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. Prior to clerking at the State’s Attorney’s office, Melanie clerked at the Chicago-Kent Criminal Defense Clinic and volunteered for Cabrini-Green Legal Aid where she assisted defendants in expunging/sealing their criminal records. Melanie is part of the Immigration Law Society, Criminal Law Society, Society of Women in the Law, and APALSA. (mmatias@kentlaw.iit.edu)

***Dana Pownall** is a 2.5L, having transitioned from the evening program to the day program after her first year. She is interested in **public interest law** and **international law**. During her time at Chicago-Kent, Dana has clerked with the public defenders, the Guardian ad Litem program in the probate court (through Chicago Volunteer Legal Services), and Family Rescue at the domestic violence courthouse, as well as volunteered for CARPLS' (Chicago advice and referral program legal services) hotline, the ACLU reproductive rights project, and the National Organization of Women. She is the president of the American Constitutional Society, Executive Submissions Manager of the Journal of International and Comparative law, a volunteer manager at the Self Help Web Center, and a member of Chicago-Kent's inaugural mediation team. (dpownall@kentlaw.iit.edu)

Rory Quinn is a 2L who is in both the **litigation & alternative dispute resolution** and **criminal litigation** certificate programs. He currently clerks for the Cook County State's Attorney's office and volunteers at the Debtors Legal Aid Clinic. Prior to clerking for the State's Attorney's office, Rory clerked at the Chicago-Kent Criminal Defense Clinic. Rory serves on the SBA as the Illinois State Bar Association representative. (rquinn2@kentlaw.iit.edu)

I'VE PICKED MY SCHEDULE, NOW WHAT?

Account Holds

- I. If you have not yet paid the \$10 student activity fee, log into your myIIT account, click on **Manage My Student Account** from the **Finances** Tab. Then click **Manage My Account** and you will be taken to a separate page where you can make a payment. If your account balance is zero, you do not need to make a payment.
- II. Before enrollment, check the status of the holds on your account in myIIT by clicking on the **Holds** link from the **Academics** Tab. If you have any Registration Holds, or any other type of hold, on your account that prevents your registration, please contact the office that placed the hold on the account to find out more information.

Registering for Classes

- I. Log on to myIIT login page, enter your UID and password in the login area on the left side of the screen.
- II. Click on the Academics tab.
- III. To register for classes: In "Registration Tools" click the ADD or DROP Classes button and follow the prompts.

Finished Requesting Courses?

- I. *The schedule that you have just requested is NOT your final schedule.* Registering for a class during the initial registration period is no guarantee that you will be admitted to the class – you must check after the system reopens to learn what classes you have been admitted to.
- II. Once the registration period has closed, the registration office will audit each student's requested course schedule in accordance with Chicago-Kent's priority registration system. *Each student must check the system again after the system reopens to receive their schedule.* The schedule displayed when the system reopens will be their official schedule for the term.

SAVE THE DATE

March 12 : Informational Reception for J.D. Certificate Programs from 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM in the 10th Floor Event Room. Learn about the different certificate programs from faculty and student in each program.

April 1 (tentative) : Intellectual Property Law Society Course Picking Panel @ 12 PM

Early April : Summer 2014 Registration Information & Class Schedule Available

Mid April : Fall 2014 Registration Information & Class Schedule Available