

## Juris Doctor -Academic Advising Guide

| QUICK SNAPSHOT |   |
|----------------|---|
|                | 87 Credit Hours (individual grades of D or higher; overall average grade of 2.000 or higher)  |
|                | First Year Required Courses   |
|                | Upper Level Required Courses  |
|                | Experiential Learning Requirement   |
|                | 6 Residence Credits (1 credit is earned per 12 term hrs. or more; ¾ credit is earned per 9 term hrs.; ½ credit is earned per 6 term hrs.; ¼ credit is earned per 3 term hrs.) |
|                | 30 Hours of Public Service  |

What courses do I take my first year of law school? The first year curriculum is set. It is designed to teach the fundamentals of legal analysis, to introduce you to legal subjects on which most of the law is built, and to give you a strong foundation in legal research, writing and advocacy skills.

What other courses are required? In addition to the first-

What elective courses should I take?

SMU Dedman Law offers a rich variety of elective courses each semester in a number of areas. Choose courses that interest you or that you think might help you in your practice. Most students take Business Enterprise, Evidence, and Income Taxation, which are prerequisites to other courses, academic programs, and clinics. Therefore, you should consider taking these as soon as possible.

Except with special permission of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, J.D. students may enroll for elective courses only after they have completed all required first-year courses.

You are encouraged to explore different areas of the law, but also make sure you have the necessary foundational courses to later be successful on the bar exam and in your legal practice. Please refer to the practice area guides on our website for more information. These guides suggest courses in each of the following practice areas and identify clinics, externships, and public service opportunities to enhance students' skills and understanding.

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Antitrust Law                           | Health Law                        |
| Bankruptcy Law                          | Immigration Law                   |
| Business and Corporate Law              | Intellectual Property             |
| Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution | International and Comparative Law |

or two, 50-minute classes per week Threehour classes meet, 200 classroom hours in two,  
75-minute classes or three 50-





