Florida A&M University College of Law

This Handbook supersedes all preceding Handbooks and any other documents or provisions relating to provisions contained within unless specifically authorized or exempted by the Dean of the College of Law.

All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the guidelines and regulations contained in this Handbook.

Revised July 2019
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCLAIMER</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISSION STATEMENT</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida A&amp;M University College of Law</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCREDITATION</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the President</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF LAW ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Dean</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2019 - 2020</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester 2019</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester 2020</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL INFORMATION</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law School Location and Facilities</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Policies</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Lounge</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Law Communications Information and Policy</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification Card (Rattler Card)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Access</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Telephones, Pagers and Other Electronic Devices</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee Liability</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio-Visual Recording of Lectures or Presentations</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Records Release</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of Address</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Advisors</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Assignments</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE OF LAW ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offices of the Dean</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RULES</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Juris Doctor Degree</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability, Character, and Fitness</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application for Graduation</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification of Law Students</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum and Minimum Course Loads</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop/Add Procedures</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Policy</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Absences</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Employment Recommendations</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION (SBA) .................................................................................................................. 79
iStrike ............................................................................................................................................................... 79
STUDENT ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL ............................................................... 80
STUDENT ORGANIZATION OFFICER REQUIREMENT .............................................................................. 80
ACTIVE ORGANIZATION STATUS ................................................................................................................. 81
SERVICE ON FACULTY COMMITTEES ............................................................................................................ 81

OTHER STUDENT SERVICES .......................................................................................................................... 82
COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ........................................................................................................ 82
HEALTH SERVICES ........................................................................................................................................... 82

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES .................................................................................................................... 83
Policy ................................................................................................................................................................... 83
Procedure ............................................................................................................................................................. 83
How to Become a CeDAR Participant .............................................................................................................. 83
Other Policies ..................................................................................................................................................... 85
Recorded Lectures ............................................................................................................................................. 86
Grievance Procedure ....................................................................................................................................... 86

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES ........................................................................................................... 87
Policy on Student Observance of Religious Holy Days .................................................................................... 87

POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION .......................................................................................................................... 88
General Information .......................................................................................................................................... 88
Official Policy and Complaint Procedures ....................................................................................................... 89

CAMPUS SAFETY AND PARKING .................................................................................................................... 95
Student Parking ................................................................................................................................................ 95
Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drills ............................................................................................................. 96

COLLEGE OF LAW WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCIES ........................................................................ 98
Notices and Alerts ............................................................................................................................................. 98

GRIEVANCES AND PETITIONS ..................................................................................................................... 99

COMPLAINTS INVOLVING ACCREDITATION STANDARDS ...................................................................... 100

STUDENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION ................................................................................................................ 101
Meet and Confer Conference .......................................................................................................................... 101

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT ....................................................................................................................... 103
Introduction ......................................................................................................................................................... 103
Implementation of the Code ............................................................................................................................... 103
Regulation of Florida A&M University - 2.012 Student Code of Conduct ....................................................... 104
Jurisdiction ......................................................................................................................................................... 105
Definitions ......................................................................................................................................................... 105
Violations ............................................................................................................................................................ 108
Sanctions ............................................................................................................................................................ 117
Notice ................................................................................................................................................................. 119
Time Limit .......................................................................................................................................................... 119
Administrative Request to Appear ..................................................................................................................... 119
Information ......................................................................................................................................................... 119
Alternative to a Finding of Responsibility ....................................................................................................... 120
Amnesty ............................................................................................................................................................ 120
Scheduling of Hearing ....................................................................................................................................... 120
Postponement ................................................................................................................................................... 120
Summary Suspension/Expulsion ....................................................................................................................... 121

Florida A&M University College of Law | 2019-2020 Student Handbook
SUMMARY SUSPENSION/EXPULSION FOR CRIMINAL CONVICTION .......................................................... 121
UNIVERSITY’S RIGHT TO ENTER HOUSING .................................................................................. 121
EMERGENCY AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS ..................................................................... 122
INFORMAL DISPOSITION ............................................................................................................... 123
OTHER UNIVERSITY BOARDS ....................................................................................................... 124
APPEALS ........................................................................................................................................ 124
RECORD ......................................................................................................................................... 125
HEARING GUIDELINES ..................................................................................................................... 125
REVIEW OF CODE .......................................................................................................................... 128

EXAMPLES OF ACTS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY ................................................................... 129
EXAMPLE OF EXAMINATION VIOLATIONS ................................................................................... 129
EXAMPLE OF OTHERS ACTS OF MISCONDUCT ......................................................................... 129
EXAMPLES OF PLAGIARISM .......................................................................................................... 130

REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS ............................................................................................... 131
BAR ADMISSIONS AND RELATED INFORMATION .......................................................................... 134
GENERAL INFORMATION .............................................................................................................. 134
DEADLINES AND FEES .................................................................................................................. 134
CERTIFICATION AND CLEARANCE FOR STUDENTS .................................................................. 135
INTRODUCTION

This Student Handbook (“Handbook”) contains the rules, regulations, and academic policies that govern students at the Florida A&M University College of Law. Students are responsible for the information contained in this Handbook, and all students are presumed to have knowledge of the Handbook’s contents. Accordingly, students should read this Student Handbook carefully.

The College of Law and Florida A&M University reserve the right to modify the academic policies, rules, regulations, curriculum, and degree requirements set forth in this Handbook. Students should acquaint themselves with the rules and all modifications as posted through official College of Law and University communications and administrative offices.
DISCLAIMER

The provisions of this Student Handbook do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between any applicant, student, or faculty member and Florida A&M University or the State University System. Florida A&M University and the State Department of Education reserve the right to withdraw courses at any time, to change fees, calendars, curricula, graduation procedures, and any other requirements affecting students. Changes will become effective whenever the proper authorities so determine and will apply both to prospective students and to those already enrolled.

While every effort is made to ensure accurate and up-to-date information, the College of Law and the Florida A&M University do not assume responsibility for any misrepresentation that may arise through error in the preparation of this or any other of its catalogues, or through failure to give notice of changes in its requirements, policies, tuition and fees, course offerings, and other matters affecting students or applicants.
MISSION STATEMENT

Florida A&M University

The mission of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), as an 1890 land-grant institution, is to provide an enlightened and enriched academic, intellectual, moral, cultural, ethical, technological and student-centered environment, conducive to the development of highly qualified individuals who are prepared and capable of serving as leaders and contributors in our ever-evolving society. The University seeks and supports a faculty and staff of distinction dedicated to providing outstanding academic preparation at undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional school levels, with a particular emphasis on integrity and ethical conduct. FAMU is committed to inspirational teaching, exemplary research and meaningful public and community service through creative partnerships at the local, state, national and global levels. The University is also committed to the resolution of complex issues that will enhance humankind.

While the University continues its historic mission of educating African Americans, persons of all races, ethnic origins and nationalities are welcomed and encouraged to remain life-long members of the university community. The University, through its diverse faculty and staff, provides a caring, nurturing, collegial and respectful environment.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) was founded in 1887, making it one of the three oldest institutions of higher education in the state of Florida. It is a comprehensive, coeducational, residential, multilevel, land grant University offering a broad range of instruction, research, and service programs at the undergraduate, professional, and graduate levels.

Core Values

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University holds the following values essential to the achievement of the University’s mission:

* Scholarship
* Service
* Excellence
* Fairness
* Openness
* Courage
* Fiscal Responsibility
* Integrity/Ethics
* Accountability
* Respect
* Collaboration
* Collegiality
* Diversity
* Freedom
College of Law
The reestablished Florida A&M University College of Law reaffirms our historical legacy of excellence and responsibility to serve as a transformative force for the public good. Our mission is to serve as a beacon of hope and catalyst for change by providing access to excellent educational training and opportunities to generations of students seeking to serve the needs of traditionally underserved people and communities locally, nationally and internationally. While we continue our historic mission of educating African-Americans, we embrace persons of all racial, ethnic and national groups as members of the university community. We are dedicated to developing legal professionals and community leaders committed to equitable justice and the rule of law.

Core Values

* Distinction in teaching, scholarship and service
* Excellence with caring
* Experiential learning
* Professionalism
* Diversity
ACCREDITATION

Florida A&M University College of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association.

Further information as to the Standards and Rules of Procedure for the Approval of Law Schools by the American Bar Association may be obtained from the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, 321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654, (312) 988-6738.

Under ABA Standard 510, the American Bar Association requires that accredited law schools provide students with the opportunity to submit complaints to the Law School administration “of a significant problem that directly implicates the school’s program of legal education and its compliance with the ABA Standards.” Florida A&M University College of Law invites students to share any concerns they might have about the Law School’s program of legal education as it relates to matters that directly relate to ABA Standard 510.
NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

It is the policy of Florida A&M University that each member of the University community is permitted to work or attend class in an environment free from any form of discrimination including race, religion, color, age, disability, sex, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, and veteran status as prohibited by State and Federal statutes. This commitment applies to all areas affecting students, employees, applicants for admission and applicants for employment. It is also relevant to the University's selection of contractors, suppliers of goods and services and any employment conditions and practices.
UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Office of the President

Larry Robinson, Ph. D
President

Maurice Edington, Ph. D
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

William E. Hudson, Jr., Ph. D
Vice President for Student Affairs

Joyce Ingram, Ph. D
Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Finance and Administration

Denise Wallace, J.D., Ph. D
Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel (Interim)

Linda F. Barge Miles, J.D.
Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison/Law School Liaison

Cynthia Henry
Executive Assistant to the President

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of the President
1601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Suite 400
Tallahassee, FL 32307
Phone: (850) 599-3225
Fax: (850) 561-2152
COLLEGE OF LAW ADMINISTRATION

Office of the Dean

Nicola Boothe Perry
Interim Dean and Professor of Law

Phyllis Taite
Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law

Alicia Jackson
Associate Dean for Student Learning and Assessment

Reginald Green
Associate Dean for Student Services & Administration

Mildred Graham
Director of Advancement & Alumni Affairs

Pamela Leonard
Executive Assistant to the Dean

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of the Dean
Florida A&M University College of Law 201 Beggs Avenue,
Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 254-3268
Fax: (407) 254-2450
### Fall Semester 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority Registration Period (By Appointment)</td>
<td>April 15 – 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Registration Period</td>
<td>April 19 – August 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-State Residency Re-Classification Period</td>
<td>July 1 – August 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intent to graduate application available for December 2019 prospective graduates (apply online via iRattler)</td>
<td>September 9 – October 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations for Law School Success Begins (1Ls &amp; Transfer Students)</td>
<td>August 5 – August 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>August 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add/Drop period. Late registration fee assessed if not registered during priority or open registration period ($100.00)</td>
<td>August 19 – August 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday-College of Law closed in observance of Labor Day (No Classes)</td>
<td>September 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to pay all fees without incurring a late fee assessment ($100.00). Last day to submit insurance waiver at FAMU Health Clinic.</td>
<td>August 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam Week</td>
<td>October 7 – 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to withdraw without receiving a failing grade for course/term.</td>
<td>October 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday-College of Law closed in observance of Veterans Day (No classes)</td>
<td>November 11 (Observed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day Make-Up (Monday schedule) (1)</td>
<td>November 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday – College of Law closed in observance of Thanksgiving (No Classes)</td>
<td>November 28 - 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Day Make-up (Monday schedule) (2)</td>
<td>November 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclement Weather Makeup Days (if necessary)</td>
<td>November 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes End</td>
<td>November 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Period</td>
<td>November 29 – December 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination Period Begins</td>
<td>December 4 - 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Commencement</td>
<td>December 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Spring Semester 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority Registration Period (By Appointment)</td>
<td>October 14 - 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Registration Period</td>
<td>October 18 – January 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intent to graduate application available for Spring 2020 prospective graduates (apply online via iRattler)</td>
<td>February 17 – March 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-State Residency Re-Classification Period</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>January 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add/drop period. Late Registration Fee assessed if not registered during priority or open registration period. ($100.00)</td>
<td>January 6 - 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to pay all fees without incurring a late fee assessment ($100.00)</td>
<td>January 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday-College of Law closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No Classes)</td>
<td>January 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam Week</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to withdraw without receiving a failing grade for course/term</td>
<td>March 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Break - College of Law open - No Classes</td>
<td>March 16 - 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Make up (Monday schedule)</td>
<td>April 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes End</td>
<td>April 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Period</td>
<td>April 21 -26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination Period</td>
<td>April 27 – May 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Commencement</td>
<td>May 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Law Hooding Ceremony</td>
<td>May 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GENERAL INFORMATION

Law School Location and Facilities
The Florida A&M University College of Law is located in a state-of-the-art facility at 201 Beggs Avenue, located along Hughey between Washington and Robinson in the beautiful downtown Orlando, Florida. The law library is housed on the first, second and fourth floors and classrooms are on the first, second and third floors. The law school is located adjacent to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida and across the street from the Zora Neale Hurston State Office Building. It is also within a few blocks of the Orange County Courthouse.

Building Policies

* Smoking is prohibited in all indoor areas of the law school and within 50 yards of the building except for outside of the student lounge facing Washington Street.
* Eating food is prohibited in all classrooms. Only bottled water will be permitted in the classrooms.
* Pets are not allowed in the building, unless required to assist an individual with disabilities.
* Signs, notices, posters should not be taped on the walls or otherwise posted except on designated bulletin boards.
* Thermostats should not be altered or adjusted.
* Furniture may not be moved without permission.
* Weapons are not allowed in the building.
* Bicycles should not be kept in the building.

Student Lounge
The student lounge is located on the first floor of the law school. Students are asked to keep the lounge free of litter and to clean up after themselves. The lounge contains a kitchenette / vending machines area and tables and chairs where eating is permitted. The lounge also contains bulletin boards, and an entertainment area with several flats screens, couches, and comfortable chairs.

Restrooms
Public restrooms are located on every floor and in both wings of the law school building.

College of Law Communications Information and Policy
Communication plays a critical role within the Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law. The College of Law Communication Policy is an important aspect of our continual efforts to increase the branding and marketability of the FAMU College of Law through a comprehensive communications strategy for both external and internal constituents. The following is the law student communication policy of the FAMU College of Law.
Media and News Releases

The media policy at the FAMU College of Law provides that only an official spokesperson can comment on behalf of the law school or the university. All members of the media should be first directed to the Director of Advancement; this includes telephone calls and visits. Media should also be escorted by a College of Law staff member at all times while in the law school building. Unannounced media should remain at the security desk until a staff member arrives to escort them.

Only the Advancement Office and/or the University Office of Public Relations may issue a news release to the media organizations on behalf of the College of Law. College of Law students are encouraged to contact the Director of Student Affairs for assistance with publicizing events, programs or achievements.

Bulletin Boards

All members of the FAMU College of Law community are encouraged to utilize campus bulletin boards for posting information. Bulletin boards located by the main lobby elevators and the Law Library elevator are for use by the law school administration and various departments.

Designated bulletin boards located in the student lounge, and the second and third floors of the classroom halls, are for use by student organizations. Postings for these must be submitted to the Director of Student Affairs for approval prior to posting. Unapproved material is subject to removal if posted.

Election Posting

The FAMU College of Law will not endorse a candidate for election in any particular venue, including campus elections. Students pursuing an electable office in the Student Government Association, Student Bar Association or any other office are prohibited from posting material within the College of Law Atrium (including tables), along the walls or doors of any public area or restroom, or upon any bulletin board. Students may only distribute material to individual students. Election signs cannot be posted on College of Law property.

Electronic Monitors – “The Docket”

All members of the FAMU College of Law community may submit information for posting on the Electronic Monitors dubbed “The Docket”. Anonymous posts are not permitted. A designated representative for each student organization is responsible for submitting announcements on behalf of that organization. Information submitted on the behalf of entities outside of the campus community will not be posted unless approval is granted by the law school administration. All submittals must adhere to university policies outlined in appropriate materials, including the student handbook.

The Office of Advancement reserves the right to exclude submissions from posting, will review submissions for “The Docket”. Submissions must be received at least 2-weeks prior to the effective date of the event, activity or deadline to ensure inclusion. The posted item will be removed after the effective date has passed. The posted item can be removed before the effective date in the event of an emergency or as deemed necessary by the law school administration.
Electronic Mail

FAMU and College of Law electronic mail (e-mail) is public record when sent using a FAMU email account. All College of Law students are required to have an official FAMU e-mail account and address. Students who have not established an e-mail account should consult the Information Technology department. Students are required to communicate University and College of Law business with College of Law personnel through their FAMU e-mail accounts and addresses. The e-mail accounts come with a limited amount of storage and usage space and must be maintained regularly to ensure receipt of important information. The Information Technology department is available to assist with frozen and closed accounts.

All FAMU e-mail accounts are property of the University and the State of Florida and are subject to search by authorized parties without permission from the user.

College of Law News

The FAMU Law e-mail account is the official account for relaying pertinent information to groups of students within the College of Law community. Requests for distributing information can be sent directly to famulaw@famu.edu. Student organizations, however, must send requests through the Office of Student Affairs. All requests received are subject to approval. Please allow no less than 48 hours for information to be released. The FAMU Law e-mail will not send information endorsing elections, individual activities, closed and exclusive events or events hosted by outside groups not associated with FAMU, or the College of Law, or events that are not focused on law-related issues.

Virtual File Storage

The College of Law does not maintain a server that allows for the storage of documents and files for students, nor does the College of Law maintain a server that personnel may virtually access outside of the College of Law building. The use of virtual or “cloud” storage by third-parties is not prohibited by the University or College of Law, but should be used with caution. Please contact the Information Technology department for details related to security and usage of virtual storage.

Law School Website

The official FAMU College of Law website is http://law.famu.edu. The College of Law community is encouraged to visit the website regularly for updates and news items. Comments and concerns regarding content should be directed to the Director of Advancement. Technical concerns with the website should be addressed with the Information Technology department.

Social Media

Social media is a general term used to reference sites like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or any other virtual hub where users interact. The College of Law maintains an official Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter page managed through the Office of Advancement. All College of Law students and employees active on social media platforms are encouraged to Like or Follow our official social media accounts. The creation and maintenance of any social media account affiliated with Florida A&M University must
adhere to the University’s Social Media Guidelines. Please reference the University Style Guide for a complete listing of the policy. Please note, misuse of the University’s name, logo or identity on social media may be subject to legal action.

**Printing and Graphics**

All members of the FAMU College of Law community must abide by the guidelines outlined by the FAMU Communications Office for designing and printing material for public use. This includes posters, flyers, recognition certificates, banners and other items for viewing or distribution.

The FAMU Office of Communication guidelines can be viewed at the following link on the FAMU website: [Communication Guidelines](#). The Office of Advancement are available to review all material for appropriate usage of FAMU and College of Law logos, colors and name listings, and can make additional suggestions for small and large print needs. Items that are printed and that have not been approved by either the Office of Advancement, that are printed may be subject to recall if there is incorrect/unauthorized use of the FAMU or College of Law logos, colors, or name listings. For information on preferred College of Law print vendors, please contact the Office of Advancement. Student Organizations should consult the Office of Student Affairs for printing approval.

**Business Cards**

Students are not permitted to print personal business cards using the FAMU or College of Law logo without approval. Please consult the Office of Advancement for a printing schedule of official student business cards.

**Photography and Videography**

All students who enter the College of Law are asked to complete a non-compensatory waiver regarding their likeness as many official images are used in College of Law marketing and promotions, in both print and electronic formats. Official photography and videography is determined by the University and College of Law administration. Students are not permitted to contract with outside vendors, including professional photographers and videographers, for capturing still or motion images inside of the College of Law building, without approval. There is no exception to this policy.

Students anticipating graduation will be photographed in regalia by a College of Law designated photographer for the official composite of successive fall, spring and summer graduating classes known as the Hooding class. Photography for the composite takes place in a designated area, and is organized by the Student Bar Association, the Office of Advancement and the Student Affairs department.

Student groups may consult with the Information Technology department for permission to capture video images, and the Office of Advancement for still images at designated events and activities within the building. These departments can assist with officially capturing events and activities, or direct individuals to approved vendors. Individuals who are not authorized to shoot videos or capture pictures will not have open accessibility at events and activities and will be subject to removal from the premises by security.
Identification Card (Rattler Card)
Rattler Identification Cards are distributed during First-Year Orientation. In order to obtain a Rattler Card, students need to present a valid picture ID (i.e., driver’s license, passport, etc.) Students are required to carry these cards and to show them upon entering the building in order to gain further access to the facilities. The Rattler card is also necessary to borrow books from the law library.

Public Transportation
The FAMU College of Law is conveniently located and may be reached by car or public transportation.

The main downtown bus terminal for the LYNX Transportation system is located just 4 ½ blocks from the law school. LYNX buses travel on more than 50 routes and offer service seven days a week, 365 days a year. Contact the LYNX Customer Service Center at (407) 841-8240 for information regarding schedules and rates.

In addition, LYNX operates LYMMO, a courtesy bus circulator that transports riders throughout the downtown Orlando area, traveling from the Orlando Centroplex Garage to Orlando’s City Hall and back. The LYMMO currently has a designated stop at the College of Law. Buses are free and run every 5-10 minutes on weekdays. Service hours vary on weekends and during special events.

Telephone Access
All telephones within the library, administrative or faculty offices are for staff use only.

Cell Telephones, Pagers and Other Electronic Devices
In order to maintain a professional atmosphere in which members of the law school community can effectively learn and study, all cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices must be kept silent or turned off while in classrooms, the law library, and the courtroom.

Except as specifically approved in writing by a faculty member or required as reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities, students are prohibited from bringing cell phones, pagers, programmable calculators, cameras, scanning or document imaging devices, iPods, or any other mp3 players, personal digital assistants (PDAs), or any other electronic communications devices into examination rooms.

Fee Liability
Students must pay all fees for which they are liable. Liability for fees is incurred for all credit hours that remain on the student’s schedule of courses at the end of the drop/add period. Failure to pay fees will result in the cancellation of the student’s schedule.

Audio-Visual Recording of Lectures or Presentations
Students are not permitted to record lectures and classroom presentations. Unless a faculty member provides express permission, the faculty member will be deemed to not permit recording under any
circumstances. Recording of any class by anyone without prior consent of the University or the faculty member teaching such class may constitute copyright infringement in violation of federal and state law, and may be subject to College of Law and University disciplinary action.

The only exception applies to students who have been granted official written permission from the University. For more information, see the Director of Student Affairs. With that said, students should assume that any class in which they are participants may be subject to being recorded. If they are uncertain and need clarification, they should consult the faculty member in that class.

**Student Records Release**

All students are provided certain protections concerning the confidentiality of their educational records. Education records as defined by 20 USCS Section 1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended, and student records and reports as defined in Section 228.093, Florida Statutes, shall be released only as provided by law. Directory information may be released and includes the following: the student’s name, address, telephone number, if it is a listed number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

Students must inform the Office of the University Registrar and the College of Law’s Registrar in writing if they do not wish to have the University release directory information about them. Such notification will result in the University’s refusal to release any of this directory information to anyone, except as provided by law. Students should inform the Office of the University Registrar and the College of Law’s Registrar of this decision prior to the first day of classes for any applicable term. Once made, the decision will remain in effect until the Office of the University Registrar and the College of Law Registrar receives written notification to the contrary.

**Change of Address**

All students must indicate their current permanent address, local address, and emergency contact information at the time of enrollment. Pursuant to FAMU Regulation 2.012(27), students who have a subsequent change of address must file a change of address form at the Office of the College of Law’s Registrar. Students are responsible for keeping the College of Law Registrar informed in writing of their current mailing address. The mailing address of a student on record in the College of Law Registrar’s Office will be used to give notification in writing.

**Faculty Advisors**

The College of Law faculty is committed to students’ educational and professional growth. Faculty will be accessible to students both during class and office hours. In the first year of study, the College of Law assigns each student a faculty advisor who will be available to advise them throughout their law school matriculation. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is also available to advise all students on academic matters.
Class Assignments

In addition to postings on the electronic message monitors, class assignments and administrative notices may be posted on a board that is located in the student lounge on the first floor of the law school building. Students should check the board regularly. Official notices may also be posted on the glass-enclosed boards located near the elevators.
COLLEGE OF LAW ADMINISTRATION

Offices of the Dean

Nicola Boothe Perry (nicky.boothe@famu.edu)
Interim Dean and Professor of Law
Location: Third Floor, Dean's Suite

Pamela Leonard (pamela.leonard@famu.edu)
Executive Assistant to the Dean
Location: Third Floor, Dean's Suite

Phyllis Taite (phyllis.taite@famu.edu)
Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law
Location: Third Floor, Dean's Suite

Sharon Shelton (sharon.shelton@famu.edu)
Administrative Assistant to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Location: Third Floor, Dean's Suite

Alicia Jackson (alicia.jackson@famu.edu)
Associate Dean for Student Learning and Assessment
Location: Third Floor, Dean's Suite

Gloria Baskerville-Johnson (Gloria.baskerville@famu.edu)
Administrative Assistant to the Associate Dean for Student Learning and Assessment
Location: Third Floor, Dean's Suite

Reginald Green (reginald.green@famu.edu)
Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration
Location: First Floor, Operations Suite

Theresa Pissini (theresa.pissini@famu.edu)
Administrative Assistant to the Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration
Location: First Floor, Operations Suite

The Dean and Associate Deans serve as the Executive Officers of the College of Law, responsible for all aspects of operations. In that regard, the Dean’s administrative team’s efforts are concentrated on operations management, budget, faculty and staff hiring, external relations and fundraising, relations with the University administration, and the curricular development and accreditation process. The Associate Deans report directly to the Dean and the Dean reports directly to the University Provost. The Dean is a member of the FAMU Academic Council. The Academic Council is comprised of all University Deans and is chaired by the Provost.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of the Dean
Florida A&M University College of Law
201 Beggs Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 254-4010
Fax: (407) 254-2450
Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program

Reginald J. Mitchell, Sr. (reginald.mitchellsr@famu.edu)  
Director & Instructor  
Location: First Floor, Clinic Area/Room 191  
(407) 254-4009

Eurilynne Williams (eurilynne.williams@famu.edu)  
Assistant Director & Instructor  
Location: First Floor, Clinic Area/Room 190  
(407) 254-4002

Marlese Wells (marlese.wells@famu.edu)  
Instructor  
Location: First Floor, Clinic Area/Room 188  
(407) 254-4045

Cynthia Ramkellawan (cynthia.ramkellawan@famu.edu)  
Instructor  
Location: First Floor, Clinic Area/Room 187  
(407) 254-4003

The mission of the Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program is to help students achieve Academic Success through critical skills training that will transcend the law school experience and directly impact upon their preparedness to pass the bar and to become competent legal professionals.

The Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program (ASBP) is aimed at enhancing our students analytical and critical thinking skills and ability to pass the Bar Examination by strengthening students’ reading comprehension, issue-spotting, legal analysis, test-taking, course outlining, time management, stress management, and study skills through comprehensive critical skills courses and bar preparation workshops. ASBP offers two courses, one designed specifically for first year law students while the other course is designed for upper level law students. Additionally, the ASBP faculty holds office hours to increase accessibility for students who desire one-on-one assistance with academic or bar preparation issues. Furthermore, supplemental reading materials and study aids are available at no charge to students in the FAMU Law Library Reserve Collection on the first floor of the library.

In addition, the Bar Exam Success Training (BEST) Program provides a new level of individualized structure and support for FAMU graduates who are taking the bar exam in Florida or another jurisdiction. The program is free, available to all full-time and part-time students, begins immediately during orientation, throughout law school matriculation, follows after students graduate, and continues to the bar examination.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of Academic Success and Bar Preparation  
Florida A&M University College of Law  
201 Beggs Avenue, Room 195  
Orlando, FL 32801  
Office: (407) 254-3284  
Hours of Operation:  
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Admissions

Laschel Erika Hill (erika.hill@famu.edu)
Director of Law Admissions
Location: Third Floor, Room 324

The Admissions Office develops and administers programs for recruitment and the evaluation of applicants for admission.

The Florida A&M University College of Law seeks diligent, hardworking students with a broad array of talents and experiences who demonstrate both an exceptional aptitude for the study of law and a strong history of, or commitment to public service. Selection for admission is based on a thorough evaluation of all factors in an applicant’s file. In reviewing the applications of individuals applying for admission to the College of Law, the Admissions Committee considered a multitude of factors, including:

* Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score
* Cumulative undergraduate grade point average (UGPA)
* Writing ability and as evidenced by the LSAT writing sample and personal statement
* The academic reputation of the applicant’s undergraduate and/or graduate institution
* The academic rigor of an applicant’s undergraduate and/or graduate major(s)
* Record of community or public service
* Academic honors and personal achievements
* Work experience
* Extra-curricular activities
* Letters of recommendation
* Evidence of an applicant’s motivation, character and fitness for the practice of law

A limited number of scholarships are available through the College of Law for entering students enrolled at the law school. Most aid is awarded to new students on the basis of merit and financial need. All entering students are automatically considered for any scholarships administered by the College of Law and need not submit a scholarship application. All continuing students are required to complete an application for College of Law scholarships.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of Admissions
Florida A&M University College of Law 201 Beggs Avenue, Third Floor, Room 324 Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 254-3286
Fax: (407) 254-2455

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Career Planning and Professional Development

Randolph Reliford (randolph.reliford@famu.edu)  
Assistant Dean for Career Planning and Professional Development  
Location: Room 147

The Office of Career Planning and Professional Development (CPPD) is a comprehensive resource center, designed to assist students and alumni in every phase of their career planning process. The CPPD serves as a professional employment and preparation resource, offering year-round service to students, alumni and employers.

The Office is committed to advising and assisting students with job searches and professional skills development. A list of services include:

* **12Twenty:** 12Twenty is an online platform designed to assist in your career planning and professional development. Students and alumni have access to post resumes and cover letters for review and feedback. Students and alumni may register for job fairs and sign up for on-campus interviews (OCI) with various employers. Additionally, students and alumni have access to job postings and information about all other programs and events conducted through the office.

* **Individual Counseling:** Career counselors are available, by appointment, to meet with students and alumni to offer suggestions for drafting an effective resume and cover letter, to assist in developing an effective job search and to provide insight on exploring available career opportunities. To make appointments, students may stop into the office, use the scheduling feature in 12Twenty, or email the office. The office also accepts walk-in appointments as necessary.

* **Programming:** Throughout the year, workshops on resume and cover letter writing, networking, job search strategies, interviewing techniques and how to dress for success are offered. In addition, panel presentations by practitioners on different practice areas and topics are offered for professional development. CPPD also provides opportunities to network with professionals.

* **On-Campus Interview (OCI) Program:** Students may have the opportunity to interview with potential employers through CPPD. Employers are invited on campus to interview students for positions as law clerks, interns, summer associates, first year associates, and more.

* **Mock Interviews:** Students may have an opportunity to prepare for upcoming interviews through mock interviews. The students will be given feedback to improve their interviewing skills.

* **Employment Opportunities:** Employment opportunities are regularly posted in our online platforms and emailed in newsletters.

* **Reciprocity:** Reciprocity opportunities may be available to students and alumni searching for employment in other jurisdictions. If reciprocity is granted, students and alumni will have access to resources from other Career Planning offices around the state and country. For reciprocity access, requests must be made through CPPD.

* **Publications and Books:** Relevant employment and career search publications are located in the law library on the 4th floor and in the office common area. Subscriptions to the Government Honors
& Internship Handbook, Public Policy Handbook, PSJD, and other career planning resources are available online.

* **Job and Career Fairs:** The College of Law participates in various recruitment programs in Florida and across the country. Information about such programs will be posted on 12Twenty and on the bulletin board in the office common area.

* **Other Resources:** Students and alumni have access to computer, printer, fax machine and copier for use in their job search only. Resume paper is also available upon request.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Office of Career Planning and Professional Development
Florida A&M University College of Law 201 Beggs Avenue, Room 147
Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 254-3212
Fax: (407) 254-2455

**Hours of Operation:**
Monday – Tuesday – Thursday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Financial Aid

Tocoa Hampton (tocoa.hampton@famu.edu)
Associate Director
Location: First Floor, Room 143

The Florida A&M University College of Law offers a comprehensive financial aid program that includes institutional grants and federal loan programs to help eligible students meet the expenses associated with attaining a legal education. Funds are awarded and administered by the Office of Financial Aid at the College of Law in conjunction with the University’s Office of Financial Aid.

A limited number of institutional scholarships are available to students entering the College of Law. All admitted students are automatically considered for available scholarships. A separate scholarship application is not needed. Additional donor scholarships are listed on the scholarship listing. For the majority of students, federally sponsored student loans will be the most common type of financial aid available.

Students who anticipate receiving any form of financial aid, including federally funded student loans must complete either: 1) the U.S. Department of Education RENEWAL Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or 2) a standard Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The information submitted on this application will determine your eligibility for loans under both the Federal Loan programs. To obtain the FAFSA online, visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). The school code for FAMU is 001480.

Applicants who intend to apply for financial aid may contact the College of Law Financial Aid Office directly at (407) 254-4032 for more information and assistance. Applicants are encouraged to begin the financial aid application process early.

For answers to questions specific to the financial aid process at the Florida A&M University College of Law, please review our Frequently Asked Questions section.

For additional financial aid information, please visit the [University’s financial aid website](#).

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Office of Law School Financial Aid Florida A&M University College of Law 201 Beggs Avenue, Room 143
Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 254-4032
Fax: (407) 254-2455

**Hours of Operation:**
Monday - Tuesday - Thursday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Information Technology

Shashi Persaud (shashi.persaud@famu.edu)
Director
Location: First Floor, Suite 110

The Department of Information Technology develops and maintains the College of Law’s computer facilities (hardware and software). The Department supports the planning, evaluation, securing, development and maintenance of computer applications and systems in order to facilitate efficiency in performance of computing operations.

The IT Department has a host of services that will expand your technological skills. These resources will enrich your matriculation thus making you a globally competitive student.

A list of the current services is below:

* WiFi Network Access
* E-Study Rooms
* E-Classrooms
* Computer Lab
* Free Anti-Virus Software
* Email Services
* Free Computer Diagnostic
* Video Conferencing
* Our FAMU – Student Information System
* Video Recording and Duplication Services

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of Information Technology Florida A&M University College of Law 201 Beggs Avenue Room 110 (Day)
Library 3rd Floor Computer Lab (Evenings) Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 254-3270

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Registrar’s Office

Sonja Boles-Melvin (sonja.boles@famu.edu)
Registrar
Location: Room 162

The College of Law’s Registrar is the custodian of all student records. The Registrar’s Office is responsible for registration, grading processes, letters of good standing, bar certifications, enrollment verification, deferment form processing, V.A. certification, official withdrawals, graduation certification, and the administration of final examinations including the distribution of anonymous examination numbers each semester. General law school policies and procedures, as well as information regarding registration, class schedules, and graduation may be obtained from the Registrar’s Office.

The University student web interface is called iRattler. iRattler is the University umbrella system for all student administrative related functions which include Registration, Student Accounts, Student Records, and Financial Aid. iRattler has self-service options for students that enable students to enroll in classes, change address and phone information, view a University bill, accept/decline financial aid, and view course schedules, grades, and transcript information. All students should familiarize themselves with the iRattler system.

All questions and concerns should be sent to RegistrarCOL@famu.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of the Registrar
Florida A&M University College of Law 201 Beggs Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 254-3287 or (407) 254-3279
FAX: (407) 254-3221

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hours of operation for the Registrar’s Office vary at particular times of the semester (i.e., final exam sessions, Summer term, etc.). If you are traveling from to conduct business at the Registrar’s Office, please contact the office first to confirm the hours of operation during that time.
Office of Student Affairs

Gary Harrington (gary.harrington@famu.edu)
Director
Location: Room 142

The Director of Student Affairs is responsible for all aspects of the Office of Student Affairs, which includes support for students from Orientation through Commencement. The Department of Student Affairs is focused on providing exceptional services, facilities, programs, and experiences that enrich student learning and development, foster an inclusive campus community, and promote the core values in support of the educational mission of the Florida A&M University College of Law.

The Office of Student Affairs works with students regarding a wide range of matters affecting student life, including existing student organizations and assisting students who wish to start a new organization. In addition, other functions relating to the Office of Student Affairs include program development; academic and personal advising; oversight of accommodations of students with disabilities; oversight of examination administration for accommodated and rescheduled examinations; review of student conduct issues; assisting College of Law students with mandatory health insurance; and assigning lockers.

The holistic health of the College of Law student is a primary concern for the student affairs staff.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of Student Affairs
Florida A&M University College of Law 201 Beggs Avenue, Room 142
Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 254-3280
(407) 254-4035
Fax: (407) 254-2455

Hours of Operation:
Monday – Tuesday – Thursday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Academic Planning for Success Advising

Donna Rivera-Kalala, M.S (donna.riverakalala@famu.edu )
Academic Planning for Success Advisor
Location: 335E

The Academic Planning for Success Advisor is available to guide and assist students with course selection, academic planning, graduation requirements and academic standards. Academic planning is a major component to student success. Students will have the opportunity to construct meaningful educational plans that will allow them to make successful decisions for their educational law career. Academic Planning for Success advising sessions are available to full and part-time students. Advising sessions are also available in group sessions, individual face to face sessions and e-advising (phone) sessions. The advisor will uphold the academic standards of the College of Law and University. Appointments may be scheduled by visiting the Academic Planning for Success Advisor TWEN page.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Office of Academic Planning for Success Advisor
Florida A&M University College of Law 201 Beggs Avenue, Room 335E
Orlando, FL 32801
Office: (407) 254-2463
Fax: (407) 254-2456

Hours of Operation:
Monday –Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Appointments available via TWEN page or by phone.
Requirements for the Juris Doctor Degree

To be eligible for the award of the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree, a student must:

* Successfully complete all required courses;
* Successfully complete at least 90 semester credit hours of course work;
* No more than 30 semester credit hours may be earned at any other law school;
* Satisfy the upper-level writing requirement;
* Satisfy the experiential learning requirement;
* Earn a cumulative and semester grade point average of 2.00 or higher;
* Successfully complete at least 64 credit hours in courses that require attendance in regularly scheduled classroom sessions or direct faculty instruction; and
* Be approved by the College of Law faculty.

The College of Law prohibits granting of credit towards a J.D. for course work taken prior to matriculation in a law school. The prohibition includes pre-law program courses. The maximum period for a full-time law student to complete requirements for a J.D. degree is five (5) years. The maximum period for a part-time law student to complete requirements for a J.D. degree is six (6) years. The minimum period for any student to complete the requirements is twenty-four (24) months.

Reliability, Character, and Fitness

In determining whether to approve a student for the J. D. degree, the College of Law Dean and faculty will take into account the candidate's general reliability, character, and fitness. Honesty and integrity are core values of the College of Law and the legal profession. You play a key role in maintaining the accuracy and completeness of your permanent law school student record. The application for admission is part of your permanent record and we may present it to law examiners when you seek admission to a state bar. It is your responsibility to ensure that your law school application is complete and accurate, as omissions and inaccuracies can raise questions about your character and fitness to practice law.

If you determine your application is inaccurate or incomplete, you may request the law school amend your application by completing this form. Similarly, you have an on-going obligation to report any incidents relevant to the character and fitness process that occur after you submit your law school application. Students who wish to amend their law school record may initiate the process through the Office of the Registrar.

Misrepresentations and omissions of information on the Law School application and delays in amending an application may be grounds for discipline and/or expulsion. These misrepresentations and omissions of information on the Law School application are reported to Bar authorities and may be grounds for denial of admission to the Bar.
Application for Graduation

Applications for graduation are accepted each semester/term (Fall, Spring, Summer) in which all the requirements for the degree are met. Eligible students will receive an eligibility indicator on their record via iRattler. All requirements for the degree must be complete at the conclusion of the semester/term of the application. This requirement includes the time period to post all grades earned by the student. Students who did not satisfy all requirements for graduation must reapply in the next semester or term.

Classification of Law Students

1L (P1) – earned 0 to 30 semester hours

2L (P2) – earned 31 to 60 semester hours

3L (P3) – earned 61 to 90 semester hours

Curriculum

Required Courses

All students must pass all the courses and requirements listed below:

- Business Organizations
- Civil Procedure I & II
- Constitutional Law I & II
- Contracts I & II
- Criminal Law
- Evidence
- Introduction to Analytical Skills I & II
- Legal Research and Writing I & II
- Experiential Courses (Simulation Courses, Law Clinics or Field Placement)
- Professional Responsibility
- Property I & II
- Torts I & II
- Upper-Level Writing Requirement
FULL-TIME PROGRAM

Full-time students must enroll in day sections of required courses.

FIRST YEAR REQUIRED COURSES

First year students are required to take the following courses in the sequence set forth below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Procedure I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Civil Procedure II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Contracts II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Analytical Skills I</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Introduction to Analytical Skills II</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Research and Writing I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Legal Research and Writing II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Property II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torts I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Torts II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Constitutional Law I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UPPER-LEVEL REQUIRED COURSES

Students must complete the upper-level required courses listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Organizations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional Law II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Responsibility</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sequencing of Upper-Level Required Courses

Second Year, Fall Semester

Students must enroll in the following courses in the fall semester of the second year of study:

- Constitutional Law II
- Evidence
- Professional Responsibility
Second Year

- Criminal Law

Second Year or Third Year

- Business Organizations

Other Requirements

Upper-Level Writing Requirement

In addition to completing the required courses, students must satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement. For specific information, see “Upper-Level Writing Requirement” on page 42.

Experiential Courses Requirement

All students entering as 1Ls in Fall 2016 or later are required to satisfactorily complete one or more experiential courses totaling at least six (6) credit hours. An experiential course must be a simulation course, a law clinic, or a field placement. A student may therefore satisfy this experiential course requirement by participating in and satisfactorily completing either one of several available clinical offerings or by successfully completing six (6) credits of courses designated as experiential courses or any courses the Dean or the Dean’s designee may certify as experiential course(s). Field placements (“internships”) for credit also count toward the experiential course requirement. For more information on the Experiential Education offerings, see page 78.

Designated Experiential Courses:

- Advanced Appellate Advocacy
- Advanced Trial Practice
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Contract Drafting
- Domestic Violence Workshop
- Environmental Practice Workshop
- Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation
- Law Office Management
- Mediation Theory and Practice
- Pretrial Practice Workshop
- Trial Practice

No student will be permitted to use any one course to satisfy more than one requirement. As such although a course offered may count either as an upper-level writing requirement or as an
experiential course, a student cannot use that one course to satisfy both the upper-level writing requirement AND the experiential course requirement.

Elective Courses

The College of Law offers a wide variety of elective courses. Full-time students may take day or evening elective courses. Please note – Advanced Analytical Skills has been designated an elective course.

Highly Recommended Core Electives in Bar Examination Subject Areas

The faculty strongly encourages students to take the courses listed below, which cover subjects tested on the Florida Bar Examination. Highlighting these courses reflects the view that a student will benefit from taking these courses, no matter what area of practice he or she chooses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Procedure: Arrest and Investigation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Procedure: Pre-Trial</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Amendment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Bar Law and Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Constitutional Law</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Law</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multistate Bar Law and Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment Systems (covers Article 3 of the UCC)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remedies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales (covers Article 2 of the UCC)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secured Transactions (covers Article 9 of the UCC)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusts and Fiduciary Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills and Estates</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART-TIME PROGRAM

Part-time students must enroll in evening sections of required courses.

FIRST YEAR REQUIRED COURSES

First year students are required to take the following courses in the sequence set forth below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Procedure I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Analytical Skills I</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Research and Writing I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Procedure II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Analytical Skills II</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Research and Writing II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Students may not enroll in elective courses in the second semester of the first year.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Semester</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Responsibility</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Students may enroll in elective courses during the Summer term of the first year.)

Second Year Evening Program (FIRST YEAR REQUIRED COURSES for part-time students)

Fall Semester

Student must take the following courses in the sequence set forth below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional Law I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torts I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional Law II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torts II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits¹</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Second year students in the part-time program have limited options for elective courses because they have not completed the foundational courses. Accordingly, second year part-time students who enroll in the required seven (7) credits only during the spring semester will be considered to be in compliance with the College of Law’s minimum course load rules.
UPPER-LEVEL REQUIRED COURSES

Students must complete the upper-level required courses listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Organizations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sequencing of Upper-Level Courses

No Later Than Third Year, Fall Semester

- Evidence

Part-time students must enroll in evening sections of Business Organizations and Evidence.

Other Requirements

Upper-Level Writing Requirement

In addition to completing the required courses, students must satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement. For more information, see “Upper-Level Writing Requirement” on page 42.

Experiential Courses Requirement

All students entering as 1Ls in Fall 2016 or later are required to satisfactorily complete one or more experiential courses totaling at least six (6) credit hours. An experiential course must be a simulation course, a law clinic, or a field placement. A student may therefore satisfy this experiential course requirement by participating in and satisfactorily completing either one of several available clinical offerings or by successfully completing six (6) credits of courses designated as experiential courses or any courses the Dean or the Dean’s designee may certify as experiential course(s). Field placements (“internships”) for credit also count toward the experiential course requirement. For more information, see “Experiential Education” on page 78.

Designated Experiential Courses:

- Advanced Appellate Advocacy
- Advanced Trial Practice
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Contract Drafting
- Domestic Violence Workshop
- Environmental Practice Workshop
- Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation
- Law Office Management
- Mediation Theory and Practice
- Pretrial Practice Workshop
- Trial Practice
Students are not permitted to use any one course to satisfy more than one requirement. As such although a course offered may count either as an upper-level writing requirement or as an experiential course, a student cannot use that one course to satisfy both the upper-level writing requirement AND the experiential course requirement.

**Elective Courses**

The College of Law offers a wide variety of elective courses. Part-time students may take day or evening elective courses.

**Highly Recommended Core Electives in Bar Examination Subject Matter Areas**

The faculty strongly encourages students to take the courses listed below, which cover subject matter tested on the Florida Bar Examination. It is nearly impossible to enroll in all of the courses, so student should develop an academic plan with the Academic Planning for Success Advisor and Faculty Advisor to choose subjects that provide a foundation in the Black Letter Law and align with career aspirations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Procedure: Arrest and Investigation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Procedure: Pre-Trial</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Amendment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Bar Law and Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Constitutional Law</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Law</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multistate Bar Law and Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment Systems (covers Article 3 of the UCC)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remedies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales (covers Article 2 of the UCC)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secured Transactions (covers Article 9 of the UCC)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusts and Fiduciary Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills and Estates</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing Requirements

FIRST YEAR WRITING REQUIREMENT

All students must earn a passing grade in Legal Research and Writing I and Legal Research and Writing II.

UPPER-LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENT

All students must complete the Upper-Level Writing Requirement as a part of a two (2)-credit seminar or approved two (2)-credit independent research project. A Florida A&M University College of Law full-time faculty member must supervise independent research projects. Adjunct faculty members are not eligible to supervise independent research projects to satisfy this requirement. The faculty certification must be approved in the semester the grade is recorded for the seminar or independent research project.

In order to satisfy the requirement, the research paper must be a minimum of twenty-five (25) pages in length including footnotes; earn a grade of B- or above; and the paper must meet all of the standards listed below, as certified by the faculty supervisor of the paper in the semester the paper is completed:

• Significant analytical paper;
• Reflects substantial legal research;
• Contains original thought;
• Displays proper writing style; and
• Uses correct citation form.

The Upper Level Writing Requirement may not be satisfied at any other institution under any circumstances.
Maximum and Minimum Course Loads

Full-Time Program

Fall and Spring Semester

No Full-Time student may register for more than sixteen (16) credit hours or less than twelve (12) credit hours in any Fall or Spring semester. This credit hour total includes any transient student credits in the same semester.

Summer Term

No Full-Time student may register for more than nine (9) credit hours in any Summer term. There is no minimum course load for Full-Time students in a Summer term, except as necessary to qualify for financial aid. Based on federal regulations, students must be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for federal student aid. As such, all students seeking federal student aid during a Summer term must enroll in a minimum of four (4) credits to receive financial aid. This credit hour total includes any transient student credits in the same semester.

Part-Time Program

Fall and Spring Semester

Except during the Spring semester of the second year, no Part-Time student may register for more than eleven (11) credit hours or less than eight (8) credit hours in any Fall or Spring semester. This credit-hour total includes any transient student credits in the same semester.

Summer Term

No Part-Time student may register for more than nine (9) credit hours or less than four (4) credit hours in any Summer term. This credit-hour total includes any transient student credits in the same term.

NOTE: PART-TIME STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN SUMMER TERM CLASSES.

Additional Credit Hour in Semester of Graduation

Fall or Spring Semester

Any full-time student scheduled to graduate in the fall or spring semester may enroll in 17 credit hours in the semester of graduation. Any part-time student seeking to use this maximum course load exception must make a timely request for a program change from part-time to full-time (see Transferring Between Day to Evening Program). This credit-hour total includes any transient student credits in the same semester.

Summer Term

Any student who is scheduled to graduate in the Summer term may enroll in ten (10) credit hours in the term of graduation. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to enroll in more than ten (10) credit hours in any Summer term. This credit-hour total includes any transient student credits in the same term.
Registration

Students register for classes online via their iRattler account. Therefore, students are responsible for ensuring that their registration is correct. Students must also adhere to all deadlines listed on the College of Law Academic Calendar. This requirement includes the deadline to submit official transcripts in first year of law school. If the official transcript is not submitted by the deadline, your admission will be revoked.

First Year Students

First-year students are assigned to sections for all of their Fall and Spring semester courses prior to the start of classes. First year students must enroll in the assigned sections of each course. First year students must remain enrolled in their assigned sections for the entire first year of study of required courses.

Requirement to Register

Any student who fails to register or fails to attend class by the end of the first week of any semester and has not been approved for a leave of absence will be presumed to have withdrawn from the College of Law. The student will be administratively withdrawn and may be required to reapply for admission.

Advance Registration by Appointment Times

The College of Law conducts Advance Registration prior to each term. After their first semester of attendance, students will have designated appointment days for registration based on their number of earned credits. During the Advance Registration period, students may register only on their designated days (Full-time and Part-time).

Students who miss their designated appointment day will register during Open Enrollment, which begins immediately after Advance Registration and runs through the end of the Drop/Add period.

Students who register before their designated appointment day will be removed from enrollment and will not be permitted to register until the first day of Open Enrollment.

Veterans Priority Registration

Florida Statutes 1004.075 requires each Florida College System institution and state university to provide Veteran students with preference in course registration. Florida Statutes 1004.075. Per the Statute, the College of Law offers priority registration and scheduling preference to Veterans and dependents (military-connected students) who provide proof of military connection.

Students offered priority registration will receive a notification via email that specifies their priority registration date. Students may register on the priority registration date or any day, following that date as long as its prior to the first day of class.

Priority Registration does not eliminate any student from adhering to all other registration policies and regulations.
Veteran Services Information

Veteran Students and Veteran Dependents using Veteran Affairs benefits are to provide a current Veteran Affairs Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and complete the Florida A&M University College of Law Certification Request for Veteran Benefits Form each semester and no later than the first day of classes for the intended enrollment term and submit documents to the College of Law Registrar’s Office. All forms may be found on the College of Law website at https://law.famu.edu/students/current-students/registrar/.

- Delayed VA Payments

Veteran students with current COEs on file and appropriate certification documents are expected to pay tuition and fees by the published payment deadlines. These veteran students will not be restricted in any way due to the delay in receipt of benefits from the VA. Under S2248 PL 115-407 Section 103, Florida A&M University College of Law School Certifying Official Representative will assist beneficiaries of Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment) or Chapter 33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill) in ensuring the delay of VA payments does not cause penalties such as late payment fees, denial of access to facilities, or other penalties up to 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the certificate of eligibility. Any portion of the student bill not covered by VA benefits is still expected to be settled by the payment due date as published in the College of Law Academic Calendar.

Drop/Add Procedures

First Year Students

First-year students may not make changes to their assigned course schedules or assigned sections.

Upper-Level Students

Upper-level students, who decide to add, drop or change their course schedule after registration for any course, may do so until the last day of the drop/add period for the semester or term. (Refer to the published Academic Calendar for specific drop/add dates each semester). A student’s ability to make changes is subject to the minimum and maximum number of credits required for his or her particular program. (See page 43, Minimum and Maximum Course Loads.)

After the drop/add period, students may no longer add a course. Additionally, if a student wishes to withdraw from a course after the drop/add period they must obtain written approval from the Associate Dean of Student Services and Administration on the appropriate form and final approval from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. If approved, the dropped course will be assigned a grade of “W” on the transcript and students are fee liable for the course. The last day to drop a course in any given semester with a grade of “W” is published each semester on the Academic Calendar.
Attendance Policy

In accordance with Standard 304 of the American Bar Association for Approval of Law Schools, the College of Law requires regular and punctual class attendance to satisfy residency and class-hour requirements.

Students must attend a minimum of 80% of the classes for each course. Any student who attends fewer than the 80% minimum of classes of a course will be administratively withdrawn and assigned a grade of “F” for the course.

The 80% minimum attendance policy does not preclude faculty members from imposing stricter, more demanding attendance requirements for their courses. Faculty must take attendance. It is the obligation of each student to ensure that his/her attendance has been recorded. Please note that a student registering or adding a course after classes have begun will be counted absent for classes missed prior to registering for the course.

Each student is responsible for maintaining his or her own records of attendance. As a courtesy, some faculty may have their program assistants keep attendance records for each class and some may send absence notices when a student is approaching or have reached the maximum number of allowable absences. The fact that a program assistant did not have attendance records or a courtesy notice was not sent or received will not relieve a student of the consequences of a violation of the attendance policy. Falsifying class attendance is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

The College of Law has no “excused absences.” The attendance requirement is a “no fault rule” – that is, the faculty member shall not take account of any medical or other excuses in computing the number of absences any student may have accumulated in the course. No student should contact their faculty member requesting an excused absence or a waiver of the attendance policy. Any communication regarding absences should be limited to questions regarding course materials. Please note the faculty member is not required to produce any materials missed due to an absence.

Upon a showing of compelling hardship and in exceptional circumstances, however, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Administration may relieve a student of the attendance requirement. Requests for relief from the attendance requirement must be submitted in a timely manner – ordinarily within three days of notification of excessive absences. The Associate Dean may permit the student to take the examination or give no relief, in their discretion. Under no circumstances will the Associate Dean be permitted to grant a waiver to any student who has missed more than 30% of the class sessions for any course.
### Maximum Absences

#### Maximum Absences

**Fall & Spring Classes (15 weeks)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Meetings per Week</th>
<th>Total Classes</th>
<th>Absences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Maximum Absences Summer Classes (7 weeks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Meetings per Week</th>
<th>Total Classes</th>
<th>Absences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Maximum Absences Summer Classes (10 weeks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Meetings per Week</th>
<th>Total Classes</th>
<th>Absences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Employment Recommendations

The College of Law believes a full-time course load is a challenging endeavor for any student. This belief is amplified for new students. As such, the College of Law discourages all employment by first-year, full-time students.

The College of Law highly recommends that all full-time student not engage in employment for more than 20 hours per week in any semester in which the student is enrolled in 12 or more credit hours.

Grading Standards

Grades and Quality Points

The Florida A&M University College of Law uses the following grading system, which uses both letter grades and quality points:

- A 4.00
- A- 3.67
- B+ 3.33
- B 3.00
- B- 2.67
- C+ 2.33
- C 2.00
- C- 1.67
- D+ 1.33
- D 1.00
- F 0.00

Transcript Notations

The following grades or symbols may also appear on a student's record:

- I Incomplete; not included in computation of grade point average
- S Satisfactory; credit earned, but not included in computation of grade point average
- U Unsatisfactory; no credit earned
- W Withdrew from the course or University subsequent to the deadline for dropping a course
Minimum Grade Cumulative Grade Point Average

Students are required to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0. Students who fail to maintain this average are subject to academic probation or dismissal.

Grading Curve

The Florida A&M University College of Law uses the following grading curve.

First Year Courses - Grade Distribution

All required first-year courses will be graded across the entire grading spectrum, with an expected distribution of grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earned Grade</th>
<th>Min. / Max. Allowed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>up to 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>up to 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total A range: 5% to 12%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>up to 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>up to 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>up to 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total B range: 20% to 40%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total A&amp;B range: 25% to 50%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>up to 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>up to 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total C+ &amp; C range: up to 45%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>up to 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>up to 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total C- &amp; D+ range: 5% to 12%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>up to 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>up to 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total D &amp; F range: 5% to 12%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Second-Year Part-Time Grade Distribution
The First Year Course Grade Distribution also applies to Constitutional Law I, Property I, Property II, Torts I, and Torts II in the part-time program.

Other Upper-Level Courses
All other required upper-level courses and upper-level courses with more than twenty-five (25) enrolled students, will be graded on a “B / B-” median grade curve.

Extension and Incomplete Grades
In a seminar or an independent study project, the faculty member may, upon application of a student, grant an extension of the due date. This extension may not exceed six (6) weeks from the end of the examination period, provided that any extension beyond three (3) weeks from the end of the examination period must be in writing, signed by the faculty member, and sent to the College of Law’s Registrar. Any further extension beyond six (6) weeks from the end of the examination period may be granted only with the written permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and with the consent of the faculty member.

A grade of incomplete (“I”) shall be submitted for a student only when:
• in a seminar or an independent study project, the student has received an extension of time to submit his or her paper; or
• in an examination course, the student was granted an excused absence from the final examination. Delayed examinations must be taken no later than one week from the end of the examination period for the semester. (See “Final Date for Rescheduled Examinations,” page 64).

A grade of incomplete (“I”) is not computed in a student’s grade point average and therefore student records with “I” grades are not included with rankings.

In the event a grade of incomplete (“I”) is not removed from a student’s transcript by the last day of classes of the following term (if the student is enrolled in Summer courses) or semester, the grade shall be changed to a failing grade (“F”) in the course. The “F” grade is counted in computing the student's grade point average.

Failed Courses
A student who fails a required course must retake it during the next regular semester or term the course is offered. A student who fails an elective course may retake it if he or she wishes. The College of Law does not have a grade forgiveness policy. Therefore, when a student retakes a failed course, both grades will appear on the student’s transcript and will be computed in the student's cumulative grade point average. Note: Faculty members may complete the Grade Adjustment Form during their grading process; however, students who earn a failing grade may not benefit from the Grade Adjustment Form.

A student may not retake a course in which he or she received a passing grade, unless directed to do so by the Academic Standards Committee and approved by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.
Grade Concerns

Students who may have concerns about a specific grade shall refrain from contacting their faculty until after the grade has posted.

Grade Change Policy

Grades are considered final upon submission to the College of Law Registrar. A final grade submitted to the College of Law Registrar cannot be changed as a result of a faculty member’s substantive re-evaluation of a student’s examination answers, other work. A faculty member may change a final grade ONLY if it is incorrect due to a mathematical or scrivener’s error or involves removal of an incomplete grade. If a faculty member determines a grade change is necessary, a grade change form accompanied by a letter of justification must be submitted to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Dean of the College of Law for final approval by the end of the next semester/term.

Transfer Credits

All candidates for the J.D. degree are required to complete at least 60 credit hours at the Florida A&M University College of Law. A maximum of 30 credit hours may be given for work at another ABA approved law school. Credit for work taken at another school will only be granted for courses in which the student received a grade of “C” or better. Credits for such work can only be awarded for courses that are not offered at Florida A&M University College of Law.

To receive credit for transient courses, students must receive prior approval from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. All grades received for courses at another law school will appear on the Florida A&M University College of Law transcript as an “S” without any quality points and will not be used to compute the student’s grade point average. Note: It is the student’s responsibility to document that they have earned a “C” or better for all transient credits. A “P” or “S” is not sufficient to satisfy this requirement. Credits will not be granted without official documentation that the minimum grade was earned.

There are study abroad programs available from which to choose. Students interested in any study abroad program should review all policies and procedures before applying. Interested students should be proactive, thorough and knowledgeable to ensure a successful study abroad experience.

Transient courses taken for degree completion are eligible for financial aid only when the student registers for student abroad courses at Florida A&M University College of Law.

Students must take all required courses at the Florida A&M University College of Law.
Transcripts

A transcript is the student’s official academic record. Official transcripts are issued upon request to the main University Registrar’s Office or for pick up at the College of Law Registrar’s Office. Transcript fee is $10.00 each. To order a transcript, students may choose one of the following options:

1. Place a request online at www.getmytranscript.com. (There is a $2.25 convenience fee)
2. Submit a paper request in person or mail a request to the main University Registrar’s Office.

Requests for official transcripts (in person or by mail) should be made to the main campus at:

Florida A&M University
Office of University Registrar
Tallahassee, Florida 32807
(805) 561-3115

Program Changes - Transferring Between Day and Evening

- Students must complete the first year foundational courses of their respective programs before they are eligible to transfer from one program to another. For part-time students, the foundational courses are distributed throughout the first and second year of the evening program, which are the first two years (four semesters) and the first Summer term.

- Students must be in good standing to transfer from one program to another.

- Students must meet with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to determine if they meet the qualification for a program change.

- Students must complete the “Request to Transfer between Programs” form. The completed form, including all required signatures and approvals, must be signed by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and submitted to the College of Law Registrar’s Office.

- Students must apply prior to February 15 for their transfer request to be effective for the following Summer session and prior to April 1 for the request to be effective for the following Fall semester.

  * Part-time students are required to attend Summer sessions. Part-time students seeking a program change for the Fall must still enroll for the preceding Summer. If the part-time student wishes not to attend classes during the Summer session they must apply prior to February 15.

- The College of Law will approve one program transfer request per student.
Withdrawing from Courses

(See Drop/Add Procedures for Schedule Changes During the Drop/Add Period)

A student may not withdraw from a course in his or her first year of study, a course required to be taken in sequence in that semester; or a course that violates the maximum or minimum course requirement. Once the drop/add period has passed, students are expected to complete the requirements for all courses in which they are enrolled. In rare circumstance, a student may be allowed to withdraw from a course. Students must meet with the Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration to determine if they meet the qualification, then final approval must be obtained from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. A student’s request to withdraw will ONLY be approved in rare circumstances for good cause shown. Under no circumstances will a student be able to withdraw from a course after the FINAL day to withdraw as designated on the Academic Calendar. Please see the Academic Calendar to confirm that date.

The following reasons are examples of situations that do not justify withdrawing from a course after the drop/add period has ended:

- being enrolled in too many credits,
- fear of an undesirable grade,
- journal participation,
- not needing a course to graduate,
- faculty changes,
- changes in course expectations, or
- extracurricular or job-related activities, etc.

Where a student is permitted to withdraw, a grade of “W” will be reflected on the student’s transcript. The “W” does not count as an attempt of coursework and is not computed in the grade point average.

Students who withdraw after the add/drop period will be held liable for all fees assessed. There is no refund of fees for withdrawn courses.

The withdrawal is effective when the Registrar has received all required approvals and signatures and records the W on the official record.

Withdrawal from the College of Law

With approval, a student may withdraw from the College of Law. A student must be in good standing (either during or between semesters) at the time of the request. A student must obtain, complete and return a School Withdrawal form to the College of Law Registrar. A student may be asked to meet with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or a Dean designee to discuss the circumstances that necessitate the withdrawal. Students must meet with the Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration to determine if they meet the qualification, then final approval must be obtained from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

The withdrawal is effective when the Registrar has received all required signatures.
Students who withdraw after the drop/add period will be held liable for all fees assessed. A student who withdraws after the drop/add period will receive “W” grades on the student’s transcript. A failure to complete the withdrawal process will result in “F” grades being recorded.

Students who withdraw from the University after filing the appropriate withdrawal forms and making formal application for a refund of registration and tuition fees will have their tuition adjusted according to the following schedule:

- A 100% fee refund/charge adjustment if the withdrawal is approved prior to the end of the drop/add period and written documentation is received from the student.
- A 25% refund/charge adjustment if the withdrawal is approved prior to the end of the fourth week of classes and written documentation is received from the student.
- A 100% refund/charge adjustment of the registration and tuition fees if a student withdraws and drops all courses due to circumstances determined by the university to be exceptional and beyond the control of the student, including, but not limited to:
  
  (i) Illness of a student of such severity or duration, as confirmed in writing by a physician, to preclude completion of the course(s).
  
  (ii) Death of the student or death in the immediate family (parent, spouse, child, or sibling),
  
  (iii) Involuntary call to active military duty,
  
  (iv) Or a situation in which the university is in error.

Formal application for a refund in the instances specified above must be made to the office of the University Registrar on forms provided by that office.

Students who withdraw from all classes during a semester or Summer session without filing for withdrawal from the college, fail to register for the succeeding term in the program to the minimum limit of their required coursework, or fail to enroll following the end date of an approved leave of absence, will be administratively withdrawn from the College of Law.

A student who withdraws from the College of Law will be considered a new applicant and may reenter only with the approval of the Admissions Committee and must comply with all the steps and procedures required of all new applicants to the College of Law.

**Leave of Absence**

College of Law students are expected to pursue the course of study each semester, without interruption or breaks. This includes the Fall and Spring semesters for full-time students, and the fall semester, spring semester, and Summer session for part-time students. If a student is unable to attend for good cause, he or she must submit a request for a Leave of Absence as described below. **Students must be in good academic standing and have completed at least 30 credits to be eligible to take a leave of absence. Only one approved leave of absence will be allowed.**

A student who wishes to take a leave of absence must complete a Leave of Absence Request form and submit the form to the Associate Dean of Student Services and Administration to determine if they qualify for the requested leave, then final approval must be obtained from the Associate Dean.
of Academic Affairs. Only in extraordinary circumstances, e.g., those involving severe medical problems, military service or death in the immediate family (parent, spouse, child, or sibling) will permission be given for a leave to begin during the course of a given semester. In the event a student is incapacitated due to medical/psychological problems, a petition for a health leave of absence may be submitted by a parent, spouse, or any other person designated by the student in advance.

A student may be asked to meet with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or a Dean designee to discuss the circumstances that necessitate the leave. The student may also be required to provide documentation substantiating his or her particular circumstances. The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs may approve or deny the request. A full-time student may take a leave of absence for up to two semesters. A part-time student may take a leave of absence for up to two semesters and one Summer term. After this time period has expired, the student will be required to reapply through the admissions process.

Students must send written notification of return from an approved leave of absence to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Students who fail to register or fail to attend class in any semester and have not been approved for an extended leave of absence will be presumed to have withdrawn from the College of Law and will be required to reapply for admission.

Any student who has an approved leave of absence from the College of Law shall return as a matter of right provided he or she has completed the first full year of study, was eligible to continue at the time of the leave and has not committed acts or offenses that would have prohibited his or her admissions under current admissions standards. The student will be required to satisfy graduation requirements outlined in the student handbook in force at the time of his or her return.
ACADEMIC STANDING

Class Rank

Until the student’s final semester, class rankings are based on the number of graded credits (0-30 credits; 31-60 credits; 61-90 credits). There will not be separate class ranks for the full-time and part-time divisions. The Registrar’s Office will distribute class ranks as numerical class standing (not by percentage) to indicate where the student ranks compared to his/her ranking group (e.g., 13/135). The Registrar’s Office will distribute class ranks after the end of every Fall and Spring semester, but not after the Summer term.

The Registrar’s Office also will distribute a class ranking list for the purpose of determining graduation honors. This class ranking will rank students against all other students scheduled to graduate in the designated semester (May or December). The class ranking will be calculated on the basis of grades for courses completed by the end of the student’s penultimate semester (i.e., the fall semester of the third year for May graduates or the final spring semester for December graduates).

The Final class ranking, which reflect grades for courses completed in the final semester, is calculated after all grades from the final semester are received. Final class rankings are posted to the student’s official final transcript. Final class rankings are final upon posting to the official final transcript.

Students who receive an “I” grade in any semester will be ranked in the next ranking session (Fall/Spring).

Academic Standing

Academic standing is determined only after the Fall and Spring semesters. Academic standing and any requirements, obligations or honors thereto will not be affected by grades earned during any Summer Term.

Dean’s List Designation

All students with a semester grade point average of B+ (3.33) or above will have a Dean’s List designation posted on their transcript for that semester. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, Full-Time Day students must earn 12 hours for the semester with a minimum of eight (8) graded hours. Part-Time Evening students must earn eight (8) hours for the semester with a minimum of six (6) graded hours. The Dean’s List designation will be applicable for the Summer term for part-time evening students. It will not be applicable for full-time day students during the Summer term.

Graded credit hours are those for which quality points are awarded. Incomplete grades are not computed when determining the Dean’s list designation.
Graduation Honors
Candidates for the Juris Doctor degree who maintain high cumulative grade point averages graduate with honors. To graduate with honors, a student must earn a minimum of 75 credit hours at the Florida A&M University College of Law. Note: Transfer students are not eligible to graduate with honors.

The criteria for graduating with honors is as follows:

**Summa cum laude (highest honors)**
Summa cum laude shall be awarded to all students who earn a grade point average of 3.8 or higher.

**Magna cum laude (high honors)**
Magna cum laude shall be awarded to all students who earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 – 3.79 or higher in the graduating class.

**Cum laude (honors)**
Cum laude shall be awarded to all students who earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.10 – 3.49 in the graduating class.

For the purpose of the graduation and hooding ceremonies, honors will be based upon the graduate’s cumulative grade point average earned at the end of their penultimate semester. Adjustments will be made to the transcript upon the posting of all final grades.

Academic Progress
Both a cumulative grade point average and a semester grade point average of 2.0 is required to be considered in academic good standing during the matriculation period. In any semester in which the student’s cumulative and/or semester grade point average drops below 2.0, appropriate action will be taken.

Academic Probation
A student who earns a semester grade point average of lower than 2.0 in any semester is deemed to be on academic probation and is deemed to be “not in good standing”. Notice of probation is automatic upon the official posting of the last grade for the semester. As soon as practicable after all grades have posted, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall notify a student in writing that the student is on academic probation and “not in good standing”. Failure to receive such notice does not relieve a student of the consequences of not meeting minimum academic standing.

The College of Law is committed to the success of all its students and to helping students maximize their training. In order to assist students on achieving good academic standing, the College of Law requires students on probation to comply with terms as specified by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Terms of probation may include but are not limited to:

- Satisfactory participation in the *Probation Phases Program* facilitated by the Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program.
• Satisfactory participation in the Introduction to Analytical Skills course (first year students) or the Advanced Analytical Skills course (upper-level students).
• Additional requirements specified by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

A student on probation must achieve both a semester and cumulative grade point average of 2.0 to continue enrollment at the College of Law and shall be subject to all applicable rules and requirements. Full-time students placed on Academic Probation at the end of the Fall Semester may not enroll in Summer Session courses.

The Academic Standards Committee may consider adherence to the terms of probation listed above and all probation requirements specified by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs when reviewing a petition for readmission should a student on academic probation earn a cumulative grade point average below 2.0 at the end of the semester.

**Academic Alert**

A student whose cumulative grade point average is 2.0 through 2.4 (inclusive) upon completing one semester (full-time or part-time) or at any time thereafter through completion of 60 credit hours, shall receive an academic alert notifying the student of the need for additional academic assistance. The purpose of the academic alert notice is to make students aware of the realities of their current academic status and inform them of the resources available to assist them in improving their academic standing. Students who receive an academic alert are encouraged to meet with the Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program (“ASBP”) staff and develop a plan for improving academic performance before the first day of classes in the next semester for which that student enrolls.

The Academic Standards Committee may consider adherence to the recommendations listed in the above paragraph when reviewing a petition for readmission should a student on academic alert earn a cumulative grade point average below 2.0 at the end of the semester.

**Academic Dismissal**

All academic dismissal decisions will be made based on the FAMU College of Law transcript grade point average.

**Academic Dismissal During The First Year of Law School**

**Full-Time Students**

Full-time students who earn a cumulative grade point average of 1.60 or below at the end of the first semester of the first year (i.e., after attempting 15 credits) shall be dismissed from the College of Law and may not petition for readmission. Students may reapply to the College of Law for admission as a new entering student two years after the dismissal.
Part-Time Students

A 1L part-time student who is on probation at the end of Fall who has less than a 2.0 cumulative grade point average at the end of the following Spring semester, but not less than a 1.60 cumulative grade point average is allowed to remain on academic probation until they have attempted 30 credit hours.

Academic Dismissal After The First Year of Law School

Any student (full-time or part-time) who has attempted a minimum of 30 credit hours and who has not achieved or maintained a cumulative grade point average (“CGPA”) of 2.0 at the end of the Spring semester of their first year, or any semester thereafter, is automatically dismissed from the law school.

The College of Law posts grades on a rolling basis. Dismissal is effective immediately upon the official posting of the student’s last grade for the semester.

In some cases, because of the time required to process and record grades at the end of a semester, the determination of academic dismissal will be made after classes have commenced for the succeeding semester or Summer term. Since dismissal is effective immediately upon the official posting of the student’s last grade, any student who is enrolled in classes in a succeeding semester or Summer session will be dropped from enrollment. No credit will be earned for courses after a student is academically dismissed. However, a student who is eligible to petition for readmission and who submits a timely petition may continue attending classes and will not be dropped from enrollment pending the outcome of the petition.

Such continued attendance may result in adverse financial consequence to the student if readmission is denied, including remaining liable for tuition and fees. In addition, a student who is readmitted with a CGPA below 2.0 may not meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements for receiving financial aid.

Petition for Readmission to Continue After Academic Dismissal

Students Ineligible to Petition for Readmission

An academically dismissed student with a CGPA below 1.85 is ineligible to petition for readmission and may not seek readmission until two academic years have elapsed following his or her dismissal.

Students Eligible to Petition for Readmission

Any student who has been dismissed from the College of Law for academic reasons with a CGPA above 1.85 but below 2.0 after attempting 30 or more credit hours may petition the Academic Standards Committee for readmission.
Readmission Petition Procedure

A. The Office of the Dean must receive a petition for readmission by the seventh (7th) day following the date of the correspondence from the College of Law advising of the student’s academic status. The Committee will not consider late petitions.

B. An eligible student may petition the Academic Standards Committee for readmission by sending a letter to the Office of the Dean. The petition should set forth specific reasons for the petitioner’s substandard performance.

C. The Office of the Dean shall forward the petition to the Academic Standards Committee for consideration, along with any documentation relevant to the petitioner’s performance and petition.

D. The Academic Standards Committee will meet as soon as possible after receipt of the petition.

E. The petitioner shall have a right to appear at a time set by the Committee. The petitioner has the burden to demonstrate that extraordinary circumstances resulted in his or her substandard academic performance. Extraordinary circumstances are those that do not ordinarily occur. Financial concerns, employment obligations, family illness, or commuting distances are not normally extraordinary circumstances. The petitioner must demonstrate that the extraordinary circumstances have been resolved and that, if re-admitted, he or she will be able to successfully handle the rigors of legal education. If there are physical or psychological conditions indicated, the petitioner must submit written documentation to substantiate any physical or psychological conditions described in the petition.

F. The student has the burden of persuading a majority of the Committee that he or she should be admitted by providing, at a minimum, a summary of:

   a. Relevant law school history (grades, community service, student organization involvement, legal work experience, etc.);

   b. the perceived causes of his or her poor academic performance;

   c. actions taken and the plan for corrective measures for dealing with problems interfering with academic performance; and,

   d. why he or she will likely succeed if readmitted.

G. If a majority of the Committee, present and voting, is in favor of readmission, then the student is readmitted. The Dean, upon recommendation by the Academic Standards Committee, may place conditions on that readmission.

H. In all cases, the Office of the Dean shall inform the petitioner by letter of the disposition of his or her case.

I. All communication will be made through the contact information on file with the Registrar’s Office; it is the responsibility of the petitioner to provide updated contact information as necessary.
The decisions of the Academic Standards Committee regarding petitions for readmission are final decisions.

**Readmission Standards**

There shall be a strong presumption against readmission, and the Academic Standards Committee shall deny a student’s petition except under the most compelling and extraordinary circumstances and then only if the Committee is clearly convinced that:

- the student can achieve a 2.0 cumulative grade point average by the end of the semester in which the student will be readmitted;
- the student will be able to successfully complete the remaining curricular requirements; and,
- any personal problems or other factors that contributed to the student’s poor academic performance are not the kind that are likely to recur.

The Academic Standards Committee may impose additional conditions that it deems appropriate, including, but not limited to requiring that a student seek prior approval of his or her schedule, or requiring that a student limit the number of credit hours he or she carries in a given semester. Although the Academic Standards Committee’s decision to readmit is final, the imposition of conditions upon that readmission is a recommendation to the Dean for the Dean’s final approval.

Any student who has been conditionally advanced after attempting 30 or more credit hours who then fails to achieve a 2.0 CGPA at the end of the semester in which the student is readmitted, or at the end of any subsequent term, shall be academically dismissed and is ineligible to petition for readmission.
Readmissions to the College of law for Ineligible Petitioner, Unsuccessful Petitioners and Subsequent Academic Dismissals

Students Ineligible to Petition – Readmission Period

An academically dismissed student who was ineligible to petition because he or she obtained a CGPA below 1.85 may not seek readmission until two academic years have elapsed following his or her dismissal. To be eligible for readmission after the two-year period, the academically dismissed student with a CGPA below 1.85 must apply as a new entering student through the College of Law Admissions Office.

Unsuccessful Petitions – Readmission Period

An academically dismissed student whose petition for readmission is denied may not seek readmission until two academic years have elapsed following his or her dismissal. To be eligible for readmission after the two-year period, the student must apply as a new entering student through the College of Law Admissions Office.

Conditionally Advanced Student with Subsequent Dismissal – Readmission Period

A student who has been conditionally advanced and subsequently is academically dismissed may not seek readmission until two academic years have elapsed following his or her dismissal. To be eligible for readmission after the two-year period, the student must apply as a new entering student through the College of Law Admissions Office.
EXAMINATIONS

Examination Information

Final examinations generally are administered at the end of the semester during the designated examination period. Midterm examinations and other assessments may also be administered at the discretion of the instructor.

Final Examination Schedule and Assigned Rooms

A schedule of final examinations is prepared each semester. The final examination schedule will be available on the College of Law website throughout the semester. Room assignments will be posted on the day of the exam. Except for take-home examinations, all examinations must be taken in the designated examination rooms.

All students must be present for and take examinations on the scheduled date, time and designated location, except when a rescheduled exam is authorized by the Office of Student Affairs or in the case of students requiring accommodations for documented disabilities.

A student who arrives late for an examination will be permitted to take the exam, but the time for completing the exam will not be extended. A student who begins an examination, but decides not to finish the exam, will be graded on the work submitted by the end of the examination period. An unexcused absence from a final examination will result in a failing grade (F) in the course, and the failure is counted in computing the student's grade point average.

Faculty members may not make exceptions to the final examination schedule and students should not ask them to entertain requests for rescheduling.

Due dates and times for take-home examinations are established by the faculty members teaching courses with take-home exams.

Except as specifically approved in writing by a faculty member or required as reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities, students are prohibited from bringing the following into the final examination room:

- Food (unless there is a medical condition which warrants it), hats, hoodies, digital wristwatches, purses or pocketbooks, cell phones, and electronic devices of any kind. Further, no bags of any kind will be allowed either in the exam room or on the second or third floors of the building. Bags must be secured in a locker or automobile before the start of the exam.

Students should bring with them the following items in a clear plastic bag:

- A pen and/or pencil, keys, money, bottled water, a sweater or jacket, if using ExamSoft, a laptop (without the carrying case), power cords, ear plugs without cords, and specified materials allowed for open-book exams if applicable.
Students will not be admitted to the final exam room and allowed to sit for exams unless they are in compliance with only those allowable items listed above. Book bags or any other materials may not be left in the hallway.

**Examination Rescheduling**

Students may request the Director of Student Affairs to reschedule exams only in compelling circumstances. No examination may be administered prior to the time set forth in the examination schedule. Once an examination is rescheduled, the date will not be changed again except in extraordinary circumstances.

**Delayed Exam Taking: Rescheduling Required in Advance**

The student must submit an [Examination Reschedule Request Form](#) to the Director of Student Affairs by the following dates:

- **Fall Semester Examinations:** September 30
- **Spring Semester Examinations:** February 28
- **Summer Session Examinations:** June 15

**FAILURE TO MEET THE ABOVE DEADLINES WILL RESULT IN DELAYED DETERMINATION AND A POSSIBLE DENIAL OF THE REQUEST**

The Director of Student Affairs will determine which exam(s) to reschedule. The student will not be permitted to choose which examinations are rescheduled or the rescheduled dates and times.

Delayed Taking: Serious Illness, Emergency or Other Compelling Circumstances. All requests for exceptions to the final examination schedule must be made to the Director of Student Affairs BEFORE the examination and will be granted only upon a documented showing of an emergency, serious illness, or a sufficiently compelling circumstance. An examination WILL BE RESCHEDULED in the following circumstances:

1. When a student is scheduled to take two examinations on the same day (not including take-home exams if there is a sufficient time period to take the exam that does not pose a conflict) or scheduled to take one exam each day for three consecutive days (not including take-home exams if there is a sufficient time period to take the exam that does not pose a conflict).

2. When illness of the student prevents a student from taking an exam or when a student becomes ill during an exam and is unable to complete the exam, documented by a physician’s written certification.

3. When a member of the student’s immediate family becomes critically ill during the exam period.

4. When a member of student’s immediate family or his /her “significant other” has died, and the student is attending the funeral or grieving.

5. When a Sabbath or other religious observance precludes a student from taking an exam.
6. When a student is attending the birth of his/her child.

7. When a student is attending the wedding, graduation, or other such ceremony of his/her immediate family and the student could not have known prior to the last day to drop a course that the exam and the special ceremony were in conflict.

An examination **WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED** in the following circumstances:

1. When a student has a professional opportunity that conflicts with a scheduled exam.
2. When a student is late due to oversleeping, being caught in traffic, having automobile difficulties, forgetting about the scheduled exam, and all similar circumstances, the student will be allowed to sit for the exam in the time remaining for that exam. No extra time will be allowed when starting an exam late.
3. When a student wishes to leave early for winter or summer break.

**Final Date for Rescheduled Examinations**

Rescheduled examinations must be taken at the earliest possible date, and must be taken no later than one week from the end of the examination period for the semester. No rescheduled exam will be given prior to the scheduled date of the exam.

**Accommodations on Examinations**

It is the policy of the College of Law to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Where appropriate, additional examination time can be provided, as well as the use of auxiliary services, such as readers, interpreters, and other aids. The Office of Student Affairs will make the appropriate accommodations. Students are encouraged to request examination accommodations as soon as possible to ensure timely and prompt processing. Students will be able to submit requests for accommodations until two weeks before the beginning of the exam period but the CeDAR does not guarantee that all requests will be processed prior to any scheduled final exam. A failure to request accommodations in any given semester waives your right to accommodations during that semester.

**Anonymous Grading**

All examinations, including take-home examinations, are graded anonymously. The College of Law Registrar will assign each student an anonymous examination number each semester to be used for selected midterm and all final exams taken in the given semester. Students are to use this number on their exams and bluebooks and are not to use their names or other identifying information on examinations.

Legal Research and Writing, clinics internships, skills classes and other courses and seminars in which papers and projects are the basis for the grade are not subject to the anonymous grading system.
Students have the ultimate responsibility to maintain the anonymity of their exams. Students must not contact faculty members during the exam period or prior to the posting of their grades. Any inquiries students have concerning grades, their performance on an exam, or any other topic that may possibly allow a faculty member to identify their work should be directed to the Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration.

ExamSoft

Florida A&M University College of Law utilizes ExamSoft as an alternative to the traditional method of taking a law school exam. Examplify is an exam delivery module licensed by ExamSoft Worldwide Inc. The program serves as a simplified word processor that enables students to take an examination on a laptop computer. In an effort to avoid the vulnerabilities of most computer-based testing solutions, Examplify provides instructors the ability to lock down all Windows applications thereby providing exam security and reducing the risk of violations of the student Code of Conduct.

The Registration Process involves the 4 steps needed to sign up to use and register Examplify.

Step 2: Log in by using your Student ID# and password. Your password will be emailed to your FAMU email account before exams begin.
Step 3: Download the Examplify software by choosing the “download button”.
Step 4: Install the Examplify software program.
Step 5: After installing Examplify, open it and login in. The institutional ID is “famulaw”.
Step 6: Once logged in, download your exams if they are available or download the mock exam to test your computer and become familiar with the software.

If you have any questions or issues with registration, contact ExamSoft technical support at support@examsoft.com or call toll-free 866.429.8889 ext. 114.

Important Notices

• Use of ExamSoft falls within the rules, regulations, and academic policies that govern students at the Florida A&M University College of Law. Any attempt to disable or tamper with Examplify’s security features will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

• Student use of ExamSoft is a privilege and not a right. The College of Law cannot guarantee that all exams can be administered through ExamSoft or that all faculty will permit the usage of the software in taking their exams.

• **Students use ExamSoft at their own risk.** It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself or herself with their equipment and the Examplify software and instructions provided by ExamSoft on its website prior to the start of their exam. Students should allow themselves sufficient time to become familiar with their laptop and the application.

• Commencement of the exam will not be delayed due to a hardware problem with a laptop.
• While the College of Law proctors would like to resolve a computer or software problem during the exam, they are prohibited from assisting you. If a computer or software problem occurs, you will be required to finish writing the exam by hand. **Please note: you will not receive additional time to take your exam if you experience computer or software problems. It is your responsibility to keep track of the time and to complete the exam in the allotted time.**

• Exams taken on ExamSoft will be administered in the same room with all other students. The College of Law strongly encourages you to bring your own earplugs.
FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW

Receiving Financial Aid

Office of Financial Aid at the College of Law handles federal financial aid awards and retention scholarships for returning students. Incoming scholarships are offered through Admissions.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed annually to receive federal and/or institutional financial aid funding. The FAFSA is utilized to determine a student's financial aid eligibility. The FAFSA becomes available on October 1st each year. Students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA by Florida A&M University's priority date of March 1st. Completing the FAFSA by the priority date aids in expeditious processing of financial aid. The FAFSA may be completed at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Our law school code is 001480.

Requirements to Receive Federal Financial Aid

In order to receive federally funded financial aid at Florida A&M University College of Law a student must:

- have a High School Diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate, pass a test approved by the U.S. Department of Education, meet other standards your state establishes that the Department approves, or complete a high school education in a home school setting that is treated as such under state law;
- be working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program;
- be a U.S. citizen or **eligible noncitizen**;
- have a valid Social Security Number (unless you're from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau);
- register with the Selective Service if required. You can use the FAFSA to register, you can register at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov), or you can call 1-847-688-6888. (TTY users can call 1-847-688-2567);
- maintain satisfactory academic progress once in school;
- enroll in at least the equivalent of half-time status;
- certify that you are not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe money on a federal student grant; and
- certify that you will use federal student aid only for educational purposes.

Additionally, students cannot receive Federal Direct Stafford Loan funds in excess of the federally mandated Stafford Loan Aggregate limit of $138,500.
Cost of Attendance

The Cost of Attendance is the educational expenses budget given to students. The Cost of Attendance includes tuition; books and living expenses associated with being a student. The Cost of Attendance is determined by a student’s enrollment; residency status and housing status. A student may not receive a financial aid package that exceeds the student’s Cost of Attendance.

Type of Aid Available

Financial aid is divided into two categories: gift-aid and self-help aid. Gift aid is funding given to students that does not require the student repaying any portion of the funds received. Gift aid is typically given in the form of grants or scholarships. Self-help aid requires that a student either earns the financial aid funding via employment or the funds received must be repaid at a later date.

Gift-Aid (Grants or Scholarships)

There are a limited number of institutional scholarships given to students based on merit. The criteria for receiving a scholarship vary based on the specific award and the resources available for the academic year. Recipients of institutional funding will be notified, and awards will be added to the students’ financial aid packages.

Self-Help Aid (Loans and Student Employment)

Federally funded financial aid available to professional/graduate students is limited to self-help financial aid programs. Self-help financial aid programs are not gift aid. Hence, the funds received from the federal loan programs offered at Florida A&M University College of Law must be repaid.

There are two types of federal student loans you can receive while attending Florida A&M University College of Law. Students at the College of Law may take advantage of the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program and/or the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Program.

Unsubsidized Stafford Loans

Graduate/Professional students who meet the requirements to receive federal aid may borrow from the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program. Stafford loan funding is available to assist students with educational expenses. The Stafford Loan is offered at a low interest rate determined annually and does not require a credit check. Students may borrow up to $20,500 per academic year in the Stafford Loan Program. The Unsubsidized Stafford Loan is not need based. Interest begins accruing on the principal balance of the Stafford Loan after the loan is disbursed. The Stafford Loan has an aggregate loan limit of $138,500. Payment for the Stafford Loan is deferred while students are enrolled at least half-time and up to 6-months after the student ceases to be enrolled at least half-time (i.e. graduates). All federal loans require completion of a master promissory note and loan entrance counseling before being disbursed. This loan is offered at the maximum eligibility and can be reduced and accepted on IRattler.
Federal Grad PLUS Loans

Graduate/Professional students who meet the requirements to receive federal aid may borrow from the Federal Direct Plus loan are offered by the Department of Education as well. The low interest rate for new Grad PLUS loans is determined annually and does require a credit check and approval and this loan the student is offered but CAN NOT be accepted by the student and can only be accepted by the Office of Financial Aid. To borrow a Grad PLUS a separate application is required each Fall and Spring and each Summer term due to the credit expiration timeframe. Loan applications are not available for upcoming years until July 1st each year. All federal loans require completion of a master promissory note and loan entrance counseling before being disbursed. This loan is offered at the maximum eligibility and can be reduced and accepted on iRattler.

Advantages to the Federal Stafford Loans include:
- Ability to consolidate with other federal loans
- Fixed interest rate
- Income sensitive repayment plans, as well as potential loan forgiveness

Private Loans

Some students may need funds in addition to any scholarship and loan aid offered on their award notice. Students can apply directly with personal banking institutions or agencies for private loans that come directly to the student if they need a loan to exceed the cost of attendance for law school.

Students that do not wish to take the federal loans that are offered may borrow from private lenders after being counseled on loans from the Office of Financial Aid and private lenders may provide loans to students that do not qualify for federal loans. Through these programs, students may borrow up to the cost of attendance. Receipt of these private loans requires a good credit history. It is therefore extremely important for students to maintain good credit if they wish to take advantage of these loans. Credit checks are required for all these loans and do not involve the College of Law.

There are two main types of loans in addition to Unsubsidized loans – Federal Grad PLUS loans and private loans:

- **Private Loans** are offered through various banks and lenders. They are typically variable interest rate loans, and to get the best rates, require that the borrower have excellent credit and/or have a cosigner. Origination fees for these loans are often determined by credit history. Students should be informed that private loans are not eligible for the government’s Income Based Repayment (IBR) or Pay as You Earn (PAYE), or Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

- To borrow a private loan a separate application is required with your choice of lender and it is your responsibility to communicate with the lender and the college. Since credit approvals expire, consult your lender for the earliest date you should apply.

Disbursement of Funds

Tuition payment is deferred for awarded financial aid recipients with accepted financial aid that exceeds the tuition and fees until financial aid disburses each semester. Financial aid begins the disbursement process after the add/drop period of each term. Students are required to submit all requested documentation and have a valid Master Promissory Note on file and have completed loan entrance
counseling with the U.S. Department of Education to receive financial aid disbursements. The Office of Financial Aid authorizes the disbursement of student funds to the accounts of students who meet disbursement criteria. After funds are authorized, Student Financial Services (Student Accounts) releases any remaining funds. At the beginning of each semester, students should be financially prepared with the first two months of living expenses.

Federally funded student loans are disbursed in two substantially equal disbursements during the Fall and Spring. For financial aid purposes, the Summer is a non-standard academic term. Hence, the Summer term serves as a separate loan period. Summer financial aid is disbursed after the add/drop period.

Summer Financial Aid

Students who have received the maximum Federal Direct Stafford Loan for the academic year ($20,500) will not have remaining Federal Direct Stafford Loan eligibility during the Summer term. However, students who have not exhausted the maximum academic year amount may receive the remaining amount up to $10,250 for the Summer. Students, who do not have remaining Stafford Loans available in the Summer, may apply for the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan.

For financial aid purposes, the Summer is a non-standard academic term. Hence, the Summer term serves as a separate loan period. Summer financial aid is disbursed after the add/drop period same as in the Fall and Spring semesters.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Per federal regulation, students must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress in order to receive federally funded financial aid. Florida A&M University’s Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy has the following requirements:

- Students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA;
- Students must successfully complete 67% of courses attempted (Successful completion of a course requires a grade of A; B; C; D; or S);
- Students attempted course hours must be within 150% of the hours required for degree completion.
- Students who do not meet standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress may submit a Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal based on extenuating circumstances. The appeal form can be found on the main campus financial aid website: www.famu.edu/financialaid.
Withdrawal and Return to Title IV Policy

Students who withdraw from all courses or fail all courses in a given semester may require Return to Title IV calculations. During the Return to Title IV process, the Office of Financial Aid must determine financial aid for a student who has withdrawn from all courses or failed all courses. Unearned funds must be returned to the appropriate federal financial aid program. As a result, students may incur a debt with the University that must be repaid.

Financial Aid for Study Abroad and Visiting Students

Students enrolled in eligible ABA-approved study abroad programs and meet all other eligibility requirements will be qualified to receive financial aid via the Florida A&M University Office of Student Financial Aid.

The College of Law allows students to take courses needed for degree completion that are not offered at Florida A&M University at another ABA-approved law school. For those students, financial aid is awarded through the Florida A&M University Office of Financial Aid via a financial aid consortium agreement. Students are required to meet with and complete the Financial Aid Guide for Study Abroad and Consortium to receive aid for the term the student is requesting aid. A student is not eligible without a signed transient form from the Law School Registrar’s Office.
THE LAW LIBRARY

Rules and Regulations

The Law Library’s policies were created to provide FAMU College of Law faculty, staff, and students with a quiet and pleasant study environment. The policies were designed to preserve the collection, equipment, and Law Library furnishings for all library users. Some of the general housekeeping rules for all patrons are listed below:

- **All students are required to carry an Identification Card (Rattler Card).** Students may be required to show their identification card to gain further access to library facilities and services.
- There is no smoking or eating permitted. Drinks are allowed only in spill proof containers.
- Animals other than service dogs are not permitted.
- Cell phones must be used only in the main atrium, outside the Library. Use of any other audible device is not permitted.
- Any patron disrupting the Library may be subject to Security action.
- All personal belongings should be kept in the library user’s sight at all times. The Library bears no responsibility for belongings left unattended.
- While the Library welcomes all College of Law students and members of the community to use this Library to the fullest extent possible, all children (under 18) are required to be accompanied by an adult at all times. The Library is not responsible for the care of any child left in the Library while the adult is using any of the College of Law facilities.

For more detailed information about the Law Library’s policies, please see the LAW LIBRARY GUIDE, which is located at [http://library.famu.edu/lawlibrary/lawstudents](http://library.famu.edu/lawlibrary/lawstudents).

Library Hours

The College of Law Library will be open during the hours listed below, unless otherwise posted, throughout the Summer, Fall and Spring semesters:

Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

The Law Library will also set extended hours for reading and exam periods.

Library Circulation Desk: (407) 254-3263
Library Reference Desk: (407) 254-3289
Library Website: [http://library.famu.edu/lawlibrary](http://library.famu.edu/lawlibrary)
Access to the Law Library

The College of Law Library occupies the entire first, second and fourth floors of the south wing of the law school, with a computer lab on the third floor. The arrangement of the library is as follows:

First Floor
- Circulation and Reference Desk
- Reserve Desk
- Library Staff Offices
- Public Computer Terminals
- Book magnifiers/readers
- Microfiche Room
- Law Review Offices
- Restrooms
- Library Technical Services Department

Second Floor
- Library Stacks, including Florida and Federal Case Reporters, Statutes, and Regulations
- Legal Fiction collection
- Orange County Legal Collection
- Study Carrels
- Group Study Rooms
- Restrooms
- Reading Room

Third Floor
- Computer Lab

Fourth Floor
- Library Stacks, including subject specific books, treatises, and law reviews
- International Law Collection
- Virgil Hawkins Collection
- Special Collections Room
- Study Carrels
- Group Study Rooms
- Library Offices
- Restrooms

Collections and Checkouts

Textbook and Reserve Collection

The library has a reserve collection of one to two textbooks per class. These are available for checkout for two hours, but are not to leave the library. The reserve collection is not intended to be a replacement for students’ purchasing their own books. All students must show ID when checking
out books. Fines for late return are 25 cents per hour, to a maximum of $20. If a book is not returned after the maximum has been reached, the student will be charged for the replacement of the book plus administrative costs. All fines are calculated by the library system, and are automatically reported to Account Receivable in the Student Financial Services Office on main campus, where they will appear on students’ financial statements. To clear the fine, the student must send a check to Accounts Receivable. The address can be found on the FAMU main website. Please contact the circulation desk for assistance with library fines.

Library Collection

Students may check out books from the Textbook and Reserve Collection on the first floor of the Law Library for a limited number of hours per day. The books on the second floor are for reference and may not be checked out. Most of the books on the fourth floor may be checked out for three weeks at a time (21 days). Fines for late return are 25 cents per day, to a maximum of $5. Please see the Textbook and Reserve Collection section for fines and payment procedures. If a book is not returned after the maximum has been reached, the student will be charged for the replacement of the book plus administrative costs.

Interlibrary Loans (ILL)

If you cannot find what you are looking for in our library we can see if it is available from other libraries. An interlibrary loan request form is available for this purpose and it is available at the Circulation Counter. The ILL requests take time, usually 5 to 7 days.

Food, Beverages and Smoking

Eating and smoking are prohibited in the Law Library. Beverages are permitted in the Law Library ONLY in approved spill-proof containers.

Computer - Aided Legal Research

The Law Library maintains subscriptions to numerous databases, including Westlaw, LexisNexis, Bloomberg Law, HeinOnline, and Florida Law Weekly, to assist with legal research. Students may obtain database information and passwords from a Public Services Librarian. The Law Library webpage contains additional information regarding legal and main campus databases available to law students, as well as links to those resources at https://library.famu.edu/lawlibrary/lawdatabases.

The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (http://www.cali.org) hosts a library of over 1,000 interactive legal tutorials written by law faculty and geared towards law students. To obtain the account creation code, see a Public Services librarian.

Computers

The Law Library has six computer terminals, one ADA compliant workstation, and two book magnifiers/readers on the first floor. The computers are intended for use by public patrons. An additional eighteen terminals are available on the third floor in the computer lab, which are reserved for student, faculty, and staff use. A free scanner is available in the computer lab for student use.
The microfiche room on the first floor houses a computer with a Microform reader to access the microform collection.

Printers and Photocopiers
Printers are operated by the Pay for Print System. A Jamex card dispenser machine will allow students to add credit to the card. The Jamex machines are located on the first and third floors adjacent to the copier/printers. Students may print documents from LexisNexis ONLY to the designated printer in the computer lab at no charge. This printer belongs to LexisNexis, and Library staff do not have access to its paper or toner.

Coin operated photocopier/printers are located on the first, second and third floors of the library. It costs 10 cents per page to print or photocopy in black and white, and twenty-five cents for color.

Group Study Rooms
Group study rooms are to be used by FAMU College of Law students, on a first-come, first-served basis. Study rooms may only be used during the hours that the library is open. In order for current students to use a group study room, the following conditions must be met:

- A group consisting of at least two (2) students must be present at the time of reservation and each must present a FAMU identification card.
- The names of all students using the room must be listed in the reservation book. Misuse of identification or of personal information, including, but not limited to, naming students who are not physically present in the study room, is considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct are reported to the Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration.
- Group study rooms are available for checkout for a period of two hours. The reservation is non-renewable. If any group study rooms are available when the first reservation ends, a group may sign up for another room at that time.
- Rooms may not be reserved in advance of their availability. If a room is occupied, it may only be reserved when that period of occupation is up.
- Group study rooms are not open to the public, and may not be sublet.

References Services
Reference librarians are available to assist students at the reference desk from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm on weekdays. Weekend reference services are available from 2:00 pm to 11:00 pm on Saturdays and 1:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Sundays. Students may make appointments with librarians for individual consultation and training.
Institutional Repository

The bepress institutional repository is an online digital archive which hosts faculty papers and other scholarship, and student scholarly publications such as the Florida A&M University Law Review. It consolidates and showcases College of Law research, publications, history, news and events, and presents them to a global audience. Of special interest is the Virgil Darnell Hawkins Archive which celebrates the life of pioneer Virgil Hawkins who played a pivotal role in the creation of the College of Law. The Scholarly Commons can be seen at http://commons.law.famu.edu.

Photography

No professional photography is permitted in the Law Library without official approval. See the Photography and Videography policy for more information.
EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Externships

Externships provide students the opportunity to work in a legal setting, such as a government agency or a non-profit legal services provider. Students handle significant legal tasks, such as legal drafting, research, fact investigation, negotiating and client interviewing while under the direct supervision of faculty, staff attorney or lawyers in-house or at the agency or non-profit organization.

In-House Clinics

The in-house clinics provide students with even more in-depth hands on experience to work as a lawyer. While working under the direct supervision of experienced clinical faculty, students have an unparalleled opportunity to interact with clients, opposing parties, opposing counsel and court personnel who provide valuable learning experiences, which cannot be taught in a classroom. In-house clinics include Criminal Defense, Guardian Ad-Litem, Homelessness and Mediation. The number of students in each clinic varies depending on the number of students capable of being supervised by available faculty or supervising attorneys.

Field Placements

Field Placements offer students semester-long opportunities to leave the traditional classroom setting and assist lawyers and judges in the practice of law and the administration of justice. Field Placements enhance the substantive law curriculum through experiential, hands-on learning under the close supervision of a Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University College of Law faculty member. Students may receive from 1 to 6 credits during any semester, and no more than 9 field placement credits over the course of their law school enrollment. Students in the program will work for judges, magistrates, or attorneys in government agencies, public interest organizations, non-profit organizations, law firms and corporate legal offices.

More information and a complete list of experiential offerings and descriptions are available at: https://law.famu.edu/students/current-students/experiential-education/
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations are an important part of life as a law student. These organizations contribute greatly towards the educational, social, service, and cultural enrichment of the law school community. The organizations and their activities vary and range from the academically related, to service and socially related, to subject matter related. Students are encouraged to become involved in one or more student organizations, but they are cautioned against becoming overextended in extracurricular activities so as to affect their academic work. In order to be eligible to hold any position of leadership within an organization, a student’s cumulative law school grade point average must be at least 2.5 or above.

All student organizations must be registered through the University’s Office of Student Activities after being previously approved by the Director of Student Affairs. Students who wish to start a new student organization should discuss official recognition and registration requirements with the College of Law’s Director of Student Affairs.

When persons are functioning in the capacity of members of a registered student organization, they will be held accountable for their organizationally related conduct, individually and collectively.

Student Bar Association (SBA)
The Student Bar Association’s mission at the College of Law is to improve the overall quality of life for all students at the College of Law.

All recognized organizations fall under the jurisdiction of the Office of Student Affairs and the SBA. The SBA Executive Board and Assembly are elected by the student body and are responsible for assisting in the policymaking decisions that affect organizations. All organizations are required to abide by all policies and decisions of SBA and the administration.

All recognized student organizations shall follow the procedures and guidelines set forth in the Student Handbook and the regulations of the University. For information about recognized student organizations, establishing a new organization or reactivating an organization contact your Student Bar Association Leadership or the Office of Student Affairs.

iStrike
iStrike is the official student clubs and organization management and social media platform at Florida A&M University. All student clubs and organizations are required to use iStrike for the basic business functions associated with the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Student Activities which includes but is not limited to registration and renewal; event scheduling; membership rosters; intake requirements; office space requests; and general communication with the Office of Student Affairs.

• Student clubs and organizations are permitted to use all of the available functions of iStrike for the purpose of furthering the missions of their respective groups.
• Student clubs and organizations are not permitted to use iStrike to promote or support non-university organizations/entities without written permission from the Director of Student Affairs.
• Student clubs and organizations are not permitted to post images, graphics or language that conflicts with national, state, local, or university policies and regulations.

Student Organization Registration and Renewal
Florida A&M University has many organizations to offer, but if we don’t offer one you’d like to see on campus, you can form your own. If you have any questions, contact the Office of Student Affairs at (407) 254-4035.

Registration Requirements
• **Student Members** - At least five (8) currently enrolled students. At least five students must serve as officers and maintain a 2.5 GPA. Please note, officers cannot have any conduct violations reported within the last academic year. At least three students must be general body members and remain in good standing with the university and College of Law.
• **Advisor** - A Full-Time (1.0 FTE) FAMU faculty or staff member to serve as an advisor.
• **Constitution** - A current constitution and/or bylaws which includes the current university Anti-Hazing Policy. (see sample constitution in iStrike)
• **iStrike Profile** - Create an organization portal on iStrike.

Renewal Requirements
Each semester, every student organization at FAMU must renew their organization to become active on campus for the current academic semester.

1. **Updated iStrike Profile** - This is done by clicking on the orange bar on your page and updating the necessary information. After you submit it online, your advisor will be sent a message to approve the information. Once you have completed all parts of the renewal process, this profile will be turned to “active”.
2. **Updated and Currently Dated Constitution** - Constitutions must be updated in iStrike and they must include the current university Anti-Hazing Policy.
3. **Org Leader and Advisor Training** - Two representatives of the organization must attend a Leadership Training Workshop. Advisors for student organizations are encouraged to attend.

Student Organization Officer Requirement
Officer is defined as anyone who takes on a leadership role within the organization that requires them to conduct business on behalf of the organization during internal meetings, regional meetings, and national meetings, meetings with university officials or meeting with Office of Student Affairs.

• Currently enrolled full-time undergraduate/graduate student at Florida A&M University
• Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
• Must not have been found responsible in any judicial or other university disciplinary cases within the last calendar year.
Active Organization Status

- Must maintain a minimum of 8 currently enrolled active members in good standing.
- Maintain an organizational GPA of 2.3 (calculated by an average GPA of currently enrolled active members).
- Must attend Leadership and Advisor Training Workshop.
- Provide documentation of events and activities through iStrike.

Service on Faculty Committees

- Students serving on faculty committees may be elected by the student body or appointed by the SBA President, subject to the approval of the College of Law Dean.
- The names of the elected or appointed students must be submitted by the SBA President, or his or her designee, no later than September of the Fall semester of the academic year to the Office the Dean.
- The normal term of service on faculty committees ends on the following June 30, except for students who have completed the requirement for graduation. A graduating student’s terms end at the end of his or her graduating semester. Temporary vacancies may be filled by the SBA President, subject to approval by the College of Law Dean.
OTHER STUDENT SERVICES

Counseling and Student Services
The College of Law provides academic and career counseling for its students. In addition, the administration and faculty are concerned with the welfare of the student body and often provide informal personal counseling as well. The Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration and the Director of Student Affairs provide assistance with academic problems, emergencies, and other problems that may arise during law school. The College of Law recognizes that the first year can be a stressful time, and therefore periodically presents programs designed to help students recognize the symptoms of stress in both themselves and others and to develop strategies to cope with stress.

Health Services
The student health fee entitles students to some basic health services without charge. Florida A&M University has contracted with the University of Central Florida for the provision of health services to law students. The University of Central Florida’s Student Health Center (407-823-2701) is located on the UCF campus, behind the Biology Building, and is open from 8:00AM to 8:00PM Monday-Thursday, 8:00AM to 6:00PM on Friday, and 10:00AM to 2:00PM on Saturday. The hours of operation during the holiday periods are 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

The Student Health Center is available for treating minor illnesses and injuries. Students who are found to have illnesses that require more detailed study will be referred to an appropriate specialist in the city. Additional medical needs would be at the expense of the student. In case of severe illness or accident, the student will be transferred by ambulance to the nearest local hospital.

Students are eligible for services during the semester for which they are officially registered and have paid their health fee. The student health fee allows students to visit the Health Center an unlimited number of times. It does not provide for laboratory studies, X-rays, or medical supplies. All students taking six (6) credit hours or more are required to pay the student health fee.

Students must present their current student identification card and pay the health fee at the institution where they are seeking services. The student is financially responsible for any charges generated during their visit. Some clinics may accept insurance so students should bring their insurance card as well.

After their visit, a student can bring their receipt to the Office of Student Affairs to request a refund up to the health fee they paid to FAMU for that semester.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Policy
It is the policy and practice of the Florida A&M University College of Law to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and state and local requirements regarding students and applicants with disabilities. Under these laws, no qualified individual with a disability will be denied access to or participation in services, programs, and activities of the College of Law. The College of Law works with the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CeDAR) to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities.

Procedure
Students whose disabilities may require some type of accommodation, including course content delivery, exam accommodation, or other accommodations must first contact the College of Law Office of Student Affairs to request a New Student Intake Form and the Academic Accommodation Form. It is the responsibility of the student to make these needs known in a timely fashion and to provide the appropriate documentation. Failure to request accommodations in any given semester waives the right to accommodations during that semester. Appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be arranged on a case-by-case basis. The College of Law does not make determinations of disabilities or possible accommodations; that function is handled solely by the Center for Disability Access & Resources.

Students must submit supporting documentation for their request to the Office of Student Affairs located on the College of Law campus.

Students who do not require accommodations need not disclose their disabilities, but are encouraged to notify the Office of Student Affairs of any conditions that may arise during your law school tenure. Students who do not file an application with CeDAR, do not receive accommodations from CeDAR, and have or should have prior knowledge of their disability may not claim accommodations for such disability in hearings, appeals, and other related procedures.

Information regarding a student's disability and accommodation is treated as confidential under applicable federal, state, and university laws and policies, and is provided only to individuals privileged to receive such information.

How to Become a CeDAR Participant
- Students should complete the steps listed below well in advance of the anticipated need for services and accommodations to allow for a reasonable period of time in which to evaluate those needs and requests.
- Students must be admitted to and/or enrolled in the University to request accommodations.
- Students requesting accommodations should first contact the College of Law Office of Student Affairs to complete the New Student Intake Form and the Academic Accommodation Form.
- All students should be prepared to provide documentation of disabilities and needs. Documentation is subject to verification by the University.
• Requests that require special funding, such as a need for specific software, adaptive equipment, memberships to the RFB&D, etc., will be assessed for possible resources that might already provide for the request, such as Vocational Rehabilitation. If not duplicating an available resource, the University will provide reasonable accommodations for the documented request.

• After receipt of required documentation, the CeDAR professionals will make a case-by-case determination of the student’s educational need for any requested auxiliary aids, accommodations, and/or other special services determined to be necessary.

• When notified that the documentation provided supports the student’s disability claim and current need for accommodations, the student must do the following:
  • Meet with a coordinator to discuss accommodations and services.
  • Keep initial interview, provide information, sign rights and responsibilities form, and fashion accommodations.

• Once accepted, the services and equipment (if deemed appropriate), will be provided at no cost to the student. However, to receive services from CeDAR, the student is responsible for:
  • Requesting accommodations each semester. Documentation is not necessary at this time unless significant changes have happened since initiating services.
  • Delivering Accommodation Letters to all faculty (if necessary).
  • Following procedures and adhering to policies for specific accommodations and services.
  • Monitoring his/her own academic progress.
  • If an accommodation is not effective, students should consult with a coordinator for adjustments.

Documentation Requirements

To be eligible for disability-related services, students must have a documented disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Under the ADA and Section 504, a person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.

Documentation must include the following

• Specific diagnosis of disability by a qualified professional.
• Functional impact of the disability on academic performance.
• Learning Disabilities and ADD documentation must comply with AHEAD and ETS guidelines.
• Completed Application by the student and the appropriate disability verification form completed by a qualified professional.

Your application, the disability verification form, and other documentation can be submitted by the following methods:

• Hand delivery to the Office of Student Affairs (Orlando Campus – College of Law).
• Scan or email to law.studentaffairs@famu.edu (Orlando Campus – College of Law).
Essentials of Documentation

- Documentation for a disability must be current, complete, and provided by a qualified professional.
- All documentation must be on letterhead, typed, dated, and signed by the qualified professional.
- Documentation varies depending on the specific disability and each student's documentation is individually reviewed.
- Minimally, the documentation must establish the current functional limitations resulting from the disability.
- The documentation must provide enough information about the history, scope, and depth of the disability for the University to determine the presence of a disabling condition which significantly impairs a major life function and imposes limitation on some activity associated with the academic process.
- A school plan such as an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan is insufficient documentation in and of itself to determine eligibility. These school plans may be included as a part of a more comprehensive evaluative report and are often helpful in describing students' strengths as well as possible deficits.
- The qualifications of the professional providing documentation need to be clearly indicated and the language by which the disability is described must be consistent with standard practice within the profession. A formal diagnosis is expected.
- All documentation is reviewed by the professional staff of CeDAR and, when necessary, reviewed by consultants with expertise in specific disability areas. In some cases, students are requested to provide more documentation than originally submitted. Additionally, recommendations for accommodations to mitigate the impact of the disability are appreciated, but are not essential.

Other Policies

Students must adhere to CeDAR policies and stated rules, which are available upon request or may be viewed at the FAMU CeDAR webpage. This includes standards for documentation of a disability, procedures for notifying the appropriate parties of a disability, and any other policies and procedures instituted by CEDAR.

If a student is afforded accommodations for their disability, the student must present the acceptance from CeDAR to the Director of Student Affairs for acknowledgement, review, and signature prior to receiving accommodations at the College of Law.

Applications for accommodations must be received by the Office of Student Affairs prior to the final day to withdraw from the semester with a partial refund (See Academic Calendar - “Last day to withdraw with 25% refund of tuition/fees”). The College of Law will not grant requests for accommodations submitted after the deadline.

The Office of Student Affairs will send documentation confirming CeDAR’s approval of accommodations to the College of Law faculty. The faculty members are only informed of in-class accommodations because all testing accommodations are provided by the Office of Student Affairs to remain in accordance with the College of Law Anonymity Policy.
Failure to comply with any of the policies outlined in this handbook or by the Office of Student Affairs and CeDAR will result in a denial of accommodations for the exam or assignment in question.

**Recorded Lectures**

The Center for Disability Access & Resources considers accommodation request for recording lectures and classroom presentations on a case-by-case bases for individual with disabilities. A reasonable classroom accommodation may involve use of a digital recorder or smart pen to record spoken lectures. In order to maintain the integrity of the CeDAR Classroom Accommodation Services the following rules apply to all requesters and recipients of this accommodation.

1. Students must request recorded lectures as an accommodation on the Accommodations Request Form.
2. If approved, the Office of Student Affairs will provide a Letter of Accommodations to each faculty member for which the student intends to record lectures.
3. If the faculty member has concerns about this accommodation, please ask him/her to contact the Office of Student Affairs for more information.
4. By utilizing this accommodation, students are agreeing to the following policies:
   - Student will use these tapes solely in pursuit of your education program, and not for any commercial or non-educational purpose.
   - Student will not engage in any secret recordings of lectures or interactions.
   - Student will not share the tapes with any other student.
   - Student will erase the tapes at the conclusion of the course, within seven (7) days after issuance of a grade, unless the student obtains written authorization from the faculty member to retain the tapes beyond this period.

**Grievance Procedure**

Students with disabilities who believe that their requests for accommodations have not been appropriately addressed by CEDAR should direct a complaint to the attention of the Director of Student Affairs. Grievances filed with the Director of Student Affairs must be in writing and will receive a written response.
ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Policy on Student Observance of Religious Holy Days
All University students shall be allowed to observe holy days of their religious faith. The University shall reasonably accommodate the religious observance, practice, and belief of individual students in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.

Accordingly, the following procedures are in effect:

• A student who wishes to observe a religious holy day of his or her religious faith shall notify all of his or her faculty two weeks prior to the religious observance.

• The student shall be held responsible for any material covered during the absence, but shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up any work missed. Where practical, major examinations, major assignments, and university ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day.

• A student who is absent from academic or social activities because of religious observances shall not be penalized by his or her instructors and/or university administrators.

• In those instances where a faculty member wishes to observe a religious holy day, he or she shall make arrangements to have another faculty member conduct the class in his or her absence, if possible, or reschedule the class.

• Any student who feels that he or she has been denied educational benefits because of his or her religious belief or practice may seek redress by notifying, in writing, the Dean of the nature of his or her grievance.

• The Dean shall investigate each occurrence (grievance) and insure that appropriate corrective action is taken to insure compliance with this policy.
POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION

General Information

It is the policy of Florida A&M University that each member of the University community is permitted to work or attend class in an environment free from any form of discrimination including race, religion, color, age, disability, sex, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, and veteran status as prohibited by State and Federal Statues. This commitment applies to all areas affecting students, employees, applicants for admission and applicants for employment. It is also relevant to the University's selection of contractors, suppliers of goods and services and any employment conditions and practices.

Questions concerning this policy and procedures for filing complaints under the policy should be directed to Mrs. Carrie M. Gavin (EOP Director/University Title IX Coordinator), located in the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. Please also see University Regulation 10.103 Non-Discrimination Policy and Discrimination and Harassment Procedures and University 10.112 Consensual Relationships.

The Affirmative Action Plan/Programs for Minorities and Women is available for review ONLY at the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs by anyone, upon request, during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm).

The Affirmative Action Plan/Programs for Veterans and Persons with Disabilities is available for review by anyone, upon request, during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm) at the following locations:

Office of Human Resources
Florida A&M University
211 Foote-Hilyer Administration Center (FHAC)
Tallahassee, FL 32307
(850) 599-3611

Office of Equal Opportunity Programs
Florida A&M University
674 Gamble Street
Tallahassee, FL 32307
(850) 599-3076; TDD (850) 561-2998

Copies of the Affirmative Action Plans will be provided pursuant to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes.

Signed: Larry Robinson
Larry Robinson, Ph.D.
Florida A&M University
10.103 Non-Discrimination Policy and Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures

(1) Florida A&M University is committed to providing an educational and work environment free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military veteran status, as provided by law. This commitment applies to all educational and work environments affecting students, faculty, Administrative and Professional (A&P) employees, Executive Service employees, University Support Personnel System (USPS) employees, and Other Personal Services (OPS) employees and any employment conditions and practices. Vendors, independent contractors, visitors, and others who conduct business with the University or on University policy are also expected to comply with this Regulation.

(2) This Regulation is designed to comply with multiple laws prohibiting discrimination including: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978; the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Act; the Veteran’s Readjustment Act of 1974; and the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act of 2008.

(3) Definition of Discrimination and Harassment.

(a) Discrimination shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Limiting, segregating or classifying students, employees, applicants for admission, or applicants for employment, in such a way as to deprive individuals of educational or employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect individuals because of their race, religion, color, age, handicap, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status;

2. Denying educational or employment opportunities to individuals because of their race, religion, color, age, handicap, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status;
3. Providing unequal educational or employment opportunities to individuals because of their race, religion, color, age, handicap, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status;

4. Providing unnecessary separate educational programs or activities for individuals because of their race, religion, color, age, handicap, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status;

5. Entering into contractual or other arrangements which utilize criteria or administrative methods which have the effect of subjecting individuals to discrimination or which otherwise adversely affect individuals because of their race, religion, color, age, handicap, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status; or

6. The application of any policy or procedure, or taking of any admission or employment action, that adversely affects a student, employee, applicant for admission, applicant for employment, a group of students, or a group of employees based on race, religion, color, age, handicap, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status.

(b) Harassment shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Any slurs, innuendoes or other verbal or physical conduct reflecting on an individual’s race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or handicapping condition which has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment; has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual’s work or school performance or participation; or otherwise adversely affects an individual’s employment or educational opportunities.

2. The denial of or the provision of aid, benefits, grades, rewards, employment, faculty assistance, services, or treatment on the basis of sexual advances or requests for sexual favors.

3. Sexual harassment such as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment or educational career; submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for educational or employment decisions affecting the individual; or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or educational environment.

4. Sexual misconduct including sexual assault, sexual violence, inducing incapacitation for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation, relationship or domestic violence, or stalking.

   a. Sexual assault means an actual or attempted sexual contact with another person without that person’s consent. This includes, but is not limited to:

      i. Involvement in any sexual contact when the victim is unable to consent;
ii. Intentional unwelcome touching of, or coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force another to touch a person’s genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast; or

iii. Sexual intercourse without consent.

b. Inducing incapacitation for sexual purposes includes drugs, alcohol, or other means with the intent to affect or having an actual effect on the ability of an individual to consent or refuse to consent to sexual consent.

c. Sexual exploitation occurs when a person takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for anyone’s advantage or benefit other than the person being exploited, and that behavior does not otherwise constitute one of the preceding sexual misconduct offenses. Examples include, but are not limited to:

   i. Prostitution of another person;

   ii. Non-consensual visual or audio-recording of sexual activity; or

   iii. Non-consensual distribution of photos, other images, or information of an individual’s sexual activity.

d. Relationship or domestic violence is abuse or violence between partners or former partners involving one or more of the following elements:

   i. Battering that causes bodily injury;

   ii. Purposely or knowingly causing reasonable apprehension of bodily injury;

   iii. Emotional abuse creating apprehension of bodily injury or property damage; or

   iv. Repeated telephonic, electronic, or other forms of communication – anonymously or directly – made with the intent to intimidate, terrify, harass, or threaten.

e. Stalking includes repeatedly following, harassing, threatening, or intimidating another by telephone, mail, electronic communication, social media, or any other action, device, or method that purposely or knowingly causes substantial emotional distress or reasonable fear of bodily injury or death.

4 Dissemination and Implementation of the Regulation.

(a) The Office of Equal Opportunity Programs shall disseminate this Regulation or portions of it to the University community which shall comply and adhere to its provisions. All units shall also take appropriate action to implement the provisions set forth in this Regulation.
(b) All questions or concerns about this Regulation or conduct that may violate this Regulation should be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity Programs/Title IX Coordinator:

Mrs. Carrie Gavin  
Director of Equal Employment Opportunity Programs/ Title IX Coordinator  
Florida A&M University  
674 Gamble Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32307  
(850) 599-3076  
carrie.gavin@famu.edu

(5) Procedures for Filing a Complaint.

(a) Any individual who believes that he/she is a victim of discrimination or harassment may seek guidance from the Equal Opportunity Programs (EOP) Officer who has been delegated authority by the President to receive and investigate EEO and other protected class discrimination and harassment complaints based on a protected class issue. The EOP Officer shall inform prospective complainants of the formal and informal options by which his/her concern can be addressed and resolved. Issues handled informally will not normally invoke the investigatory procedures set forth in this Regulation. Issues handled formally, shall include the full range of processes and reviews that are necessary to ascertain the facts.

1. Complaints and reports against students may also be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs. Students referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs for alleged violation of this Regulation will be subject to investigation and disciplinary action as provided by Regulation 2.012 – Student Code of Conduct and Regulation 2.013 – Due Process, Rights, and Responsibilities

(b) A formal complaint shall be filed on the Charge of Discrimination/Harassment Form and submitted to the EOP Officer within sixty (60) calendar days after the alleged occurrence of the discrimination/harassment incident. The form may be obtained from the EOP Office.

(c) No formal action may be undertaken unless and until a formal complaint is filed. This provision shall not limit the University in any way from initiating its own review of the complaint and taking appropriate action should such be deemed warranted under the circumstances presented.

(d) After receiving the signed written complaint, the EOP Officer shall notify, in writing, the complainant and the person against whom the complaint was filed of the allegations; provide the person against whom the complaint was filed an opportunity to respond; conduct a complete investigation; and, determine a resolution to the complaint within thirty (30) University business days of receipt of the written complaint. This time period may be extended by the EOP Officer should an extension be necessary in order to ensure a full, fair and complete investigation. The EOP Officer shall give notice to the parties if such an extension is deemed necessary.

(e) The complaint will be dismissed if it is determined that the allegations are without merit. If disciplinary action is warranted, the EOP Officer shall prepare written notices to both parties (complainant and person against whom the complaint was filed). The written notice shall include the proposed disciplinary action, the reasons for the disciplinary actions, and the right of the person against whom the complaint has been filed to request, within ten (10) University business
days of receipt of the proposed disciplinary action, an investigatory interview before a University hearing board.

(f) The University hearing board, when charged to review the complaint, shall file with the President or President’s designee their findings and recommendations. The hearing board will notify both parties of its recommendations.

(g) The Complainant or the person against whom the complaint has been filed may upon receipt of the hearing board’s decision make an appeal to the President, or the President’s designee, for a review of the decision. Any appeals to the President or President’s designee must be filed in writing within ten (10) University business days of receipt of the hearing board’s written decision. Any additional information provided to the President or President’s designee can only be provided in conjunction with the written appeal addressed to the President or President’s designee. The President or President’s designee shall render, within twenty (20) University business days of receipt of the hearing board’s recommendation, a final written decision either dismissing the complaint or taking appropriate disciplinary action. The President or President’s designee shall have the right to affirm, modify or reverse any prior decisions.

(6) Disciplinary Actions.

(a) Any employee or student of the University who is found to have discriminated against or harassed a student, an employee or an applicant for admission or employment will be subject to counseling or disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may include a written reprimand, probation, suspension, expulsion, or termination. The nature of the counseling or disciplinary action shall be guided by the seriousness of the offense.

(b) Any employee in a supervisory capacity who has knowledge of a complaint involving another supervisor, subordinate, employee(s) supervised by another supervisor, or student(s) in the class(es) of another supervisor and who does not take appropriate corrective action or report the matter directly to the President or University EOP Officer will be subject to counseling or disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may include a written reprimand, suspension, or termination. The nature of the counseling or disciplinary action shall be guided by the seriousness of the offense.

(c) All University employees must, within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving information, report information they have about alleged or possible sex-based discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct discrimination involving students to the Director of EOP, the Office of Judicial Affairs, or the Department of Public Safety. Employees who are statutorily prohibited from reporting such information are exempt from this reporting requirement.

1. This subsection does not exempt the statutory obligation for any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to report such information to the Department of Children and Families.

(d) Any employee or student who knowingly files a false complaint of discrimination or harassment or who knowingly provides false testimony under this Regulation shall be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may include a written reprimand, probation, suspension, expulsion, or terminated. The nature of the disciplinary action shall be guided by the seriousness of the offense.
(7) **Retaliation Procedure.**

(a) Complainants who feel that they have been retaliated against for exercising their rights under this Regulation shall have the right to file a retaliation complaint with the EOP Officer.

(b) Retaliation complaints shall be handled in the same manner and utilizing the same procedures set forth above in Section 5 of this Regulation.

(8) **Election of Remedies.**

(a) The doctrine of election of remedies shall apply to complaints filed pursuant to this Regulation. Should a Complainant elect to pursue an available alternative remedy, including the filing of a grievance pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement, the filing of any such grievance shall operate as a waiver of the Complainant’s right to file a complaint and avail the Complainant of the procedures available under this Regulation. Should a grievance be filed pursuant to an alternative remedy and subsequent to the filing of a complaint under this Regulation but before proceedings under this Regulation have been completed, the filing of any such grievance nonetheless will act as a waiver, and proceedings pursuant to this Regulation shall be terminated.

(b) The doctrine of election of remedies shall also apply to appeals filed by persons against whom a complaint has been filed. The filing of an appeal pursuant to an alternative remedy by a person against whom a complaint has been filed, including the filing of a grievance under the collective bargaining agreement or the filing of a petition for a hearing pursuant to Section 120.569, F.S., shall operate as a waiver of the right to appeal to the President or President’s designee pursuant to this Regulation.

*Specific Authority Article IX, Section 7(c), Florida Constitution and Board of Governors’ Regulation 1.001 and 2.003. History – New May 6, 1982, Amended July 15, 1987, Amended June 27, 1996, Amended December 1, 2005, Amended May 2, 2014.*
CAMPUS SAFETY AND PARKING

Student Parking

Student Parking Accommodations

Parking for full-time students is located at the City of Orlando CentroPlex 2 garage located at 355 Alexander Place, Orlando, FL 32801. Access is via a card issued to us by the City of Orlando. This access card works on a cycle. This means you must swipe to enter and then swipe to leave before you will be allowed to enter the garage again. The Garage hours are from 5:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year. Students will have unlimited in and out access to the garage during those hours.

The garage is owned and operated by the City of Orlando. Students are expected to adhere to all City of Orlando Parking Division laws pertaining to the operation of vehicles. Failure to do so will result in the loss of permission to operate a vehicle on garage property, citations, disciplinary consequences and/or vehicle impoundment.

Parking for part-time students is located at the State of Florida Office Complex across Beggs Avenue from the College of Law. Part time students have access from 5 PM to midnight, Monday through Friday and 24 hours on the weekends via their proxy. Students may not park on any other levels, or in visitor parking. Students cannot access the garage before 5 PM. Students who violate these rules are subject to being ticketed and/or towed for 2 or more violations. Additionally, students may be subject to a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Safety

The top priority of the College of Law is ensuring your safety. The guards at the College of Law are committed to doing everything they can to make the College of Law a safe and secure environment. However, your safety is a shared responsibility between law enforcement and you. That’s why they ask you to help them in keeping you and other students, staff and faculty, safe by using your common sense. The University Department of Public Safety’s website has a number of resources intended to provide you with information to ensure your safety.

Please visit http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?PublicSafety&SafetyTips for detailed information.
Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drills

Authority

The Florida Fire Prevention Code (Florida Statute 633.0215) requires fire drills in all high hazard buildings to occur at least annually to ensure occupant safety. High hazard occupancy is defined as any building:

- That contains combustible or explosive matter or flammable conditions dangerous to the safety of life and property;
- In which persons receive educational instruction;
- In which persons reside, excluding private dwellings or;
- Containing three or more floor levels.

Policy

These drills are important in making sure all students, staff and faculty can safely and quickly evacuate the building in an orderly manner. All fire drills are to be taken very seriously. Your life depends on knowing what to do and where to go in case of a fire or other serious incident requiring an immediate evacuation.

- All occupants must participate and evacuate when an alarm is sounded, or when authorities initiate an evacuation order. Occupants with disabilities, who cannot independently evacuate, must evacuate to the nearest emergency exit stairwell landing to await emergency personnel assistance.
- You will NOT be notified in advance when a fire drill is scheduled.
- Both primary and secondary escape routes are posted next to all pull station alarms near most exits in the building. FAMILARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE LOCATIONS OF THE EMERGENCY EXITS AND ROUTES, BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY, NEAR YOUR CLASSROOMS, IN THE LIBRARY and other parts of the College of Law.
- DO NOT USE THE STAIRS TO THE ATRIUM TO EXIT THE BUILDING DURING AN EMERGENCY. YOU MUST USE THE EMERGENCY EXIT STAIRS. The atrium stairs are not safe to use during an actual fire as exhaust fans located above the atrium automatically activate to draw out any smoke and will make breathing difficult.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE THE ELEVATORS. ONCE AN ALARM HAS SOUNDED ALL ELEVATORS AUTOMATICALLY GO TO THE FIRST FLOOR.
- When the alarm sounds you will be expected to immediately stop what you are doing and evacuate to the closest emergency exit or as directed by a Floor Marshall or your faculty member, as quickly as possible. Depending on circumstances, this may NOT be the primary emergency exit, but a secondary exit.
- Do not take time to pack up your belongings or replace books. If you are in your class, follow the instructions given by your faculty member when the alarm sounds.
- Take ONLY your keys and cell phone with you.
- Leave your computer and book wheelie or backpack. Taking these will slow down your and others ability to get down the emergency exit stairs quickly and safely and out of the building.
• Once you have exited the building cross the street and walk quickly south on Beggs Avenue towards Washington Street. Go right on Washington to the meeting point area located at the corner of Washington and Chatham. **DO NOT WALK IN THE STREET. REMAIN ON THE SIDEWALK AND OUT OF THE WAY OF RESPONDING EMERGENCY VEHICLES.** Walk quickly and do not congregate on the sidewalk until you reach the meeting point.

• Do not go to a different area or leave the area. Go to the designated meeting point. A headcount will be taken by the Floor Marshals and/or your instructor to ensure everyone has evacuated and no one is left in the building.

• Remain at the meeting point until the Fire Department notifies law enforcement that the building is safe. Law enforcement will advise you when it is safe to return to the building.

• Handicapped persons should go to the nearest emergency exit stairwell and remain in the stairwell until contacted by fire or other emergency personnel. In case of actual emergency your location will be given to the emergency operator and/or first responding emergency personnel.

Consequences

Your participation in any evacuation is required. Students who fail to evacuate will be considered in violation of student policies and may be referred for disciplinary action.
COLLEGE OF LAW WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCIES

Should the National Weather Service or local weather service issue a “severe weather warning” that is expected to directly impact the College of Law in a period of time, the following will apply:

• Upon notification of a dangerous weather situation that will directly affect the safety of the students, staff and faculty at the College of Law, the Dean of the College of Law will advise as to whether and/or when classes will be cancelled.
• Students who have later scheduled classes on the active weather day will be notified by email or by local radio/TV stations as to whether classes have been cancelled.
• When the weather is questionable, students should periodically check their FAMU email and/or monitor local radio and TV stations for information on any cancellation of classes.

The College of Law administration recognizes that under certain extreme weather conditions, students cannot and should not attempt to come to campus. However, if classes are not officially canceled, it is the responsibility of each student to decide if he/she feels safe driving in the inclement weather. This is a decision that must ultimately be made by each student. Safety and personal judgment are required in each individual case and students must assume responsibility for deciding if weather conditions are too hazardous to permit safe driving regardless of college announcements.

Notices and Alerts

Special security and emergency notices are available through the FAMU Emergency Alert Portal. Instructions on how to sign up for the portal are as follows:

Step 1: Go to https://famu.bbcportal.com

Step 2: Choose “Sign Me Up”. Fill in your information and an activation email will be sent to you.

Step 3: Click the link in the activation email and log back into the system.

Step 4: After logging back in, a setup wizard will allow you to personalize your alert profile. You will have an opportunity to add your mobile number to receive texts, voicemails or teletype alerts.
GRIEVANCES AND PETITIONS

Grievances involving members of the staff, other students, and student organizations should be discussed initially with the Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration. Grievances involving members of the Law Library staff should be discussed initially with the Director of the Law Library. Grievances involving members of the faculty should be discussed initially with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Grievances about any of the Associate or Assistant Deans should be directed to the Dean. An attempt will be made to resolve the grievance informally, but if that is unsuccessful, the student will be advised as to the next appropriate step.
COMPLAINTS INVOLVING ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Under ABA Standard 510, The American Bar Association requires that accredited law schools provide students with the opportunity to submit complaints to the Law School administration "of a significant problem that directly implicates the school’s program of legal education and its compliance with the ABA Standards." Florida A&M University College of Law invites students to share any concerns they might have about the Law School’s program of legal education as it relates to matters that directly connect to ABA Standards.

Any person may make a complaint alleging a violation of this standard by:

- Filing a written complaint with the Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
- Every such complaint must be signed and must identify the program, process or matter that is the subject of the complaint, and should explain how the matter implicates the law school’s program of legal education and its compliance with a specific, identified ABA Standard(s).

Upon receipt of the complaint, the relevant Associate Dean:

- Will acknowledge receipt of the complaint within three business days of its receipt.
- Within two weeks of acknowledging receipt of the complaint, the relevant Associate Dean will either meet with the complaining student and/or respond to the complaint in writing informing the student of the steps being taken to address the complaint, or the steps being taken to further investigate the complaint.
- If further investigation is necessary, the relevant Associate Dean will conduct and complete that investigation within a reasonable time.

If the student is dissatisfied with the response to, or resolution of, the complaint, the student may file an appeal by:

- Filing a written appeal with the Dean of the Law School. The appeal must be filed no later than three weeks after being advised of the Associate Dean’s response to the complaint or of the steps being taken to address the complaint.
- The Dean’s decision regarding the appeal will be communicated to the student within three weeks of receipt of the appeal. The Dean’s decision shall be final.

To further comply with the standard, the College of Law shall maintain a complete written record of each complaint and how it was investigated and resolved. Written records shall be maintained in a confidential manner in the Office of Student Services for ten years.
STUDENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Florida A&M University College of Law is committed to helping students resolve conflicts peacefully and to develop the skills needed to successfully navigate conflict and difficult situations throughout their lives. To that end, the College of Law has developed an informal process referred to as a Meet and Confer Conference, which is designed to support students when conflicts arise.

Meet and Confer Conference

The intent of this conference is to:

1. Promote student well-being by allowing students to represent their issues in a private setting without the need to file a complaint that will be included within their student file.

2. Develop mutually agreed upon conditions by which the students will interact while at the College of Law.

3. Develop mutual trust between the students and the administration by using a process that allows for influencing of institutional policy and allows for the generation of alternative ideas for improvement.

4. Provide a method of clear and open communication between the students.

This process may be initiated either by the College, an individual student or a group of students who believe another student or group of students has harmed them. A meet and confer conference seeks to bring together those who have allegedly caused harm with those who have been impacted by their alleged actions. The goal of the conference is to allow the participating parties to explore what happened, what harm was allegedly caused, and how offending parties can begin to repair the alleged harm.

In order to schedule a meet and confer conference, the complainant and the accused must both be willing to participate. Before scheduling a meet and confer the complainant and the accuser will be asked to sign a “Duty to Meet and Confer in Good Faith Agreement.” The duty to meet and confer in good faith creates a mutual obligation to meet and confer on request by either party and to endeavor to reach agreement on matters within the scope of representation before any changes are implemented or complaints are filed.

The meet and confer will be scheduled promptly and equitably for both parties (no more than 7 days from the date of the signed “Duty to Meet and Confer in Good Faith Agreement”). During the time frame in which the parties are awaiting the scheduled meeting both peers are required to maintain their professionalism, especially regarding the mandatory subjects of the meet and confer, until they reach an agreement or impasse. At the point of impasse, both parties have the option of filing a complaint.

If a student wishes to schedule a meet and confer they must:
1. Report to the Office of Student Affairs and notify the Director of Student Affairs of the issue and the parties involved.

2. After discussing the student’s issues, the Director of Student Affairs will consult both parties and request the completion of the Meet and Confer in Good Faith Agreement.

3. Upon receipt of all complete Meet and Confer in Good Faith Agreements the Director of Student Affairs will schedule a prompt and equitable meeting.

4. At the end of the hour meeting, the students will either come to an agreement or an impasse.

5. In the event of impasse, the students will be afforded the option of filing a complaint.

6. If the student files a complaint, the Director of Student Affairs will begin the investigation and follow the process according to the specific nature of the complaint.
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

The College of Law recognizes its obligation to Florida A&M University and to the legal profession as a whole to ensure that the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.) is conferred not only to those who successfully complete our program of legal education but to those who fully and completely meet the standards of academic achievement, integrity, and professionalism.

Students at the College of Law are members of both the law school community and the larger University community. The College of Law adopts as its Honor Code the University’s Code of Conduct now and as might be later amended. As such, the University’s Student Code of Conduct shall govern all academic and non-academic misconduct that are not expressly addressed or covered by the College of Law Student Handbook.

All students should review and be knowledgeable about FAMU Regulation 2.012 – 2.013, University Student Code of Conduct before beginning classes. Entering students will be asked to sign statements saying that they have read, understand and will abide by the Student Code of Conduct of the Florida A&M University and the Rules and Regulations.

Matriculation in the College of Law constitutes de facto acceptance of this Code of Conduct and the policies and procedures involved in administering the Code of Conduct. A copy of each student’s signed Student Code of Conduct Agreement will be retained in his or her permanent educational record.

Implementation of the Code

The College of Law is principally responsible for implementing and administering this Code of Conduct and is responsible for:

• gathering relevant evidence,
• meeting with the accused student(s),
• presenting the matter to the Student Disciplinary Committee (SDC), and
• ensuring that the student complies with the decisions of the Committee.

To facilitate the process, the University has made the following designations:

Associate Dean for Student Services and Administration – Conduct Officer

Director of Student of Affairs – Conduct Officer

Law School Dean – Appellate Hearing Officer
(1) The Student Code of Conduct ("Code") applies the principles and freedoms found in University Regulation 2.013, Due Process, Other Rights, and Responsibilities, by promoting responsible freedom for all students. This Code seeks to apply the principle of responsible freedom as it guides the conduct of Florida A&M University ("University") students. The responsibility to know and abide by the Code ultimately lies with the student. The Student Code of Conduct supersedes all other means of disciplining or removing students for behaviors prohibited by the University.

(2) As members of the University community, students enjoy the rights and privileges that accrue to such membership including, but not limited to, academic freedom and participation in the decision-making processes of the University. Additionally, students are subject to the obligations and duties that accompany this membership and are responsible for compliance with the requirements of law and University regulations, policies, and procedures. It is incumbent upon members of the University community to notify the appropriate student conduct body or officials of a violation of this Regulation, to encourage all to comply with them, and assist in their enforcement by providing relevant information as witnesses when called upon to do so. Accordingly, all purported violations of the Code shall be referred to the University Conduct Officer (Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution). Students, faculty, staff, stakeholders, or other individuals with knowledge, may report violations of the Code, in writing, to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

(3) The University has zero tolerance for a violation of any provisions of the Code, as well as the Anti-Hazing Regulation 2.028 and Alcoholic Beverages Regulation 3.021. “Zero tolerance” means that given the factual circumstances of the purported violation, the charged student may be removed from University Housing and receive a penalty up to suspension or expulsion from the University.

(4) Due process protections, in accordance with University Regulation 2.013, will be appropriately accorded the charged student.

(5) Information Briefing. If the Conduct Officer or his/her designee believes after a review of the purported violations that the information has merit, the student will be issued, in writing, an Administrative Request to Appear at an information briefing before the Conduct Officer or his/her designee. At the information briefing, the Conduct Officer or his /her designee will explain to the student the elements of due process that will be afforded.

(a) University conduct proceedings may be instituted against a student charged with a violation of the law that is also a violation of the Code. The University reserves the right to proceed under the Code with a hearing and the possible imposition of a sanction prior to, concurrent with, or subsequent to civil litigation, criminal arrest, and/or criminal prosecution.

(b) With the exception of extenuating circumstances, the University will proceed with an alleged violation of the Code prior to any final disposition of the Courts.
Determinations made or sanctions imposed under the Code shall not be subject to change because criminal or civil charges arising out of the same facts giving rise to violation of University rules and regulations were dismissed, reduced, or resolved in favor of or against the charged student.

Any admission of guilt, responsibility or statement against the student’s interest made by a student at off-campus proceedings shall be conclusive for University purposes.

A verdict of guilty, a plea of guilty, a plea of no contest (nolo contendere) or similar plea in a court of law by a charged student will operate as a conclusive finding that the student is “Responsible” for the purpose of student conduct proceedings.

Prior to the issuance of the outcome letter, the University may amend the violation(s) based on information obtained through an outside proceeding when that information is relevant to activity adversely affecting the University community.

The University will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies in any criminal prosecution to the extent permitted by law.

The University conduct proceedings are closed to the public.

Jurisdiction

(6) **Jurisdiction.** Discipline may be imposed for offenses against the Code occurring at any of the following locations or activities:

(a) University campus;
(b) University owned or controlled property;
(c) University premises, including, but not limited to, fraternities, sororities, and organizations’ property;
(d) Activities sponsored by the University wherever they may occur;
(e) Activities officially approved by the University that are conducted by University certified organizations wherever they may occur; or
(f) Activities occurring off campus, including non-university related activities.

Definitions

(7) **Definitions.**

(a) **Business Day** - A day of normal business operation as designated by the University.
(b) **Charged Student** – The student charged with violations of this Code.
(c) **Club and/or Organization** - Any number of students who have complied with the University requirements for certification. The term “club or organization” also will refer to student.

(d) **Complainant** - An individual who reportedly experienced gender-based misconduct regardless of whether the individual participates in the disclosure or review of that report by the University at any point.

(e) **Educational sanctions** - Work assignments, essays, presentations, or other related educational assignments.

(f) **Expulsion** - A student shall be deprived of his/her opportunity to re-enter the University. The student is permanently separated from the University.

(g) **Faculty member** - Any person hired by the University to conduct classroom instruction and/or research activities or who is otherwise considered by the University to be a member of its faculty.

(h) **Hearing body** - Any person or persons who have been authorized by the University to determine whether a student has violated the Code and to recommend sanctions that may be imposed when a Code violation has been committed.

(i) **Judicial hold** - This prevents the student from conducting business at the University (i.e. any form of registration or obtaining transcripts).

(j) **Mediation** - The process in which all parties voluntarily agree to meet with an impartial mediator to communicate their concerns and needs to each other and to reach their own agreement on the resolution of the case. The participants are responsible for keeping their agreement or renegotiating if necessary. In the event the participants do not agree to mediate or mediate but do not reach a full and final resolution, the case will be referred back for conduct action. Breach of a mediated agreement may result in a follow up mediation session or the matter may be referred back through the conduct process.

(k) **Mediator** - Any neutral member of the University community who has been trained in conflict resolution to assist parties in reaching a mutual agreement to resolve their differences. The Mediator shall not have personal connections with either party or have prior knowledge of the disagreement.

(l) **Not Responsible** - The charged student has not been found Responsible or did not accept Responsibility for the alleged violation(s) of a provision(s) of the Code.

(m) **Preponderance of Evidence** - The information presented supports the finding that it is more likely than not that the violation occurred.

(n) **Probation** - An indication that the student’s conduct violated the Code and requires the withdrawal of special privileges, participation in inter-collegiate activities, and other activities including, but not limited to, band participation. Special privileges mean the student may not be elected to office or represent the University in any other capacity during the period of probation. If the student is holding an office, he/she
must vacate the office for the term of probation. The penalty of probation may also include a specified monetary fine from $100.00 to $350.00.

(o) **Reporter** – Any person who submits a report alleging that a student has violated this Code.

(p) **Reprimand** – A formal rebuke and official recognition by letter to the student of misconduct as charged by the University. The reprimand may be written or oral.

(q) **Respondent** – A student who is reported to have engaged in gender-based misconduct. The term may also include an individual whose identity is unknown and there is reason to believe that they may be a student, or the Complainant or Reporter is a student.

(r) **Responsible** – The charged student has been found Responsible or has accepted Responsibility for violating a provision(s) of the Code.

(s) **Restitution** – Compensation for loss, or damage to University property. This may be in the form of monetary or material replacement.

(t) **Sanction** – A penalty imposed upon a student after the student has admitted that he/she is Responsible or has been determined Responsible by the Conduct Officer or a hearing body for violating a provision(s) of the Code.

(u) **Student** – Any person admitted, enrolled, or registered for study at the University. This includes persons not officially registered or enrolled for a particular term but who are eligible to enroll or are associated with the University because he/she has not completed a course or program. The term “student” will also refer to student clubs and organizations.

(v) **Suspension** – Separation of the student from the University for a definite period of time. The duration of the period of suspension shall not exceed five years and shall be in direct proportion to the degree of seriousness attached to the misconduct. Readmission for suspensions exceeding one (1) year is conditioned upon the recommendation of an ad hoc review board appointed by the President or Vice President for Student Affairs.

(w) **University** – The Florida A&M University whose main campus is located in Tallahassee, Florida and any of its satellite or branch campuses.

(x) **University/Community service** – Specified areas of service for the benefit of the community or the University allocated to the student.

(y) **University official** – Any person employed by the University performing his/her assigned employment responsibilities.

(z) **University premises** – All buildings, land, facilities, and any other property owned, leased, operated, controlled or supervised by the University.

(aa) **University sponsored activity** – Any activity on or off campus which is initiated, aided, authorized or supervised by the University.
(bb) The word “Can” is used in the permissive sense.

(cc) The word “May” is used in the permissive sense.

(dd) The word “Shall” is used in the imperative sense.

(ee) The word “Will” is used in the imperative sense.

(ff) All definitions not included in this Code are in accordance with definitions found in the Merriam-Webster’s dictionary located in the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Violations

(8) Violations.

(a) Academic Dishonesty:

1. Cheating: using, attempting to use or giving unauthorized information or material in any academic endeavor. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized possession and/or use of an examination, course related materials, cheat sheets, study aids or other information in an academic exercise; communication to another through written, visual, electronic or oral means; submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor; use of any materials or resources a faculty member has notified the student or class are prohibited.

2. Plagiarism may be specifically defined for the purposes of any course by the school, institute, or college involved. Unless otherwise defined, plagiarism shall include, but is not limited to, failure of the student to use another’s work without any indication of the source and in so doing, conveying or attempting to convey that the work is the student’s own; submitting a document or assignment in whole or in part that is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not written by the student; allowing another person to compose or rewrite an assignment or document.

3. A student who assists in any of the academic dishonesty violations mentioned above shall be considered equally as responsible as the student who accepts such assistance.

4. When the University’s schools, colleges or institutes choose to internally address academic dishonesty violations, students should consult with the academic dean, director or program coordinator in the respective school, college, or institute for procedural information.

5. The penalties for academic dishonesty violations may include: reprimand, reduction of grade; denial of academic credit; invalidation of university credit or of the degree based upon such credit; probation; suspension; or expulsion. In addition to any other penalties that may be imposed, the individual or student may be denied admission or further registration, and the University may invalidate academic credit for work done by a student and may invalidate
or revoke the degree based upon such credit if it is determined that the student has made false, fraudulent, or incomplete statements in the application, residence affidavit, or accompanying documents or statements in connection with, or supplemental to, the application for admission to or graduation from the University.

(b) **Alcoholic Beverages**: The violation of alcoholic beverages is defined as noted in FAMU Regulation 3.021.

(c) **Conspiracy**: Assisting or attempting to assist another in any act(s) that violate(s) the Student Code of Conduct.

(d) **Criminal Conviction**: The student convicted of a criminal offense by an off-campus court of competent jurisdiction may be subject to sanctions by the University.

(e) **Demonstrations/Riots**: Participating in an on-campus or off-campus demonstration, riot, or activity that disrupts or obstructs the normal operations of the University and/or infringes upon the rights of other members of the University community; leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities within any campus building or area.

(f) **Destruction of property**: Defacement, damage, misuse or destruction of University property or services, or the private property of another. In addition to being subject to conduct action, students or student organizations responsible for such damage may be financially liable.

(g) **Disorderly Conduct**: Behavior that disturbs the peace or undermines public safety, such as causing a disturbance or being unruly.

(h) **Disruptive Behavior**: Disruption of a class, curricular or University activity; obstruction of the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on University premises; interference with the rights of others to carry out their activities or duties at, or on behalf of the University; interference with the freedom of movement of any member or guest of the University; interference with the academic freedom and freedom of speech of any member or guest of the University; or any other act that impairs, interferes with or obstructs the mission, purposes, academic atmosphere, operations, processes, orderly conduct and/or functions of the University or the rights of other members of the University community.

(i) **Drugs**: Use, possession, manufacture, cultivation, distribution or sale of illegal drugs and/or controlled substances is prohibited. Illegal drugs include, but is not limited to, synthetic drugs or other substances that will alter a student's mental state (e.g. glue, nitrous oxide, paint, etc.); drug paraphernalia; possession, use, sale or distribution of prescription medication not issued to the student.

(j) **Extortion**: The act or practice of obtaining something or compelling some action by force, coercion, intimidation or threat is prohibited.

(k) **Gambling**: Participating, or play, in an unlawful game of chance for money or for anything of value on University premises, or at an affair sponsored by a student or
student organization; to unlawfully sell, buy, barter or dispose of a ticket, or any interest in a scheme of chance by whatever name on University premises or at any affair sponsored by a student or student organization; wager on a University team or organization in a competition, with a direct influence in the success of the competition.

(I) Gender-Based Misconduct: Encompasses a range of behaviors including, but not limited to, all forms of sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of misconduct such as stalking and relationship violence. Gender-based misconduct can occur between individuals who know each other, have an established relationship, have previously engaged in consensual sexual activity, and between individuals who do not know each other. Gender-based misconduct can be committed by persons of any gender identity and it can occur between people of the same or different gender.

1. Consent consists of a voluntary, clear and unambiguous agreement expressed in mutually understandable words and/or actions to engage in a particular activity. Consent must be voluntarily given and may not be valid if a person is being subjected to actions or behaviors that elicit emotional or psychological pressure, intimidation or fear.

2. Consent to past sexual activity and/or one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to future sexual activity and/or other forms of sexual activity.

3. The lack of resistance is not consent as there is no duty to fight off an individual.

4. Consent can be withdrawn by any party at any time.

5. Consent cannot be given by a person who is incapacitated. Incapacitation means that a person lacks the physical and/or mental ability to make informed, rational judgments. This may have a variety of causes, including, but not limited to, being asleep or unconscious, having consumed alcohol, drugs or other substances.

6. Gender-Based Misconduct offenses include, but are not limited to:

   a) Sexual Harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature if: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s education, living environment, employment, or participation in a University-related activity or University Program; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for or a factor in decisions affecting that individual’s education, living environment, employment, or participation in a University-related activity; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, offensive, or abusive environment for that individual’s education, living environment, employment, or participation in a University-related activity.
b) **Non-Consensual Sexual Contact** (or attempts to commit same): Unwanted or unwelcome touching of a sexual nature including, but not limited to, kissing, fondling, oral sex, anal or vaginal intercourse, digital penetration or penetration by an object, or other physical sexual activity that occurs without valid consent.

c) **Sexual Exploitation:** Occurs when one person takes non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for anyone's advantage or benefit other than the individual being exploited, and the behavior does not otherwise constitute one of the other gender-based misconduct offenses. Examples of sexual exploitation include, but are not specifically limited to:

i. Invasion of sexual privacy;

ii. Non-consensual video or audio recording of sexual activity;

iii. Non-consensual distribution of photos, other images, or information of an individual's sexual activity;

iv. Going beyond the boundaries of consent (such as letting friends hide in the closet to watch you having consensual sex);

v. Engaging in voyeurism;

vi. Knowingly transmitting a sexually transmitted infection (STI) or HIV to another student;

vii. Exposing one's genitals in non-consensual circumstances;

viii. Inducing another to expose their genitals; or

ix. Prostitution of another person.

d) **Relationship Violence:** Any act of violence or threatened act of violence that occurs between individuals who are or have been involved in a sexual, romantic, dating, spousal, domestic, or other intimate relationship. Relationship violence can also include psychological, sexual, economic, and emotional abuse, when one partner tries to establish or maintain power and control over the other.

e) Other student conduct offenses may also fall under gender-based misconduct as determined by the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Examples of these offenses include, but are not limited to:

i. Behavior prohibited under Regulation 10.103, Non-Discrimination Policy and Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures;
ii. Intimidation: Implied threats or acts that cause an unreasonable fear of harm;

iii. Hazing: Refer to Regulation 2.028, Anti-hazing;

iv. Retaliation in connection with allegations of gender-based misconduct; and

v. Stalking: Refer to subsection (8) (w) below.

7. Complainant Rights in a Gender-Based Misconduct Case:

a) While the University encourages all violations to be reported, the Complainant has the right to choose whether or not to file a formal complaint. There is also the option of filing an anonymous report. However, filing an anonymous report may limit the University’s ability to issue a violation to the Respondent for the misconduct, or to address the needs of the Complainant;

b) A Complainant also has the right to file a report and request confidentiality. However, there may be circumstances based on the status or seriousness of the purported offense, that confidentiality may not be honored when the University must investigate and take action to protect the Complainant or other members of the University community. If the University is unable to honor a request for confidentiality, the Complainant will be notified;

c) In addition to pursuing administrative/conduct remedies, the Complainant maintains the right to pursue criminal charges;

d) The Complainant may have an advisor or support person present throughout the conduct proceedings. The advisor may be a victim advocate, attorney, friend, faculty member or family member. The advisor is not permitted to speak or participate directly in any student conduct proceeding;

e) The University may prohibit the Complainant’s past sexual history from being presented as information in University proceedings;

f) The Complainant may attend the entire portion of the hearing at which information is received, excluding deliberations;

g) The Complainant will receive similar and timely access to any information that will be used during the proceedings;

h) The Complainant may submit potential relevant questions to the hearing panel chairperson prior to and during the hearing;

i) The Complainant may present relevant information or witnesses during the hearing;
j) The Complainant may ask relevant questions of witnesses who give statements during the hearing. All questions will be submitted in writing to and asked by the chair of the hearing panel;

k) The Complainant may submit a written impact statement to be considered by the hearing panel if the Respondent is found Responsible but before determining sanctions. While the impact statement is not binding, the impact described in the statement, together with the totality of the circumstances, including the Respondent's conduct record, shall be considered in determining the appropriate sanction(s).

8. Respondent and Complainant Hearing/Panel Additional Procedures in a Gender-Based Misconduct Case:

   a) The student conduct proceeding shall be conducted by a University official or panel of university officials, except a University may provide for a committee or panel where students comprise at least one-half of the membership if such committee or panel is requested by the Respondent and no objection is raised by the Complainant.

   b) Upon request, the Complainant, Respondent and witnesses may provide relevant information in a manner that avoids direct contact with the Respondent, Complainant or witnesses; and

   c) A Complainant or Respondent may not be questioned directly by the other. All questions shall be asked through the hearing panel chairperson.

9. Pending Outcome of Proceedings in a Gender-Based Misconduct Case:

   a) The Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students or Director of Housing is authorized to modify living arrangements in cases where the Complainant and Respondent live in the same residential hall or complex;

   b) The Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students, or the University Conduct Officer is authorized to issue an immediate No Contact order, forbidding the Complainant and Respondent from all contact;

   c) The Provost and/or the academic dean is authorized to establish an immediate reassignment of classes when both the Respondent and Complainant attend the same classes;

   d) The University provides on-campus counseling services for students involved in reports of gender-based misconduct;

   e) The University may provide additional rights and options in response to an incident;
f) Both the Complainant and the Respondent shall be informed of the outcome of any University conduct proceeding regarding reported gender-based misconduct, the University’s final determination and any sanctions;

10. Appeal. Both the Complainant and Respondent have the right to appeal the outcome of the proceedings as outlined in Regulations 2.012(25) and 2.013(1)(i).

(m) Harassment: Verbal or written abuse (including electronic communications or internet activity), threats, intimidation, coercion and/or other conduct that endangers the health, safety, or welfare of others, or places another individual in reasonable fear of physical harm or creates a hostile environment in which others are unable to reasonably conduct or participate in work, education, research, living or other activities. Harassment also includes actions defined in Regulation 10.103.

(n) Hazing: Hazing is defined as noted in FAMU Regulation 2.028.

(o) Identification Violations. Identification violations include:

1. Failure to present identification when requested by a University Law Enforcement Officer or other University official who identifies him/herself.

2. Alteration, illegal use or attempt to illegally use another’s identification regardless of methodology (i.e., card, identification number, access code, etc.).

3. The student who allows another student or any individual to use his/her student identification card, identification number, decal or other means of identification.

4. To manufacture, distribute, deliver, sell, purchase, possess, or use of false identification.

5. Impersonation or misrepresenting the authority to act on behalf of another or the University.

(p) Mail: The opening and removing of the mail, including electronic mail, of another person without authority is a violation of Federal law. University penalties may also be imposed for such a violation.

(q) Misuse of computer facilities, wireless system, network, data and resources, including but not limited to:

1. Unauthorized access, entry or use of a University’s or another’s computer, computer system, network, software, password, account or data;

2. Unauthorized alteration or degradation of computer equipment, software, network, data or system performance;

3. Unauthorized copying or distribution of computer software or data;
4. Theft or unauthorized use of intellectual property;

5. Use of a computer or computer system in the commission of a crime to violate or facilitate the violation of laws, Board of Governors or University rules, regulations or policies;

6. Any unauthorized commercial use of University computer or computing resources;

7. Any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video recording;

8. Use of computing facilities and resources to send obscene or defamatory messages or material; or

9. Use of computing facilities or resources to interfere with the work of another student, faculty/staff, University official or the normal operation of the University computing system.

(r) Misuse of Safety Equipment: Vandalizing or misusing emergency equipment for non-emergency events, which includes but is not specifically limited to intentional misuse of 911, blue lights systems, fire alarm pull stations, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, or heart defibrillators; unauthorized use of emergency exit doors; false report of an explosive or incendiary device; causing or attempting to cause a fire or explosion; failure to evacuate during a fire alarm on the University’s premises or at any University activity.

(s) Noncompliance with a University Official’s Directive: Failure to comply with oral or written instruction from a University official (i.e. faculty, staff, administration, residence hall staff, law enforcement officer) acting within the scope of his/her job duties or the use of contemptuous words toward the University official.

(t) Obstruction of the Student Conduct System, including but not limited to:

1. Failure to obey the notice from the University Conduct Officer to appear for an information briefing or hearing as part of the student conduct system;

2. Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information before a hearing body, hearing officer, or a staff member of the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution during a student conduct meeting;

3. Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of an administrative hearing;

4. Attempting to discourage an individual’s proper participation in, or use of, the student conduct system;

5. Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a hearing body prior to, during, and/or after an administrative hearing;

6. Harassment, verbal or physical, and/or intimidation of a member of the hearing body, hearing officer, Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution staff, reporter or a witness prior to, during, and/or after an administrative hearing; or
7. Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the student conduct system.

(u) Providing False Information and/or Falsification of University Records: The student who falsifies records or gives misleading information, verbal or written. This includes falsifying, tampering, altering, forging, withholding of required information, or misusing any record or official document.

(v) Stalking:
1. Repeated following, contacting, harassing, threatening, or intimidating another by telephone, mail, electronic communication, social media, or any other action, device, or method that places a person in reasonable fear for his/her physical or emotional welfare; or
2. Behavior that is intentional and repeated, or meant to be done in humor or in jest, that results in the intimidation, injury or distress of another individual physically, mentally, or socially. The behavior may be physical, written, visual, electronic or verbal.
3. Stalking also includes actions defined in Regulation 10.103.

(w) Theft: Unauthorized use or possession of, taking or attempting to take, the property or services of another. The property or services may be personal or public.

(x) Unauthorized Use of Facilities and Grounds: Unauthorized access or entry or attempted entry into any University building or facility or the property of another; misuse or unauthorized use of classroom or laboratory facilities; abusing grounds or building structures, including but not limited to ramps, rails, stair sets, and entryways by means of skating, scootering, recreational cycling or other recreational activities or devices; unauthorized possession, duplication or use of keys, access cards/codes for any such property.

(y) Violation of Residence Hall Policies: Violation(s) of any Department of Housing and Residential Life policy, rule, or regulation.

(z) Violations of the terms of conduct action imposed as a result of previous conduct proceedings under the provisions of this Code will subject the student to additional sanctions.

(aa) Violation of University Intellectual Property: Misuse or unauthorized use of the University’s name, brand, acronym, logo, seal, symbols, marks, mascot, monogram, or other graphic identity symbol.

(bb) Violent Behavior: Conduct causing physical harm or injury; endangering the health, safety, or welfare of another or oneself; conduct causing severe emotional distress, or endangering one’s own health or safety; any threat, attempt or offer to cause physical harm or severe emotional distress to another.

(cc) Weapons: Use and/or possession of weapons, firearms, ammunitions, explosives, knives, firecrackers, fireworks or any other instrument as a weapon is prohibited,
except as provided by law. Firecrackers or fireworks may be used only when approved by appropriate University officials.

1. “Weapon” means any item (including, but not specifically limited to, metallic knuckles, sword, any dangerous chemical or biological agent, firearm, machine gun, starter gun, BB gun, stun gun, paintball gun, conducted electrical weapon (such as Tasers), archery equipment or any other object) which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device.

2. “Fireworks” means and includes any combustible or explosive composition or substance or combination of substances, or except as hereinafter provided, any article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation. The term includes blank cartridges and toy cannons in which explosives are used, the type of balloons which require fire underneath to propel them, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, incense, dago bombs, and any fireworks containing any explosives or flammable compound or any tablets or other device containing any explosive substance. The term “fireworks” does not include sparklers; toy pistols, toy canes, and toy guns.

3. The term “sparkler” means a device which emits showers of sparks upon burning, does not contain any explosive compounds, does not detonate or explode, is hand-held or ground-based, and cannot propel itself through the air.

Sanctions

Sanctions. A student found Responsible for a violation or violations of the Code shall be subject to sanctions commensurate with the offense with consideration given to any aggravating and mitigating circumstances, including but not limited to, the student’s conduct record. The student will be deemed to have knowledge of his or her record of previous conduct violations and sanctions. If a student does not complete a sanction by the required deadline, a hold may be placed on the student’s record or additional violations may be issued. Sanctions include one or more of the following, unless otherwise expressly provided:

(a) Counseling Assessment. The University can refer a student for an assessment at a counseling center for alcohol/drug dependence, general mental health, or other counseling issues. The student shall choose an appropriately licensed and qualified facility.

(b) Discretionary sanctions. Action not specifically set out but deemed proper by a majority of the hearing body or the University Conduct Officer.

(c) Educational Requirements. Attendance or presentation at educational programs; interviews with appropriate officials; planning and implementing educational programs; completion of an essay or project; or other educational activities.
(d) Expulsion from the University. The student is permanently deprived of his/her opportunity to continue at the University in any status.

(e) Fine. A specific monetary amount ranging from $100.00 to $350.00, which may be included with a period of conduct probation. A fine may be issued for each individual violation or as an aggregate amount.

(f) Mediation. Depending on the nature and severity of the alleged violation, the University Conduct Officer may recommend mediation as an alternative to formal conduct action. The involved parties must each agree to mediation. Mediation shall not be offered as an alternative in instances to include, but not specifically limited to: gender-based misconduct, loss of life, serious bodily injuries, use of weapons, hazing and the cultivation, distribution, or sale of drugs.

(g) No Contact Order. A directive to refrain from any contact, direct or indirect, with one or more designated persons or group(s) through any means including personal contact, e-mail, text messaging, telephone, social media or third parties. A No Contact Order may be temporary or permanent.

(h) Probation. Probation for a specified period which shall not exceed time needed by the student to complete requirements for graduation. Students placed on probation are not in good standing with the University and are subject to suspension or expulsion should they be found Responsible for another violation during the probationary term.

(i) Reprimand. Correspondence which notifies the student that his/her behavior did not meet University standards. The reprimand may be oral or written.

(j) Restitution for the loss or damage to University property.

(k) Restriction/Loss of Privileges. The denial of specific University privileges including but not limited to attendance at athletic functions, restricted library use, parking privileges, University computer usage, University facilities and resources; residence hall visitation for a designated period of time, etc.

(l) Suspension from the University for a period not to exceed five (5) years which may also include restricted access to campus and/or other specified activities. The student must comply with all conditions imposed by the hearing body or University official prior to re-enrolling. Students who are suspended for more than one year will need to apply for re-admission to an ad hoc review board appointed by the President or Vice President for Student Affairs.

(m) University/Community service. The student is required to complete a specified number of hours of service to the campus or general community.

(n) Withholding of diplomas, transcripts, or other records.

(o) Any combination of the foregoing that the majority of the hearing body, hearing officer or the University Conduct Officer may, under the circumstances, consider fair and appropriate.
(10) Students are required to carry a Florida A&M University picture identification card at all times. Failure to do so, may subject them to reasonable detention by appropriate University authorities.

Notice

(11) Notice. The written notice of the violation(s) to the charged student should proceed the actual hearing date, or information briefing with the charged student, no less than five (5) business days, except in an emergency. All notices, decisions and outcomes of conduct matters connected with the conduct process will be e-mailed to the student’s University provided e-mail address. This method shall constitute proper notification to the charged student. At the discretion of the Conduct Officer, correspondence may be sent to the student’s last known local address as filed with the Registrar’s Office and/or via iRattler. If no local address is on file, correspondence will be mailed to the student's permanent address. Students who have a change of address must file a change of address form at the Office of the University Registrar and/or via iRattler.

Time Limit

(12) Time Limit. The time limit for issuing a violation against a student should be done within six (6) months from the date the violation was committed or discovered, whichever is later. The University Conduct Officer may exercise professional discretion when applying the time limit for issuing a violation against a student when there are circumstances that warrant a waiver of the six (6) months’ time limit. Circumstances that may warrant a waiver include but are not specifically limited to: stalking, gender-based misconduct, or relationship violence; requests from law enforcement not to take action; or concern for the safety of students, University employees or other witnesses.

Administrative Request to Appear

(13) Administrative Request to Appear. A student who fails to respond to an Administrative Request to Appear within four (4) business days shall be placed on judicial hold and/or prohibited from attending classes and participating in extra-curricular activities until compliance with the Administrative Request to Appear is effected.

Information

(14) Information. A charged student may request an opportunity to provide information to the Conduct Officer against other students who are charged with violations of the Code arising out of the same incident or circumstances, including the student’s own involvement, in exchange for imposition of sanction(s) by the Conduct Officer. Under this provision, the student waives his/her right to a hearing. The provision of information against other students will be considered a mitigating factor in determining sanctions.
Alternative to a Finding of Responsibility

(15) ** Alternative to a Finding of Responsibility.** The Conduct Officer may defer or suspend a finding of Responsibility pending completion of specific sanctions where circumstances warrant. If a student successfully completes the required sanctions, the student’s conduct record may be sealed. This means that the record sealed will not appear on a student conduct/background check; however, the record may be considered by a hearing body or the Conduct Officer should the student commit a subsequent violation of the Code.

Amnesty

(16) **Amnesty.** In serious or life-threatening situations, particularly where alcohol poisoning or drug overdose is suspected or where other medical treatment is reasonably believed to be appropriate, students are asked to call 911 (or FAMU Police Department at 850-599-3256 if on campus); stay with the person needing assistance until help arrives; and be prepared to give emergency medical personnel as much information as possible including the amount and type of alcohol or substances consumed. Students who receive medical attention as a result of alcohol and/or drug use are eligible for Amnesty and may not face formal action under the Code. Students seeking medical assistance for another person while simultaneously violating the alcohol and/or drug regulation may also be eligible. Students who qualify for Amnesty are required to complete educational measures and pay any incurring costs. It is the expectation that a student uses Amnesty only once. If a student is involved in subsequent alcohol and/or drug abuse incidents, the incident will be reviewed for violation(s) of the Code.

Scheduling of Hearing

(17) **Schedule of Hearing.** A hearing shall normally be scheduled within fifteen (15) business days from receipt of the student’s written, signed request for such, unless the charged student and the Conduct Officer or his/her designee agrees in writing to a later hearing date or there are extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances that may warrant a delay of a hearing include, but are not specifically limited to: unavailability of witnesses; illness; death; pending civil or criminal proceedings which might prejudice University findings; no contact order issued by a court; an on-going related law enforcement investigation; University closures and/or breaks between semesters; failure to meet composition requirements for the administrative hearing panel; and written requests for continuance from the charged student or from the University attorney.

Postponement

(18) **Postponement.** A student charged with a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, regardless of which hearing body may hear the matter, may request to have the hearing postponed for no more than sixty (60) business days and such postponement may be granted provided the student requests it in writing and agrees to accept the imposition of probation,
suspension, or expulsion, depending upon the gravity of the offense. Such probation, suspension, or expulsion will be recommended by the University Conduct Officer to the Vice President for Student Affairs, who shall make a determination. Action taken shall remain in force until such time as the student requesting a hearing appears before the appropriate hearing body and a hearing is held. The student shall be informed whether he/she would be placed on probation or would be suspended or expelled prior to his/her making a decision to postpone the hearing.

### Summary Suspension/Expulsion

(19) **Summary Suspension/Expulsion.** The University may summarily suspend or expel any student or group of students, pending a hearing at a later date if requested, under the following circumstances:

(a) The continued presence of the student on campus is likely to create interference with the educational process and/or the orderly operation of the University.

(b) The continued presence of the student on campus is likely to endanger the health, safety, morals, welfare or property of the University community.

(c) The offense or conduct committed by the student is of such a serious, heinous or repulsive nature, as to adversely affect the University community and the student’s suitability as a member of the academic community.

### Summary Suspension/Expulsion for Criminal Conviction

(20) **Summary Suspension/Expulsion for Criminal Conviction.** The Vice President for Student Affairs may summarily suspend or expel any student, pending a hearing at a later date if requested, who is convicted of or pleaded guilty to a criminal offense of a kind which interferes with the educational orderly operation of the university, or a kind which, if the student were allowed to remain enrolled, would endanger the health, safety, morals, welfare or property of the members of the academic community.

### University’s Right to Enter Housing

(21) **University’s Right to Enter Housing.** In addition to the right of University officials to enter a student’s room in University housing pursuant to the terms of the Housing Agreement, officials may enter when an emergency exists, where there is reasonable cause to believe there is a clear and present danger, or where there is a reasonable belief that contraband is present which interferes with the educational process of the University, or where the health, safety and morals of the University community are in imminent and apparent danger.
Emergency and Administrative Hearings

(22) Emergency and Administrative Hearings.

(a) Emergency Hearings. The Vice President for Student Affairs reserves the right to appoint an ad hoc committee to hear matters regarding, but not specifically limited to, the subject matter of subsections (19) and (20) above. The chairperson of the committee, who maybe an academic dean or director, shall be appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs. Unless an ad hoc committee is appointed, the matter shall ordinarily be heard by the hearing body (panel) and chaired by a staff member of the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

1. The student shall have five (5) business days from the date of the notice to request in writing an emergency hearing at which the student may show cause why his or her continued presence on the University campus is not a threat pursuant to subsections (19) and/or (20) of the Code.

2. The emergency hearing shall be held within five (5) business days of receipt of the written, signed request from the student for an emergency hearing. Should a student timely request both an emergency and administrative non-emergency hearing (see Section 22(b) below, Administrative (non-emergency) hearings), the Conduct Officer, at his/her discretion, may combine the hearings into one proceeding. If the hearings are combined, the timeframes for an emergency hearing shall govern.

3. If the student fails to timely request in writing an Administrative (non-emergency) hearing on the merits of the case, the Conduct Officer in his/her sole discretion may accept a written request from the student to proceed with informal disposition. Informal disposition is explained in the section (23) found below. The written request must be submitted within ten (10) business days following the emergency hearing. Should the student fail to submit a timely request for informal disposition, the University will adopt the allegations as the findings, find the student responsible for the alleged violations, and render sanctions accordingly. The student shall not have a right to appeal the merits of the allegations under this provision; however, the student may appeal the sanctions imposed.

4. In accordance with Regulation 2.012(22)(a), above, if a student does not provide a written request an emergency hearing within the five (5) business days from the date of the notice of suspension or expulsion, the student will have waived the opportunity to the emergency hearing; therefore, the student shall remain suspended or expelled until he or she requests an administrative hearing on the merits of the alleged violations, the administrative hearing is held, and sanctions are rendered. If the student fails to request in writing an administrative hearing pursuant to Regulation 2.012(22)(b), within the ten (10) business days from the date of the notice, the student waives the opportunity to the administrative hearing, and waives the right to contest the facts alleged against him or her. The University shall then adopt the allegations as the findings, find the student responsible for the alleged
violations, and render sanctions, which may include the suspension or expulsion.

(b.) Administrative (Non-Emergency) Hearings.

5. An administrative (non-emergency) hearing is on the merits of the case, i.e., whether the student committed the alleged offense or offenses under the Code. The written request from the student for an administrative (non-emergency) hearing on the merits of the case must also comply with the specified time period for requesting an administrative (non-emergency) hearing which is ten (10) business days. This information is also provided in the notice to the student. At the discretion of the Conduct Officer, extenuating circumstances may be taken into consideration with regard to the ten (10) business day time limit such as a student’s incarceration.

6. If the student does not provide a written request to the University for an administrative (Non-emergency) hearing, the student waives the opportunity to the hearing and further, waives the right to contest the facts alleged against him or her. The University shall then adopt the allegations as the findings, find the student responsible for the alleged violations, and administer sanctions appropriately.

Informal Disposition

(23) Informal Disposition. In the event a student charged with an offense wishes to waive, in writing, his/her right to an emergency and non-emergency hearing and the University Conduct Officer wishes to accept jurisdiction, the University Conduct Officer may make a determination of facts and, if the student is found Responsible for the offense, make a determination of sanction(s). The student’s written waiver shall be obtained after being given an explanation of the violations against him/her and of his/her rights to a hearing under the Student Code of Conduct. The student shall have two (2) business days from the date of signing the waiver to rescind, in writing, his/her waiver and request a hearing. In the absence of a rescission of waiver, the student shall be informed in writing of the decision of his/her case within fourteen (14) business days from the date of the waiver. Should the student elect to proceed under this provision and fails to complete the process, a judicial hold may be placed on the student’s account. If the University Conduct Officer finds the student is responsible and sanctions are imposed, the student shall not have a right to appeal the merits of the allegations under this provision; however, the student may appeal the sanctions imposed.
Other University Boards

(24) Other University Boards.

(a) Violation of residence hall policies and procedures are punishable under the Code. Violation of the Visitation Policy as found in the Residence Life Handbook shall carry either an arrest for trespassing, suspension or probation, and removal from residing in University housing facilities.

(b) Matters involving incidents arising in University Housing and Residential Life may be referred to the University Housing Judicial Appeal Committee by the Dean of Students or University Conduct Officer where the charged student is a resident of University Housing. Appeal Committee members may include the Director, Associate and Assistant Directors or designees.

(c) Matters involving a club and/or organization may be referred to the Clubs and Organization Review Board by the Dean of Students or Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

(d) Student Supreme Court. When a student is charged with a violation, which in the opinion of the University Conduct Officer would not warrant a penalty in excess of probation, the University Conduct Officer may refer the case to the Student Government Association Supreme Court.

(e) In the event the violation is within the jurisdiction of more than one primary hearing body, the University Conduct Officer shall determine which primary hearing body shall hear the violation.

Appeals

(25) Appeals. Decisions of the Student Supreme Court pursuant to subsection (24)(d) above, Residence Life conduct boards, Clubs and Organizations Review Board, University Conduct Officer and administrative hearing panels are appealed to the Dean of Students or other designated University official. At the conclusion of the appeals process, the decision of the Dean of Students, or other designated University official, shall be final, and the student’s conduct matter shall be disposed through a final order signed by the Vice President for Student Affairs.

(a) The student has ten (10) business days from the date of the written notification of the decision by the hearing body to make his/her appeal in writing and file same with the Office of the Dean of Students.

(b) The written appeal must specify reason(s) why consideration should be granted and should only deal with matters of record, procedure, and/or information presented during the hearing.

(c) No student’s final penalty shall begin to run until all University appeals are exhausted or denied, except as specified under subsections (19) and (20) above.
Record

(26) **Record.** A digital recording of each hearing will be made by the Chairperson and preserved. Retention of the record is subject to the General Records Schedule GS5 for universities and community colleges. Deliberations shall not be recorded. During the appeal period, the charged student, with or without the company of legal counsel, and/or advisor, and/or parent with the written authorization of the charged student will be granted permission to listen to the recorded testimony under arrangements as determined by the University Conduct Officer, with the express understanding that the record is to remain confidential to the extent provided by law. The student may, at his/her own expense, arrange for the making of a full transcript of the recording by employment of a certified court reporting agency. The recording will be provided by the University directly to the court reporting agency, who will be required to return the recording directly to the University. Other than the above modes of recording the hearing, other mechanical, electronic devices for recording or broadcasting shall be excluded from the hearing. If the student chooses to appeal, the recording shall be made available to the charged student and the Dean of Students.

(27) The hearing body, ad hoc committee or University Conduct Officer shall afford the charged student with due process as, provided by FAMU Regulation 2.013, and/or Board of Governors Regulation 6.0105(c). The regulations implementing the due process provisions as well as other matters referenced in said rules, but not included herein shall be printed in the student handbook, the FANG, under the section entitled “Student Rights, Responsibilities and Code of Conduct.”

Hearing Guidelines

(28) **Hearing Guidelines.** Student conduct hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

(a) All hearings shall be closed to the public unless required by law.

(b) The charged student and his/her advisor, if any, shall be allowed to attend the entire portion of the hearing at which information is received, excluding deliberation. No other person shall be permitted to attend.

(c) In conduct hearings involving more than one charged student, the University Conduct Officer or the chairperson, in his or her discretion, may permit the hearing concerning each student to be conducted separately or jointly. Information received during a hearing arising out of the same circumstances may be used.

(d) The charged student has the right to be assisted by an advisor they choose, at their own expense and initiative. The advisor may be an attorney. The charged student is responsible for presenting his or her own information, therefore advisors are not permitted to speak or participate directly in any hearing before a conduct hearing body. An advisor may not serve as a witness. A student should select an advisor whose schedule allows attendance at the scheduled date and time of the hearing because delays will not normally be allowed due to the scheduling conflicts of an advisor. The
student must provide, in writing, to the University Conduct Officer or the chairperson of the hearing body, the name, mailing or email address, and phone number of his/her advisor at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing date.

(e) The charged student may arrange for witnesses to present pertinent information to the hearing body. The University will try to arrange the attendance of possible witnesses who are members of the University community, if reasonably possible and who are identified by the charged student at least three (3) business days prior to the conduct hearing. Witnesses will provide relevant information to and answer questions from the hearing body and the charged student. No witness may be compelled to provide self-incriminating information. Witness statements may be provided to the hearing body and are entitled to be given the same weight by the hearing body as live witness testimony. A written statement is not a violation of the due process rights of the charged student, as the charged student has the opportunity to review and respond to the written statement and may offer information to rebut the witness statement and other information presented at the hearing.

(f) If the charged student fails to appear at the hearing after being properly notified or fails to cooperate in the hearing process, the hearing body may hear the case on the basis of information accumulated as a result of witnesses and shall notify the charged student of the decision. In the absence of the charged student, a response of Not Responsible shall be entered on the student’s behalf by the chairperson of the hearing body. Also refer to Obstruction of the Student Conduct System, Section 8(t).

(g) A charged student may request only one postponement of a conduct hearing by contacting in writing the University Conduct Officer at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing. Postponement of the hearing shall be at the discretion of the University Conduct Officer or his/her designee.

(h) Witnesses shall not serve as advisors at any conduct hearing.

(i) At the time of the hearing, an automatic postponement shall be granted if the composition requirements of the hearing body are not met.

(j) If any member of the hearing body feels that he or she had previous contact with the case or with the students involved so that a fair judgment cannot be rendered, the member must request that he or she not serve for the hearing. The charged student may request that any member of the hearing body be excused whenever the student can show a bias on the part of the member. The chairperson of the hearing body will decide on such challenges and, if appropriate, ask the member to excuse him or herself. If the chairperson of the hearing body is challenged by the student, the hearing body will decide by a majority vote whether or not the chairperson should be requested to excuse him or herself, notwithstanding that the chairperson does not vote on whether the charged student is Responsible or Not Responsible for violating the Code.

(k) A charged student may be diverted from the conduct process or hearing if prior to or during the conduct process or hearing, it is determined by the Dean of Students pursuant to University Regulation 2.007, Voluntary and Involuntary Withdrawal,
that the charged student has a mental health issue and the objectionable behavior appears to be a result of the mental health issue.

(l) Pertinent records, exhibits, and written statements may be accepted as information for consideration at the discretion of the chairperson of the hearing body.

(m) All procedural questions are subject to the final decision of the chairperson of the hearing body.

(n) After the portion of the conduct hearing concludes in which all pertinent information has been received, the hearing body shall determine by a majority vote whether the charged student is Responsible or Not Responsible for violating each section of the Code for which the charged student is charged. The chairperson of the hearing body cannot vote. Prior records of student conduct action and impact statements are considered by the hearing body only if the student has been found Responsible and during the sanctioning phase of deliberations.

(o) Formal rules of process, procedure, and/or technical rules of evidence, such as are applied in criminal or civil court proceedings, are not used in conduct hearings.

(p) The burden of proof in all conduct hearings shall be on the University. A “preponderance of evidence” shall constitute the standard of proof standard in all conduct hearings.

(q) The University Conduct Officer and/or the chairperson of the hearing body, under extraordinary circumstances, may accommodate concerns for the personal safety, well-being, and/or fears of confrontation of the Complainant, Respondent, or any other participant during the hearing by providing separate waiting rooms and/or by permitting participation, when feasible, by video conferencing, videotape, audio tape, telephonically or other means.

(r) The conduct hearing body is comprised of faculty members, staff members, administrators and students. The composition is variable from four to six (4-6) persons, depending upon the nature of the violation. At least one-half of the membership must be students.

(s) The above guidelines for conducting a conduct hearing are not exhaustive. Therefore, the University Conduct Officer may adopt additional guidelines for the conduct of hearings that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Code. Such procedural guidelines must be approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee, must be in writing and made available to the charged student and all witnesses at least three (3) business days prior to the hearing.

(29) Unless specifically stated otherwise herein, the provisions of this Code should be read and interpreted broadly, and are not intended to define misconduct in exhaustive terms. The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution may adopt internal operating procedures, which are consistent with this Code. In instances where there may be conflict between the internal procedures and the Code, the Code shall supersede.
Review of Code

(30) **Review of Code.** The Student Code of Conduct shall be reviewed on a biennial basis under the direction of the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution who shall appoint a committee, with student representation, to evaluate the Code and make recommendations, if any, for amendments or revisions.

EXAMPLES OF ACTS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Florida A&M University College of Law expects that its students will act with honesty and integrity at all times. Any behavior or set of behaviors that is inappropriate and violates the academic and professional integrity of Florida A&M is taken very seriously.

Because of the seriousness of any violation of this Code, the College of Law has provided the list below as examples of acts of academic dishonesty. The following examples are meant to be instructive and not all - inclusive.

Example of Examination Violations

1.1. To give to a student any unauthorized information concerning the characteristics or content of an examination prior to the time the student who receives the information has taken the examination;

1.2. To obtain or to receive any unauthorized information concerning the characteristics or content of an examination prior to taking the examination;

1.3. To communicate with anyone in any manner during an examination which the student is taking, except the dean in charge of examinations, the persons involved in administering the examination, or a faculty member;

1.4. To communicate at any time with another student who is taking an examination;

1.5. To copy or read another student's examination paper or book, or to consult any unauthorized material during the course of an examination, or to possess any unauthorized material in the examination room;

1.6. Without proper authorization, to begin an examination before the prescribed time, or to continue working on an examination after the announced conclusion of the examination period; or

1.7. To fail to submit all bluebooks and examination questions by the end of the examination or to remove bluebooks or examination questions from the examination room, unless authorized to do so by the faculty member giving the examination.

Example of Others Acts of Misconduct

1.8. To make a material misrepresentation for the purpose of obtaining a benefit in connection with any matter for which academic credit is given;

1.9. To steal, damage, destroy, conceal, or use without authority another student or faculty member's notes or books;
1.10. To submit the same or a significantly similar work for credit in more than one course without disclosing that fact as early as is feasible and without obtaining the consent of the faculty members to whom the work is submitted;

1.11. To submit a paper or other work for credit that has been edited (or significantly or substantially edited) by another;

1.12. To make a material misrepresentation concerning the student's law school performance and activities on a resume or other written communication to a potential employer;

1.13. To withhold information or furnish false or misleading information to a law school official, or without proper authorization to reproduce, copy, forge or attempt to forge, tamper with or alter in any way any record, document, or identification used or maintained by the law school;

1.14. To falsify class attendance records;

1.15. To open or remove the mail of another person without authority;

1.16. To disturb faculty mailboxes in anyway, including delivering, removing or opening mail in any faculty member’s mailbox without the express permission of the faculty member;

**Examples of Plagiarism**

1.17. To purposely or knowingly plagiarize or aid another student to plagiarize. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

   1.17.1. Copying or substantially copying someone else's words without both citing the author of the quotation and using either quotation marks or an indented block quotation; and,

   1.17.2. Paraphrasing someone else's words or work without citing the source.

1.18. To plagiarize with knowledge of circumstances, which should alert a reasonable student that there is a substantial risk that the student would be plagiarizing.
Required Course Descriptions

Required course descriptions, including credit hours, are also available on the College of Law website at the following link:

http://law.famu.edu/current-students/academic-programs/required-courses/

Business Organizations

A study of the fundamentals of basic business associations with an emphasis on closely held businesses. Students will be introduced to agency concepts while exploring issues related to choice of entity. Various business forms will be examined such as general partnerships, limited liability partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and privately held corporations. Corporate issues pertaining to corporations that are not publicly held will also be the focus. These include incorporation; financing for the small business; payment of dividends; roles of officers, directors, and shareholders; and management’s duty of care and loyalty.

Civil Procedure I & II

An introduction to the organization of the federal and state courts, principles of jurisdiction, and procedural rules for civil cases. Topics include: pleadings, class actions, pretrial motions, discovery, venue, joinder of claims and parties, res judicata, collateral estoppel, summary judgment, non-jury and jury trials, claim and issue preclusion, binding effects of adjudication, and appellate review.

Contracts I & II

The law of enforceable promises, including contract formation, interpretation, conditions, performance, assignment and delegation, third-party beneficiary contracts, breach, justifications and excuses for nonperformance, remedies, promissory estoppel and restitution. Emphasis is placed on classic contract doctrine, the sales of goods under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code and other commercial legislation.

Constitutional Law I & II

Historical and legal analysis of the basic constitutional framework of the American system of government with an emphasis on the sources and limits of federal and Supreme Court jurisdiction, allocation of powers between the federal government and states, separation of powers, congressional regulatory power under the commerce clause, and the guarantees of individual rights.

Criminal Law

Introduction to the substantive criminal law from both statutory and common law sources. Coverage includes the purposes of criminal law, criminal responsibility, theories of punishment, crimes against person and property, and defenses.
Evidence

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive examination of the problems of proof and the rules of evidence. Special attention is given to the concept of relevance, hearsay and non-hearsay, character evidence, testimonial proof, impeachment and support, scientific and demonstrative evidence and privileges.

Introduction to Analytical Skills I (IAS I)

This course is designed to teach first semester law students the critical skills necessary to successfully manage their time, prepare for class, participate in class, and effectively practice for exams. Students will learn the critical reading, writing, and thinking skills essential to excelling in law school, passing the bar exam, and succeeding as future legal practitioners. In addition, students will be taught test-taking strategies and protocols and a methodology for the evaluation of their work through the deconstruction of their multiple choice and essay practice exam answers.

Introduction to Analytical Skills II (IAS II)

This course is designed for first year law students in their second semester and is the successor course to Introduction to Analytical Skills I. Analogous to the purpose of IAS I, the general purpose of this course is to enhance the academic potential of first year law students. While reinforcing analytical skills, this class concentrates on the direct improvement of test-taking skills in both the essay and multiple-choice formats. Specifically, it promotes this improvement of critical skills by administering assessment exercises and by teaching students self-assessment techniques, which allow them to recognize and cure deficiencies in their work.

Legal Research and Writing I & II

Legal Research and Writing is a two-semester course, and both parts are required for graduation. Emphasis is on writing legal memoranda, legal documents, case briefing, and analysis.

Professional Responsibility

Consideration of the ethical problems in the practice of law, the legal constraints on the lawyer’s professional conduct, the role of the lawyer in the legal profession and the place of the profession in society including a detailed analysis of the Code of Professional Responsibility.

Property I & II

A study of the acquisition, ownership, and transfer of property. Topics include an analysis of ownership concepts, rights of possession, future interests, concurrent interests, landlord and tenant issues, common law principles, gifts, estates in land, licenses, easements, restrictive covenants, contracts for the sale of land, conveying, mortgages, recording systems and land use regulation.
Torts I & II

The history and development of the legal principles underlying non-contractual civil wrongs at common law and under modern statutes are studied together with an analysis of the responsibility in tort for wrongs to the person and property. Topics include: intentional acts, liability without fault, negligence, privacy rights and harm to reputation.

Upper-Level Writing Requirement

The Upper-Level Writing Requirement must be completed before graduation and can be satisfied through a writing project that is part of a seminar or approved faculty-supervised independent research. The writing project must involve research that is substantial and constitutes a writing of sufficient quality to obtain approval by a full-time faculty member of the College of Law. Under no circumstance can a student satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement without satisfactorily completing Legal Methods I and II. Students must earn at least a B- on their paper to be certified for the upper-level writing requirement.

All other courses listings and descriptions are available in the course catalog.
BAR ADMISSIONS AND RELATED INFORMATION

General Information
A number of states require that a law student who intends to sit for the bar examination register with the appropriate state agencies prior to or during his/her legal studies. Students who desire admission to the Bar of a particular state should contact that state's Board of Bar Examiners to learn more about the state's requirements for admission to the Bar. It is important that this is done upon entering law school to prevent delaying admission to the Bar. Websites and addresses for all relevant state agencies and Boards of Bar Examiners is available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners at www.ncbex.org. Information regarding Bar admission requirements is available in the Office of the College of Law Registrar.

Deadlines and Fees
The Florida Board of Bar Examiners administers the rules and regulations regarding admission to the Florida Bar. The requirements for admission are contained in the "Rules of the Supreme Court of Florida Relating to Admissions to the Bar." Students interested in admission to the Florida Bar upon graduation are encouraged to avoid additional registration fees by filing a Beginning Student Application within 180 days of their matriculation in law school. The applicable fee schedule is listed below.

"2-23 Application Fees. All fees are set by order of the Supreme Court of Florida and are subject to change by published order of the court. The total application fee is due and payable to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners by the applicant when filing the Bar Application, the Registrant Bar Application, or the Supplement to Registrant Bar Application, and no application will be considered complete without the full fee. Any fee paid by an applicant or registrant will not be refunded.

2-23.1 Student Registrant Fee. Except as provided below, every law student filing a Registrant Bar Application with the board must file with the completed Registrant Bar Application the fee of $400. For any law student who files a Registrant Bar Application by the deadlines established, discounted early registration fees are available as follows:

(a) $100. For those students who commence the study of law in:
   (1) August or September and who file a Registrant Bar Application by the following January 15;
   (2) January or February and who file a Registrant Bar Application by the following June 15;
   (3) May or June and who file a Registrant Bar Application by the following October 15.

(b) $350. For those students who commence the study of law in:
   (1) August or September and who file a Registrant Bar Application by the following March 15;
   (2) January or February and who file a Registrant Bar Application by the following August 15; or
   (3) May or June and who file a Registrant Bar Application by the following December 15.

2-23.2 Student Applicant Fee. Applicants who did not file the Registrant Bar Application with the board as law students and who have not been admitted to the bar in any jurisdiction for a period in excess of 12 months, excluding time spent in military service of the United States, must file with the Bar Application the fee of $1,000."
The information above was obtained directly from the Florida Board of Law Examiners webpage and pertains the Rules of the Supreme Court that relate to Bar Admissions. For a copy of the rules, applications or other additional information, contact the Florida Board of Bar Examiners:

**The Florida Board of Bar Examiners**  
1891 Eider Court  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1750  
(850) 487-1292  
Website: http://www.floridabarexam.org

**Certification and Clearance for Students**

**Certified Legal Intern (CLI)**

The Clinic Program offers students who have completed at least 48 semester hours of academic credit an opportunity to serve traditionally underserved clients under the supervision of the faculty, the bench and the bar. A number of our clinic programs require students to be certified by the Florida Supreme Court before participation. The Florida Supreme Court’s rules regulating the Florida Bar permit certified students to engage in the supervised practice of law as part of a law school’s clinical placement program. Under the supervision of a member of The Florida Bar and formal registration in an approved law school clinic program, certified students may represent clients in broad range of civil or criminal matters. Students must be certified by the Florida Supreme Court for practice through application and by meeting the requirements of Chapter 11, Rules Regulating the Florida Bar. For more information regarding the process, application and deadlines, please visit Florida Board of Bar Examiners website at [https://www.floridabarexam.org/](https://www.floridabarexam.org/) or the Florida Bar at [www.floridabar.org](http://www.floridabar.org).

All students are strongly encouraged to start the clearance certification process during their first year of law school. The application for the clearance certificate is not difficult to complete, but it often takes 4-5 months for the Florida Board of Bar Examiners to complete the background check and issue the clearance certificate. Students who fail to initiate the certification process early run a significant risk that it will not be completed in time for them to participate in a clinic program. Participation in a live practice clinical program is an incredibly valuable experience while students are in law school and we would hate to see any student miss out on such valuable opportunities. As such, we encourage all students to be proactive, be responsible and register early.

Students who plan to take the Florida Bar can complete the bar application to obtain the character and fitness bar clearance letter. If a student does not plan to take the Florida Bar, he or she can apply for the character and fitness bar clearance letter by completing the online application. This application is not the same as applying for admission to the Florida Bar, but the application requires the same disclosures as the bar application. If the student subsequently decides to apply for admission to the Florida Bar, the student will have to complete the bar application. The character and fitness clearance application will not convert to the bar application.

The investigative process for both can take six weeks to six months or more depending on the student’s background.
Deadlines and Fees

If a student completes the application within the first 250 days of the student’s beginning law school education, he or she will pay $75.00. However, a student who submits the application after 250 days will pay $150.00. Therefore, students are encouraged to apply within the first 250 days of their beginning law school education. The applicable fee will be deducted if the student later decides to apply for admission to the Florida Bar.

Participating in a clinic provides not only the opportunity of getting involved and assisting the community with a wide range of needs, but also creates social awareness that furthers the commitment of professionalism and responsibilities as lawyers.