June 7, 2017

Dear Transfer and Visiting Students,

Welcome to Boston College Law School. I look forward to meeting you at orientation on August 24th and 25th. It is a good opportunity to meet some of your classmates, as well as some of the faculty and administrators. You are also welcome to join us in other 1L orientation events as time allows. An orientation web page will be available later this summer which will list the schedule of the weeks’ activities.

Enclosed is the most recent update for the fall and proposed spring schedule. But in addition, we’ve found that transfer students frequently have questions about transferring credits and graduation requirements. What follows explains these policies at Boston College Law School.

BC Law requires at least 85 credit hours to graduate. Our first year curriculum provides our students with 32 credit hours. Therefore, students need to complete 53 additional credit hours to graduate. There is a minimum requirement of 12 credits per semester and a maximum cap of 17 credits per semester. Students generally take 13-14 credits per each remaining four semesters to complete the 85-credit requirement.

BC Law will accept up to 32 credits from your first year at law school with a grade of C or better. You need to determine how many additional credit hours are required to satisfy our graduation requirement. To determine this amount, you should subtract your completed first year credits from our required 85 credits.

Presumably, you have completed the standard 1L curriculum: Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure, Contracts, Property, Criminal Law, and Torts. If you did not have all of these courses, you should make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

At BC Law, first year students take a full-year, two semester Law Practice class that includes research and writing. If your former law school had only a one-semester legal writing class in the first year, I strongly encourage you to register for an Advanced Legal Writing course at BC. Each Advanced Legal Writing section at BC will satisfy your upper level writing requirement.

You will need to fulfill BC Law’s requirement of classes that meet the following subject areas: upper level writing, professional responsibility, experiential learning, and perspectives on justice. More information can be found on our website: http://www.bc.edu/lawschool.

Law schools vary with their first year Constitutional Law curriculum. Our students take Constitutional Law in their first year. The curriculum covers government structure, individual rights, due process and equal protection. If you completed a Constitutional Law course during your first year of law school, please provide the course syllabus so we can determine if you have met our requirement.
If your first-year curriculum included classes other than those provided in our first-year curriculum, i.e. Criminal Procedure, we will accept these classes as “electives” and apply the credit to your 85-credit graduation requirement.

While I am aware that this letter has provided you with a lot of information, please take the time to review this and see how your previous legal studies apply to our requirements. Please make an appointment to meet with me early in the fall semester.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Karen Doherty
Assistant Dean, Academic & Student Services
617-552-2527
dohertkl@bc.edu