



## **Boston College**

### **Law School Office of Academic Services**

TO: Transfer and Visiting Students,

Welcome to Boston College Law School. I look forward to meeting each of you as you join our community. Transfer and visiting students are welcome to join us for the New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 25 and Friday, August 26. It is a good opportunity to meet some of your classmates, as well as some of the faculty and administrators. The first day of classes is Monday, August 28. An orientation web page will be available later this summer which will list the schedule of the weeks' activities.

Please [click on link](#) for course schedule for the fall and the proposed spring courses. 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 the credits you earned from your first year at law school; however, 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. If your law school operated on a semester basis, we will accept the obtained credit on a one for one basis. If your law school operated on a quarter system, we will apply 2/3 a semester credit for each obtained quarter credit.

Presumably, you have completed Civil Procedure, Contracts, Property, Criminal Law, and Torts. At BC Law, these were all 4-credit courses, except for Civil Procedure, which is a 5-credit course. Even if your prior law school gave less credit for these courses, you may advance as a second year student. However, you still need to complete 85 credit hours to graduate within four additional semesters. If you did not have all of these courses, you should make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

In addition to the above, BC Law has other requirements. All students must satisfy an upper level writing requirement before graduation. Most seminar courses which assign substantial research papers satisfy this requirement. At BC Law, first year students take a full-year, 5 credit Legal Reasoning, Research and Writing class. 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: professional responsibility, lawyering skills, and perspectives on law and justice. More information can be found on our website: <http://www.bc.edu/lawschool>.

There is often some confusion surrounding BC Law's Constitutional Law requirement. Our students have taken Constitutional Law I in their first year, and a Constitutional Law II class in a later year. The Constitutional Law I curriculum covers government structure. Constitutional Law II concentrates more on individual rights, due process and equal protection.

Law schools vary with their first year Constitutional Law curriculum. If your first year Constitutional Law course covered the equivalent of our Constitutional Law I course content, you must also take a Constitutional Law II class. If you did not take Constitutional Law, you will need to do so next spring. You must meet with me to register for this course, so please get in touch in mid-November.

One other possibility is that the Constitutional Law course you already completed addressed the curriculum covered in both our Constitutional Law I and Constitutional Law II classes. If you received 5 or 6 credits for this course, you have most likely fulfilled our Constitutional Law I and II requirement. If your previous Constitutional Law class consisted of the combined content subject matter, but only provided you with 4 credits, you must still take an upper level course with Constitutional Law content (other than our generic Constitutional Law II class,) for example, First Amendment, Civil Rights, etc.

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 a lot of information, please take the time to review this and see how your previous legal studies apply to our requirements. If you still have questions or concerns, please make an appointment to meet with me early in the fall semester. If your concerns are regarding your previous Constitutional Law class, please save your course outline, syllabus, or underlined textbook, for my review.

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

I look forward to meeting you on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at the New Student Orientation.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth A. Rosselot  
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Registrar