

Faculty of Law, University of Victoria

Information for Students about Standing in the J.D. Degree Program and Supplemental Examinations

Graduation Requirements for the JD

To be awarded a JD, students must successfully complete the 15.0 units in the compulsory first year curriculum and a minimum of 29.0 upper year units. They must achieve standing in each of the three years of the law program, and must achieve standing in the program.

1. To be granted standing in first, second or third year, a student must:
 - a) Pass all of the courses in the student's approved program for the year without any N, F, or DEF grades in any course; and
 - b) Obtain a GPA of at least 3.00 in the courses not graded on a pass/fail basis.
2. Standing in the JD program will be granted when a student:
 - a) Achieves standing in each of the first, second and third years; and
 - b) Completes all mandatory course and degree requirements.

Part-time Students

Part-time students must satisfy the year and program requirements as stated above. Part-time students in second year or third year, in order to proceed to the next academic session, must pass all of the courses in the student's approved program for the academic session and attain a grade point average of at least 3.00 in the courses for the academic session. There are two academic sessions each year; winter session (fall and spring terms) and summer session.

Supplemental Examinations

- a) A full-time student who does not achieve standing as specified above, but attains a GPA of at least 2.00 will be permitted to write supplemental examinations in not more than two courses.
- b) If a student achieves standing with one supplemental examination, a second supplemental examination in another course is not written.
- c) Supplemental examinations may not be written in courses in which a student has attained a grade of C+ or better and must be written in courses with F grades.

- d) Supplemental examinations for the year are normally written in July. They may be scheduled at an earlier time if instructors are available to set the examination and there is sufficient student time to prepare to write them. Depending on instructor availability, it can take longer for a final mark to be determined on any supplemental examination. An earlier examination date may be requested from the Office of the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations.
- e) The grade point value for supplemental examinations will be determined in accordance with the Faculty grading scale. The original sessional grade point average, original letter grade and a revised sessional grade point average, taking into account the supplemental examination results, will be recorded on a student's transcript.
- f) Students who write supplemental examinations must successfully complete them and achieve standing, before they can commence the next year of or graduate from the J.D. program.
- g) For the purpose of determining a student's eligibility to write supplemental examinations, a grade of COM in Law 350A: Clinical Law Term, or in any approved exchange term graded on a COM/F basis will be deemed to have a grade point value of 3.00.
- h) The University requires payment of administration fees for supplemental examinations. The fees are \$50.00 for each supplemental examination written on campus and \$60.00 for each supplemental examination written off campus.
- i) Arrangements may be made to write supplemental examinations at an off-campus location if this is necessary, and if appropriate arrangements can be made. Students must pay any additional fees charged by an off-campus location to administer a supplemental examination.
- j) Students who do not achieve standing in their year after writing up to two supplemental examinations, must apply to the Faculty for special permission to repeat the year as described above, if they wish to continue in the program.

Students Who Do Not Qualify to Write Supplemental Examinations

A student with a GPA below 2.0 or who has more than 2 "F" grades in a year is not eligible to write supplemental examinations. The student has failed the year and they must apply to the Faculty for special permission to "repeat the year" if they want to continue in the JD Program. Such permission is discretionary, each case is assessed individually and permission is not always granted.

Students Who Do Not "Pass" a 7.0-7.5 Unit Clinical Term

Where a student enrolled in a clinical program or other course exclusively for a term (15 weeks) fails to meet the grade required to be granted standing, the matter will be referred to the Faculty or a committee thereof. The Faculty, after considering the recommendation of any committee to which the matter has been referred may confirm the failing grade or may permit the student to undertake any one or more of the following:

- a) supplemental examinations;
- b) the completion of such assignments, papers or tests as may be appropriate; and
- c) remedial work designated by the Faculty.

Where, in the opinion of the Faculty, the student's conduct or lack of competence in the clinical program or course may adversely affect members of the public or personnel including students associated with the program or course, the Faculty may prohibit the student from re-enrolling in the program or courses, or the Faculty may require the student to withdraw from the Faculty.

Calculation of the Graduating GPA

The graduating GPA for law students is calculated on all courses taken in the JD degree, including non-law electives and supplementals, regardless of course level.

Preparing for a Supplemental Examination

Students should make arrangements to review their original examination(s) with the course instructor(s) to see "where they went wrong" and how they can improve their performance on the supplemental examination.