

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO MSLAW ACADEMIC POLICIES (FALL 2018)

1. Comparison:

Students who have not successfully completed all required courses (completing the course with a grade that is not an "F") PRIOR to beginning Comparison *will not be allowed to register for, or take, Comparison*. Please plan accordingly.

Students who have not passed the MPRE and submitted a copy of their official pass notification to the Registrar's Office prior to registration for Comparison, *will not be allowed to register for, or take, Comparison*.

Students will not be allowed to register for Comparison if they have not successfully completed Bar Essay with a grade of C or better.

2. Bar Essay:

Beginning with the Spring 2019 semester, all students will be required to take Bar Essay regardless of their grade point average. Additionally, beginning with the Spring 2019 Semester, there will be no Pass/Fail grades in Bar Essay; every student will receive a letter grade.

Students will need a grade of C or better in order to pass Bar Essay. Students receiving anything less than a C will have to retake the course until they achieve a grade of C or better. Moreover, students who have not completed Bar Essay without a grade of C or better will not be allowed to register for Comparison

Students who have not successfully completed the eight (8) required courses tested on the MBE – Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts – PRIOR to beginning Bar Essay *will not be allowed to register for, or take, Bar Essay*. Again, please plan accordingly.

3. MPRE and Legal Ethics:

Students will not receive a final grade in Legal Ethics until they pass the MPRE and give a copy of the official pass notification to the Registrar's Office. Until such time, the grade of "I" (incomplete) will show on student transcripts (unless the Legal Ethics professor gives a student an "F" in the course irrespective of not having passed the MPRE, in which event the grade will be put on the transcript immediately). If an "I" is assigned, it will be changed to the grade the Legal Ethics

professor gave the student once the student gives the pass notification to the Registrar's Office. Obviously, an "I" in Legal Ethics is not a satisfactory completion of the course.

Once a student completes the actual course in Legal Ethics, s/he will have until the *end of the next semester that the course is offered* to deliver to the Registrar's Office a copy of a pass notification (currently, the following Spring semester). This allows the student to participate in three (3) MPRE administrations *after* completing Legal Ethics to achieve a final letter grade in the course. It also means that students who take the MPRE prior to completing Legal Ethics would have more than three (3) attempts at passing the MPRE.

If the student does not deliver to the Registrar's Office a copy of the pass notification by the end of the next semester that Legal Ethics is offered (currently, the following Spring semester), her or his grade will be changed from an "I" to an "F," regardless of the grade the professor would have given the student for Legal Ethics. Students who receive an "F" in Legal Ethics will have to retake the course (provided that they otherwise have remained in good academic standing). Please take note that there are significant financial and academic consequences in receiving an "F" in any course, including but not limited to the fact a second "F" in one's MSLAW career requires an automatic academic expulsion and that an "F" will likely cause an extension of one's law school education.

Students who fail to submit a copy of an official MPRE pass notice to the Registrar's Office by the end of the next semester that Legal Ethics is offered (currently, the following Spring semester) may submit to the Admissions Committee a petition requesting: (1) a leave of absence to allow them time to focus on the MPRE (which must be passed in order to qualify to sit for the bar exam in Massachusetts); and (2) that their "I" grade be extended for up to a year without the imposition of an "F." Such a petition will not be allowed unless such students produce documentary proof that they *have registered for the next two (2) MPRE administrations. Students who are forced to file such a petition may not take any further classes until they have passed the MPRE.* Additionally, if a summer session begins after such students have finished Legal Ethics but before such students provide an MPRE pass notification to the Registrar, such students will not be permitted to recommence taking classes unless they attend *at least 80%* of the workshops given in the Legal Ethics Boot Camp offered by Professors Colby-Clements and Olson during the summer sessions.

4. New Mini-Bar Exam Requirement:

Students will be required to take and pass two (2) "Mini-Bar Exams" during their academic career. The first Mini-Bar Exam, the "Level 1" Mini-Bar, will be administered when the student has completed thirty (30) credits and has also

successfully completed Civil Procedure, Torts, Contracts, Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure. Students will not be permitted to continue with the remainder of law school until they have passed the Level 1 Mini-Bar. (As discussed below, they will be allowed to retake a Mini-Bar Exam that they have failed.) The second Mini-Bar Exam, the "Level 2" Mini-Bar, will be administered when the student has completed sixty (60) credits and has also successfully completed Evidence, Real Property, and Constitutional Law. Again, students will not be permitted to continue with their legal education until they have passed the Level 2 Mini-Bar. (Once again, as discussed below, they will be allowed to retake a Mini-Bar Exam that they have failed.)

Both levels of the mini-bar will be offered just after final examinations each May and December, with a third administration in August.

If a student does not pass the Mini-Bar Exam (either the Level 1 or Level 2 Mini-Bar), the student may retake it the next time it is offered.

Both Mini-Bar Exams will consist of 80 multiple-choice MBE style questions.

The first official Mini-Bar Exam (both the Level 1 and Level 2) will be given in May 2019. Those students planning to take Bar Essay during the Fall 2019 semester need only take and pass the Level 2 Mini-Bar Exam to be able to register for, and take, Bar Essay. This will give those students two chances to pass the Level 2 Mini-Bar Exam before the start of the Fall 2019 semester. All other students will have to take and pass both Levels of the Mini-Bar Exam prior to being allowed to register for Bar Essay.

We will administer Pilot Mini-Bar Exams for both Level 1 and 2 at the end of the December 2018 final exam period. All students who are qualified to take either the Level 1 or Level 2 Mini-Bar Exam are *required* to take it, but the results will not count. If you have qualified to take the Pilot Mini-Bar exam but fail to take it, you will not be allowed to register for the Spring 2019 semester.

5. Post-Graduation Bar Review Reimbursement

As most students are aware, MSLAW reimburses students up to \$1,000 toward their commercial bar review courses provided certain conditions are met. Specifically, qualifying students are eligible for 50% of the cost of their commercial bar review course, up to a maximum of \$1,000. Beginning immediately, we are adding the following conditions to those already in existence:

1. Students must attend 25 of the 28 substantive Comparison lectures (i.e., 25 of the 28 Monday and Wednesday classes) given during the semester;

2. Students must attend 6 of the 7 Saturday Comparison Skills workshops given during the semester. These workshops are an integral part of the Comparison curriculum;
3. Students must have completed at least 75% of their commercial bar company's program; and
4. Students must attend at least 80% of the workshops offered by MSL during the two months preceding the bar examination.