**MSLAW ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**(AS OF 10/8/19)**

1. **Comparison:**

Students who have not successfully completed all required courses 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.

1. **Bar Essay:**

Students who have not successfully completed the seven (7) 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*.

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.

1. **MPRE and Legal Ethics:**

Students have not successfully completed the required course in Legal Ethics until they have passed the MPRE and submitted a copy of the official pass notification to the Registrar’s Office. Grades in Legal Ethics will be recorded as an “incomplete” until a student passes the MPRE and gives a copy of the official pass notification to the Registrar’s Office. Until the end of the next semester when Legal Ethics is offered, the grade of “I” (incomplete) will show on the student’s transcript unless the student receives an “F” in the course, in which event the grade will be put on the transcript immediately. Also, of course, a student who passes the MPRE, and gives appropriate notice to the Registrar’s Office before the end of the semester in Legal Ethics, will receive their final grade for Legal Ethics at the end of the semester.

As incompletes must be made up before the end of the next semester when the course is offered, grades for students who do 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, will be changed from and “I” to an “F”. Students who receive an “F” in Legal Ethics will have to retake the course and will be allowed to do so as long as they otherwise have remained in good academic standing. Please take note that there are significant financial and academic consequences to receiving an “F” in a course, including but not limited to the fact a second “F” in one’s MSLAW career requires an automatic academic expulsion.

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 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 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 received a grade of “F” in Legal Ethics, such students will be permitted to continue the summer class if they petition and attend *at least 80%* of the workshops given in the Legal Ethics Boot Camp offered by Professors Colby-Clements and Olson during that summer session.

1. **Assessment Test Requirements:**

Students are required to take and pass two (2) Assessment Tests prior to being allowed to register for Bar Essay. The first “Level 1” Assessment will be administered when the student has successfully completed Civil Procedure, Torts, and Contracts. The second “Level 2” Assessment Test will be administered when the student has successfully completed the Level 1 Assessment and has also completed Evidence, Constitutional Law, and Criminal Law.

Both levels of the Assessment Test will be offered at the end of final examinations each May and December, with a third administration in August.

If a student does not pass the Assessment Test (either the Level 1 or Level 2), the student may retake it the next time it is offered.

Both Assessment Tests will consist of 60 multiple-choice MBE style questions.

All students will have to take and pass both Levels of the Assessment Test prior to being allowed to register for Bar Essay.

1. **Post-Graduation Bar Review Compensation**

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, subject to the following conditions:

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 immediately preceding the bar examination;

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