

TIPS FOR STUDENTS FROM STUDENTS

Choosing Courses

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Upper year course selection can be a struggle. Generally, there is lots of flexibility in how you create your timetables, and you might be wondering about strategies in course selection. Here are some tips on choosing courses that might be helpful for you.

Check your degree requirements and plan out both your 2L and 3L courses. The courses that you take in 2L will likely affect what you can or cannot take in 3L. Some courses might have pre-requisites, and some might only be offered in one term. If you are planning to go on exchange, think about when the best time would be to study abroad and what courses you can take there. That being said, you don't need to have your 3L courses absolutely set in stone, but you want to have at least a general idea of the courses you might want to take.

Create a shortlist of the courses that are mandatory and those that you really want to take. When you have a shortlist, it will be easier to calculate your credit load and add or remove courses accordingly. This is when you will take a close look at the course descriptions and any special requirements that might be attached to a particular course you are interested in. If you are planning to complete a specialization or a concentration, you will have more required courses to take. If you need to add more courses after creating the shortlist, fill up the rest of the empty spots with courses that interest you.

But what if you don't know what courses actually interest you? There are some options you can consider. You could take courses in an area in which you are planning to practice or those that might



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be helpful for your career. You might also consider taking courses in subject areas that will be examined on the bar exam in your respective province. You could also look at the evaluation criteria and choose either exam courses, paper courses, or a mix of both depending on your preference.

Consider your schedule outside of law school and your study habits. Some people might prefer to take morning classes and others might want to take night classes. Some might want to have a 4-day weekend every week and others might want the classes to be spread out throughout the week. Depending on your lifestyle and the prime time in which you are most productive, try to set up a schedule that work best for you.

Even if you don't get into the courses that you wanted, don't despair. Keep in mind that there is always something new you will learn in any course you take. As well, there might be some shifts once classes start as people drop out of some courses or register into others. If there is a course that you were interested in that you didn't get into, keep an eye out for spaces that might open up at the beginning of the term.

Lastly, this is your law school experience. Talk to upper year students, professors, mentors, and academic advisors to learn about other strategies for course selection. Make decisions based on what you hope to achieve or gain out of your law school experience.

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