Dear Students,

This memo provides important information for you to consider as you plan your class schedule for next semester and beyond. You probably already know much of this information, but please take time to refresh your recollection of the process.

**Information for all students**

1. Registration takes place online and registration opens for a different group of students each night, depending on registration priority. The schedule (also on the Registrar’s webpage) is as follows:

   Monday, April 14, starting at 9 p.m.
   - L4 Weekday Students (weekday classes only)
   - L4 Weekend Students

   Tuesday, April 15 starting at 9 p.m.
   - L3 Weekday Students (weekday classes only)
   - LL.M Students
   - MSL Students

   Wednesday, April 16, starting at 9 p.m.
   - L3 Weekend Students

   Thursday, April 17, starting at 9 p.m.
   - L2 Weekday Students (weekday classes only)
   - L2 Weekend Students

   Monday, April 21, starting at 9 p.m.
   - All other students
   - Weekend classes open to Weekday Students

2. Detailed information and instructions about the basic rules for registration and the mechanics of online registration are contained in the Registration Booklet you will receive and are set out in detail on the Registrar Office webpage: [http://law.hamline.edu/registration.html](http://law.hamline.edu/registration.html).

3. You need **88 credits** to graduate. Full-time students generally take 14-16 credits per semester (tuition is the same for 12-16 credits). Of your 88 credits, you earn 33 credits in required first-year and foundational courses (Civil Procedure I & II, Constitutional Law, Contracts I & II, Criminal Law, LRW I, II & III, Property, P3, and Torts). All students must also complete Professional Responsibility (2 credits), a seminar or Advanced Legal Research and Writing (3 credits; courses qualifying for the Advanced Legal Research and Writing credits are designated in the Registration Booklet), a Globalization course (2 or 3 credits; the qualifying courses are designated in the Registration Booklet; study abroad also satisfies this requirement), and a legal
skills course (2 or 3 credits; the qualifying courses are designated in the Registration Booklet). This leaves 44-46 credits to complete your 88 credits required for graduation.

4. In addition to your required courses, there are numerous courses that relate directly to material that may be tested on the Uniform Bar Exam. These courses are listed in Registration Booklet and the registration information on the Registrar Office webpage: http://law.hamline.edu/registration.html. You should seriously consider taking many of these courses. Our experience shows that students who take 6 or fewer elective bar courses are much more likely to be unsuccessful on the bar exam than those who complete 7-8 bar classes. In order to take 7-8 bar courses, you should take about 2 each semester. You do NOT need to take all your bar courses as soon as possible. Bar courses are offered frequently during the weekday schedule and in a predictable rotation during the weekend schedule.

5. As you select your courses, keep in mind that some courses may serve as prerequisites to later courses (e.g., Professional Responsibility for clinics and externships; Evidence for Trial Advocacy, etc.). You likely want to take these courses sooner rather than later. Prerequisites for each course are listed in the course descriptions available on the law school webpage: http://law.hamline.edu/course_descriptions.html.

6. What electives should you take? At this point, you may or may not have a good idea of what you want to do with your law degree. If you do have strong interest in a particular practice area, talk to your academic advisor about what mix of classes will best support that practice area. If you are still uncertain of what practice areas might interest you, go for a good mix. Once you have determined what classes you hope to take, keep in mind the frequency of offering (every year? every other year?) and prerequisites for various courses.

7. Special Types of Electives: Clinics and Externships and Skills Labs. As you plan your schedule for the coming years, keep in mind certain “special electives.” For instance, you may want to take a clinic or externship, or both. Both involve practical “real world” experience, but in slightly different contexts.

In clinics, students get hands-on experience directly representing low-income clients under the supervision of faculty members. Each clinic involves a classroom component in which students meet with the professor and other clinic students to learn the law, skills, and ethics applicable to their work. Clinics are usually 3 credits, and students receive a grade for the course. Associate Dean for Experiential Learning and Curriculum Kate Kruse is the Director of Clinics. For more information about clinics, you can consult her at kkruse02@hamline.edu.

In externships, on the other hand, students earn academic credit for legal work in private law firms, courts, corporations, government agencies, and other settings. Under the supervision and role modeling of attorney mentors, students gain practical hands-on experience in the practice of law. A classroom component supports each externship experience and provides opportunities for students to interact and learn from each other as they pursue different externship opportunities. The externships are pass/no pass. Professor Bobbi McAdoo supervises externships. For more information, you can consult her at bmcadoo@hamline.edu.
New offerings: Skills Labs: Skills labs are a new and innovative way of thinking about experiential learning. In the fall, limited-enrollment, one-credit lab sections will be associated with Evidence, Criminal Procedure, Constitutional Law II, and Wills & Trusts. A professor who has a wealth of practice experience in relevant subject area will lead each lab section. Coordinated with the doctrinal course and using rich simulations, the labs will help you pair the knowledge that you are gaining with hands-on practical lawyering skills. Labs meet for two hours, but meet only 6 times.

8. Institute and Certificate Programs. If you are considering one of Hamline’s certificate programs, consult with one of the Institute course advisors to make sure you understand the requirements and sequencing for those courses. Contact Kitty Atkins, katkins@hamline.edu, 651-523-2897 for DRI; Kari Winter at kwinter03@hamline.edu, 651-523-2610 for HLI; and Donna Rauch at drauch01@hamline.edu for BLI. You can also find information about certificate requirements on the Law School’s website at http://law.hamline.edu/certificates/index.html.

9. Academic Advising: Where to turn for assistance. Your faculty advisor (assigned to you as an entering 1L) can answer questions about course selection—as can any faculty member. You should also feel free to email and/or see the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs with any inquiries that you have. When seeking assistance, try to provide focus. If possible, avoid open-ended question such as “I just don’t know what to take this fall! What would you recommend?” You will get much better advice if you walk through the door (or send an email) saying, “I am a 2L trying to decide between taking Wills & Trusts or Professional Responsibility this fall—which one should I take?” Or “I am interested in commercial law, but do not know which of the two commercial law classes is more important for me. Which should I take?”

10. Weekday & Weekend Offerings: Variety Is the Spice of Life. Hamline Law School’s rich curriculum is offered seven days a week. After the first year, students can enroll in weekday and/or weekend course sections (“weekends” include Friday classes that start at 5 PM or later) regardless of their status as weekday or weekend students. Weekday program students cannot sign up for weekend offerings until the second week of registration, but weekend sections do not usually have waitlists. As you evaluate offerings in the weekday and weekend time slots, remember that the weekday and weekend semesters have different start dates.
NEW INFORMATION: Curricular Changes

In light of Minnesota’s change to the Uniform Bar Exam and to give you more flexibility to take advantage of heightened experiential opportunities and Institute programming, the faculty made strategic changes to the curriculum. Some courses have been consolidated, the first year schedule has been modified, and credits have been changed for courses. The changes listed below have the greatest impact on current students.

The Seminar requirement is now an “Advanced Legal Research & Writing Requirement.” A class that satisfies the ALRW requirement will substitute for the Seminar Requirement even for students who entered Hamline under the old Seminar requirement regime.

Professional Responsibility will be a part of P3 going forward. However, many current students have not taken PR. Hamline will continue to offer online PR (both fall and spring) in the 2014-15 academic year. PR will also be offered this summer as an in-person course. PR is a graduation requirement that cannot be waived; if you haven’t had it yet, take it this summer or next year.

Torts I and Torts II have been combined into one four-credit, first-year Torts class. We will offer Torts II this summer, as well as next Spring. We will revisit whether additional offerings of Torts II need to be offered.

Corporations (3 credits) and UBE (2 credits) have been combined into the 4 credit class, Business Associations. Students who have completed Corporations should not take Business Associations for credit. Students who have completed UBE but not Corporations should consult with their advisor and the Associate Dean to determine whether and in what capacity they should enroll in Business Associations. Any student will be permitted to audit that portion of the Business Associations class that they have not taken.

Commercial Law: Survey of Sales, Leases and Payment Systems: Commercial Law: Sales and Leases and Commercial Law: Payment Systems have been combined into one course, Commercial Law: Survey of Sales, Leases and Payment Systems. Both this new class and the existing class, Commercial Law: Payment Systems, are tested on the UBE and are offered in fall 2014. Students who have taken Payment Systems or Sales and Leases cannot take the Survey course for credit. If you’re worried about your coverage for the bar exam, please see the Associate Dean or your advisor to discuss.