

Registration FAQs

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Registration: General

Q: The UGA Registrar sent me a registration time ticket that has a different date or time than the registration dates and deadlines the law school has posted and/or communicated. Which one is correct?

A: Please always adhere to the dates and times posted by the **law school**. These dates and deadlines are always posted on the [Class Schedules and Registration Page](#), and are communicated via email to the law student listservs. If you are confused or have any questions, please reach out to the law school registrar, Dr. Paula McBride.

Q: Will certain courses be offered every year? How often are courses offered?

There are no guarantees that any course will be offered in any given semester, and the roster can change considerably from year to year depending on staffing, interests, changing degree requirements, etc.

Q: I would like to take a course that lists a pre-requisite (or co-requisite), but I will not be able to meet the requirement. May I ask for an exemption?

An exemption for a pre-requisite or co-requisite is at the discretion of the professor, and is dependent on a variety of factors. Students should direct any requests for an exemption to a pre/co-requisite to the relevant professor. If the professor agrees to waive the requirement, the student should forward that approval to the law school registrar so an override can be input into Athena. **Students should make sure to include their 81# and the CRN of the relevant course in their communications with the Registrar.**

ATHENA

Q: Athena shows there are open seats in a class. Why can't I register for that class? Why does the law school registrar tell me the course is closed?

A: **Open seats listed in Athena are not relevant or accurate for law school courses.** The Law School uses point allocation, waitlists, and lotteries which are operated manually by the registrar. When there are changes to open/closed courses, we update the course list on the UGA Law website. That is the most up to date information.

There are many reasons why Athena may show open seats for a closed course. One of the most common is that as enrolled students drop it and students on the waitlist are contacted (but before they are able to register) Athena will show those dropped seats as open. We also have versions of the same JURI course with seats that must be held for MSL and LLM students. Those classes may show more open seats but those are not seats available to JD students. This is why we have to require "permission of department" to register, otherwise other students not on the waitlist could swoop in and take a seat not allocated for them.

Students on the waitlist get first priority if any enrolled student withdraws from the class. As students are pulled off the waitlist, we give them "permission of department" and allow them to enroll. If you are on the waitlist and a seat opens that is for you, we WILL contact you.

For more information about waitlists and lotteries, please see the Registration Guide for the semester you are registering (located on the Class Schedules & Registration webpage and the JD Advising hub in the Portal).

Q: The number of credit hours in Athena for my clinic/externship/independent project is wrong. What do I do?

A: You must adjust the amount of credits in Athena. See <https://reg.uga.edu/enrollment-and-registration/adjusting-credit-hours-on-a-variable-hour-course.pdf>

Q: I registered for a class, and now it's not showing up on my schedule in Athena.

A: The most likely explanation is that you did not complete the registration process by pressing the "Add Class" button. Please try again, and make sure you **fully** complete the registration process. If the problem persists, then reach out to the registrar.

Q: I am supposed to get credit for a Journal and/or Advocacy Team. Why is it not on my schedule or transcript?

A: You have to register in Athena for Journal and/or Advocacy Competition credits just like every other credit hour. The CRNs to register for journal credit are on the course list. The semester you add those credits will depend on what you are doing. Ask your Journal and/or Advocacy Team advisor about which semester you should take those credits. (Most journal students register for journal credit in the Fall of their 3L year.)

Q: I thought I was getting 2 credit hours for participating in a journal, why am I not?

A: You only can receive 2 credit hours ONCE during your two years participation on a journal. (I.e. Not 2 credit hours per semester, or 2 credit hours per year.) Typically, those credits are taken during the Fall of your 3L year. There may be a circumstance which would require the credits to be taken in a different semester, but under no circumstance will any student receive more than 2 credit hours (total) towards their JD degree. For more information, see your specific Journal's handbook or reach out to your journal's executive board.

Course-Specific Questions

Q: What counts as a mini-course? How many mini-courses may I take?

A: Mini-courses are short, single credit courses on a niche subject matter. Not all 1 credit courses are mini-courses. Mini-courses are clearly defined as a mini-course in the course list. **You may only take ONE mini-course each semester.**

Q: I want to take a mini-course, but I am unable to register for it because it conflicts with another class time. Athena is showing there is an error. Am I unable to take that class?

A: If there is a time conflict between a mini-course and another course, you can request approval for an override from the registrar's office. An override will allow you to register for both courses in Athena. This will only be approved if the time conflict is minimal. Minimal conflicts are conflicts that are isolated in time and scope, such as having to miss a single day from another class and still be within the absence policy of that course. A recurring conflict such as having to miss 5-10 minutes of a class over several days will NOT be approved.

Students asking for an override should email the LAW SCHOOL registrar and include their 81#, and the name, JURI, and CRN of the courses that require an override.

Q: I want to take a class outside the law school. How do I do that?

A: Please look in [the student handbook for full instructions](#). Please note there is **not** a list of outside courses available. Students must find courses for themselves, then request permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (which is granted on a case by case basis).

Q. Is there a cap on practical skills credits? I'm confused about how practical skills credits interact with clinical credits.

A: There is no cap on credits in practical skills courses. All clinics and externships provide practical skills credits, but so do other courses and opportunities on the course list. Clinical Course credits and Practical Skills credits sometimes overlap, but are not the same thing. There **IS** a cap for clinical hours. No student may apply more than 16 hours of credit toward the J.D. degree with credits earned in any combination of clinic or externship courses. Please note that not all credits allocated to a clinic count towards the cap. Credits allocated to *seminar time* in a clinic or externship course are not counted towards the limitation. If you are uncertain about how many clinical hours you have, please reach out to the registrar's office.