March 11, 2014

Gregory Fenves
Executive Vice President and Provost
The University of Texas at Austin
MA1 201
Campus Mail Code: G1000

Dear Dr. Fenves:

Enclosed for your consideration and action is a proposal to change the admission, transfer, and pass/fail policies in the Law School Catalog, 2014-2016 (D 11407-11411). On March 10, 2014, the Faculty Council approved the legislation on a no-protest basis. The proposals were classified as being of exclusive application and of primary interest only to a single college or school. The authority to grant final approval resides with UT System.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning these items of legislation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dean P. Neikirk, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

DPN:dlr

Enclosure

xc: William Powers Jr., president
    Charles Roeckle, deputy to the president

ec (letter only): Ward Farnsworth, dean, School of Law
                Alison Danforth, manager, IMA
                Brenda Schumann, associate registrar
                David Laude, senior vice provost, via Kati Pelletier
DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

PROPOSED ADDITION OF FLAGS TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES SECTION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2014-2016

Dean Ward Farnsworth in the School of Law has filed with the secretary of the Faculty Council the following changes to the Law School Catalog, 2014-2016. On February 26, 2014, the dean and the faculty in the departments and college approved the proposal. The secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of exclusion application and of primary interest only to a single college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the change on February 26, 2014, and forwarded the proposed changes to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with UT System.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by March 10, 2014.

[Signature]

Dean P. Neikirk, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW SCHOOL CATALOG 2014-2016

Type of Change: Academic Change

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT NEAL ARMSTRONG TO DETERMINE IF SACS-COC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.
   • Is this a new degree program? No
   • Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? No
   • Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? No

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:
   • Admission/Admission as a Beginning Student section: With the decline in the national application volume, we have decided to extend the application deadline to capture the February LSAT test administration and would like to retain the flexibility to change the application deadline from year to year.
   • Admission/Admission as a Transfer Student section: In light of the nationwide decline in the number of students applying to law school, we are seeking to maximize the opportunity for qualified and talented students to apply to UT Law.
   • Academic Policies and Procedures/Registration on the Pass/Fail Basis section:
     The Law Faculty is currently considering allowing students to take a limited number of elective courses pass/fail. A pass/fail system would allow greater course selection for the student. It would encourage students to enroll in courses they otherwise would not take. Allowing students to elect the pass/fail grading system in a limited number of course work would bring the School of Law in line with other UT Austin Colleges and Schools.
   • Degrees/Master of Laws Admission to Candidacy section: We want to retain the flexibility to change the application deadline from year to year, given the quickly changing and competitive landscape surrounding LLM student admissions.

3. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE
   a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? No
      If yes, then how?
   b. Will students in other degree programs be impacted (are the proposed changes to courses commonly taken by students in other colleges)? No
      If yes, then how?
   c. Will students from your college take courses in other colleges? No
      Not as a result of this proposal.

If 3 a, b, or c was answered with yes:
   How many students do you expect to be impacted?
   Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:
   d. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain: No.
      If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:
   e. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? No.
      If yes, explain:

4. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS
   Department approval date: February 26, 2014
   College approval date: February 26, 2014
   Dean approval date: February 26, 2014
Admissions

Admission as a Beginning Student

Requirements

Students beginning the study of law are admitted to the School of Law at the beginning of the fall semester. To be eligible for admission, an applicant must have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, must have earned a grade point average of at least 2.20 on all undergraduate work (as calculated by the Law School Admission Council), and must have attained a reportable score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). An applicant who meets these minimum requirements is not guaranteed admission; each year, the law school receives applications from a greater number of qualified candidates than the school can accommodate. In 2013, the law school received more than 4,100 applications for the 320 seats in the entering class. An applicant's Law School Admission Test score and undergraduate grade point average are two of the major factors considered, along with the résumé, personal statement, letters of recommendation/evaluations, and other supporting documents.

If an applicant lacks no more than six semester hours to be entitled to a baccalaureate degree, the dean may declare the applicant eligible for admission on condition that the applicant make arrangements to earn the baccalaureate degree before beginning the third year of law study.

There are no specific course prerequisites for admission to the law school. Students should consult their undergraduate prelaw advisers for information about academic preparation for law school.

Procedures

Application forms in both pdf and electronic format are available online at http://www.utexas.edu/law/admissions/. Complete instructions are provided with the application form.

Applicants seeking regular admission must take the following steps:

1. Take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) no later than December.
2. Register for the Credential Assembly Service (CAS) with the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) at http://www.lsac.org/.
3. Ensure the School of Law has received a complete application, including the $70 nonrefundable application fee, by [February] March 1, or such other date as the School of Law may establish and announce on its website.

Applicants seeking early-decision admission must take the LSAT no later than October and submit law school applications by the November 1 deadline. Applications received after November 1 but by [February] March 1, or such other date as the School of Law may establish and announce on its website will be considered for regular admission.

{No further changes to up to this point.}

Admission as a Transfer Student

[A person may apply to the dean for admission to the School of Law as a transfer student from another law school that is approved by the American Bar Association. Approval of such applications is entirely at the dean's discretion. Admission as a transfer student may be granted only if the applicant (1) would have been competitive if he or she had applied as a first-year entering student (2) has completed a full-time, first-year law school curriculum; (3) has compiled a superior academic record at the other law school; and (4) demonstrates good cause for the transfer. Because of limited availability of spaces at the law school, only a few requests for transfer are granted each year; the law school receives far more applications for transfer from qualified candidates than can be granted.

[A transfer student from another law school receives University credit on the following terms:}
(1) the total number of credit hours transferred may not exceed the number of credit hours earned during the first year by University law students; (2) transfer credit is not given for any course in which the student earned a grade of less than C, or its equivalent as determined by the dean; (3) a grade of CR is recorded for all transferred work; (4) the law school from which the applicant seeks to transfer must be a member of the Association of American Law Schools and approved by the American Bar Association. The transfer student is subject to the same performance standards as students who complete their first year of study at the University's School of Law.

Transfer students enrich the quality and diversity of the academic program at UT Law, and we encourage them to apply. Each year the Law School welcomes into our community a number of students who transfer to Texas after completing their first year of law school elsewhere. UT Law evaluates transfer applications primarily upon the student's performance in their first year at a full-time law program, but also considers factors such as LSAT, undergraduate record, and an essay explaining the reasons for transfer.

Typically, transfer students apply during late spring or early summer based upon a full year’s performance at another law school. We will consider all applicants for conditional admission based upon first-semester performance. Transfer students who exhibit superior academic performance during their first semester may be offered admission pending receipt of a final transcript complete with first-year grades. A firm offer of admission will be conditioned upon maintenance of strong academic performance in the second semester. All remaining transfer applicants will be evaluated on their first year performance in its entirety.

The completed application, together with the nonrefundable application fee of $70, must be postmarked and forwarded to the Law School by the following deadlines: August 1 (fall transfer) and November 15 (spring transfer).

Transfer Admission Process

To be eligible for transfer, an applicant must:

- have attained undergraduate performance and Law School Admission Test scores that generally meet the standard currently applicable for admission to the Law School as a first-year student;
- have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.2 as calculated by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC);
- be in good standing at current law school;
- have completed first-year (full-time) curriculum at an ABA-accredited and Association of American Law Schools (AALS) member school; and
- have compiled a superior academic record at current law school.

Transfer Credit

Transfer applicants must apply prior to beginning their second year of law school, and transfer no more than 32 semester hours (48 quarter hours).

A transfer student receives University credit on the following terms:

- total number of credit hours transferred may not exceed the number of credit hours earned during the first year by University law students;
- transfer credit is not given for any course in which the student earned a grade of less than C, or its equivalent as determined by the dean; and
- a CR grade is recorded for all transferred work.

Application forms and instructions are available online at http://www.utexas.edu/law/admissions/ and by mail from the School of Law Admissions Office, 727 East Dean Keeton Street, Austin TX 78705-3299.

{No further changes to this section.}
Academic Policies and Procedures

{No changes to up to this point.}

Registration on the Pass/Fail Basis

In general, students receive letter grades in law courses. The dean may determine that pass/fail grading is preferable for a course. Courses that will be offered only on the pass/fail basis or for which pass/fail grading is an option will be announced before registration. The School of Law may limit the number of credits that a student can accumulate on a pass/fail basis.

{No further changes to this section.}

Degrees

{No changes to up to this point.}

Master of Laws

{No changes to up to this point.}

Admission to Candidacy

Complete applications must be submitted by [February 1] the application deadline prior to the fall semester in which the applicant seeks to begin the program. Generally, candidates are admitted for the fall semester only.

{No further changes to this section.}