



TO: Elon Law Students
FROM: Professors Catherine Wasson & Barbara Morgenstern
DATE: March 21, 2018
RE: Family & Juvenile Law Advising Memo

Based on our experience as family law practitioners, and as law faculty who teach in this area, we offer the following guidance regarding course selection and sequencing to students who are interested in pursuing a career in family and/or juvenile law. We recommend that you enroll in all of the “Essential Courses” listed to ensure that you have a solid foundation.. You may then select additional courses and experiences that align most closely with your own interests and career goals.

We recommend these courses (listed in alphabetical order) because they build the skill sets that you will need to succeed. Please note that not all of the courses listed are offered every term, and many have enrolment caps. To make the best course plan, review registration materials carefully each term and discuss available courses and sequencing with your faculty advisor.

I. Essential Courses

In addition to the required law school courses, we consider the following courses to be **essential** for lawyers who plan to practice family and/or juvenile law. Because these courses may be prerequisites for advanced work, we recommend that you take these essential courses as early in your law school career as you are able.

Family Law
Income Taxation

II. Priority Courses

We consider the following courses to be **very important** for lawyers in family law or juvenile law practices and recommend that you take as many of them as possible (to the extent offered and subject to enrollment limitations).

Family Law Priority Courses	Juvenile Law Priority Courses
Advanced Family Law Practice	Children & the Law
ADR Representation	Child Protection & the Law
Children & the Law	Client Interviewing & Counseling
Entity Taxation	Criminal Procedure
Client Interviewing & Counseling	Trial Practice & Procedure
Trial Practice & Procedure	
Wills & Trusts	

III. Beneficial Courses

We consider the following courses to be **important** for lawyers in family law or juvenile law practices and recommend that you take as many of them as possible (to the extent offered and subject to enrollment limitations).

Family Law Beneficial Courses	Juvenile Law Beneficial Courses
Accounting for Lawyers	Accounting for Lawyers
Advanced Legal Research (all topics)	Advanced Criminal Procedure
Appellate Practice	Advanced Legal Research (all topics)
Guardian Ad Litem Clinic	Appellate Practice
	Guardian Ad Litem Clinic

IV. Residency Placements

We strongly recommend that students participate in a residency that complements their interest in family and/or juvenile law. Relevant placements include local and state agencies and private non-profits that serve families, legal services offices, state courts, and private firms that have lawyers who specialize in these areas. Residencies in District Attorney and Public Defender offices would provide valuable experience for those interested in juvenile law. Placement as a resident in one of Elon's clinical programs may also provide relevant work experience for students interested in family and/or juvenile law.

V. Co- and Extra-Curricular Activities

We also believe it is useful for students to participate in co- and extra-curricular activities which can enhance a student's knowledge and advocacy skills, for example:

- Elon Law Review
- Criminal Law Society
- Family Law Society
- Volunteer guardian ad litem
- Mock Trial Competition
- Moot Court Board