



TO: Elon Law Students
FROM: Professors Catherine Wasson & Barbara Morgenstern
DATE: March 21, 2018 (revised August 2021)
RE: Family & Juvenile Law Advising Memo

The following guidance regarding course selection and sequencing may be helpful for students 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.

These courses build the skill sets that you will need to succeed. Please note that not all of the courses listed are offered every year, and many have enrollment caps. To make the best course plan, review registration materials carefully each trimester and discuss available courses and sequencing with your faculty advisor.

I. Essential Courses

The following courses are **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

The following courses are **very important** for lawyers in family law or juvenile law practices, and we 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	Client Interviewing & Counseling
Client Interviewing & Counseling	Criminal Procedure
Entity Taxation	Trial Practice & Procedure
Trial Practice & Procedure	
Wills & Trusts	

III. Beneficial Courses

The following courses are **important** for lawyers in family law or juvenile law practices, and you should 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)
Gender and the Law	Appellate Practice
Guardian Ad Litem Clinic	Gender and the Law
Negotiations	Guardian Ad Litem Clinic
	Negotiations

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 Law's clinics may also provide relevant work experience for students interested in family and/or juvenile law.

V. Co- and Extra-Curricular Activities

Participating in these co- and extra-curricular activities can enhance a student's knowledge and advocacy skills:

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