

Trusts and Estates Law General Course Guide

A trusts and estates lawyer helps a client arrange his or her financial affairs so that, upon the client's death, the client's assets are distributed as the client wishes and the tax consequences of distributing that property are minimized. The lawyer also provides guidance on lifetime matters such as managing incapacity, making tax-efficient gifts, and managing wealth with tax planning. Accordingly, the law of trusts and estates governs the use of certain types of instruments, such as wills, living trusts, or charitable trusts, to provide for an orderly distribution of the assets and payment of any debts or liabilities of the estate. In addition to required courses (*e.g.*, Wills, Trusts, and Estates), students interested in this area should take elective courses relevant to trusts and estates law.¹

Core Courses:

Estate and Gift Tax
Estate Planning
Federal Income Tax*

Recommended Courses:

Elder Law

Recommended Experiential/Skills Courses:

Business Drafting
Estate and Trust Administration
Externships²
Mediation Advocacy
Negotiation

¹ Please consult the course schedule for current course availability. Courses may be offered in alternating years.

² Available externships and internships are posted on 12Twenty. The Director of Externships and the Director of the Career Development Office may be contacted for additional information. The Externship Office has a list of available externships, and the Career Development Office is a resource for internships, including with the Jefferson County Probate Court.

* Indicates that this course is a prerequisite to other tax courses. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that students take it in the 2L year.