

PETITION FOR WAIVER

When planning your course schedule, please take special care to keep track of the various requirements (including prerequisites and co-requisites) that may be applicable. You may access these requirements at the <http://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=530> or the Records Office.

Recently, the faculty adopted a new waiver policy (copied below) that makes waiver requests more difficult to obtain than in the past. Note also that permission by an instructor is generally not sufficient; except where specifically stated, all waiver requests must now be approved by the Academic Standards Committee. **Waiver requests must be submitted to the Records Office**, which will forward them to the committee. It is strongly advised that, if possible, students submit waiver requests **by the end of the bidding process**. Failure to do so will result in students not being registered for classes for which they have successfully bid.

Under the new policy, there is now a “strong presumption” against waivers, which will be granted only in “exceptional cases.” The Committee may grant the petition only if convinced that the student’s academic, work and life experiences are such that the student already has the required knowledge or skills the prerequisite or co-requisite course is designed to impart so that it would serve no meaningful pedagogical purpose for the student to have to take the prerequisite or co-requisite course.

Problems that have frequently occurred in the past include:

- attempting to schedule more than 18 hours in one semester;
- attempting to register for a course despite not taking prerequisite courses or registering for co-requisite courses;
- waiting too long to complete requirements required for graduation (i.e., Perspective Course, Expository Writing, and Planning & Drafting); and
- failing to enroll in Constitutional Law or Legal Profession during the second year.

PROCESS FOR WAIVER OF PREREQUISITE OR CO-REQUISITE COURSE AND FOR TAKING A PREREQUISITE COURSE AS CO-REQUISITE COURSE

There is a strong presumption against the granting of waivers of a prerequisite or co-requisite course. This presumption may be overcome in exceptional cases.

Unless the course description provides for the means by which to obtain a waiver, a student may seek waiver of a prerequisite or co-requisite course by filing a petition with the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee. If the petition is granted, the student does not have to take the prerequisite or co-requisite course. This same petition process applies when a student seeks to treat a prerequisite course as a co-requisite and desires to enroll in both courses concurrently. If that petition is granted, the student shall enroll in both courses for the semester in question.

The petition for waiver must be submitted to the chair of the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee no later than the second day of classes in the semester for which the waiver is sought, except that students wishing to add a class after the second day of classes must submit the petition for waiver within three days of notifying the Records Office of their desire to add. These students may attend courses until the waiver is either granted or denied. In the petition, the student should include information on the student's background (including relevant academic, work and life experiences) and academic progress at the College of Law (including a College of Law transcript). The petition should specifically address why waiving the prerequisite or co-requisite course is appropriate. The Committee may grant the petition only if convinced that the student's academic, work and life experiences are such that the student already has the required knowledge or skills the prerequisite or co-requisite course is designed to impart so that it would serve no meaningful pedagogical purpose for the student to have to take the prerequisite or co-requisite course. In deciding the petition, the Committee will ordinarily seek and give weight to the course instructor(s)'s views on whether waiver is appropriate.