Pre-Registration: Fall 2024

In order to provide students with a fair opportunity to enroll in Law classes, registration at Columbia Law School is assigned by a course lottery in accordance with the *Faculty Resolution on the Allocation of Scarce Instructional Resources*. Class assignments are made on the basis of student preferences submitted through Pre-Registration.

This handbook provides guidance on the Pre-Registration process including course selection, strategies for ranking courses, information on how the lottery works, and special instructions on Pre-Registering for Professional Responsibility and Legislation and Regulation.

**Handbook Outline**

1. Registration Timeline
2. Identifying Primary and Alternate Choices
3. Adding Primary and Alternate Choices
4. Strategies for Ranking Course Selections
5. How the Lottery works
6. High Demand Courses
7. Professional Responsibility (PR) and Legislation and Regulation (LegReg) Pre-Registration
8. Next Steps
9. Still Have Questions?
1. Registration Timeline

**Thursday, July 18 at 12:00 p.m. EDT - Monday, July 29 at 12:00 p.m. EDT**
2Ls/3Ls/LLMs Pre-Registration Period

**Thursday, July 18 at 12:00 p.m. EDT - Monday, July 22 at 12:00 p.m. EDT**
3Ls & LLMs: Professional Responsibility (PR) Pre-Registration
3Ls: Legislation and Regulation (LegReg) Pre-Registration

**Tuesday, July 23 at 3:00 p.m. EDT**
Results of PR & LegReg lottery released in LawNet

**Monday, July 29 at 12:00 p.m. EDT**
Pre-Registration Closes

**Mid-August**
Student Schedules are released in LawNet

**Wednesday, August 14 - Monday, September 9**
Add/Drop Period

**Wednesday, August 14 - Monday, September 9**
Digital Forms - student submission period

**Thursday, September 5 at 8:00 a.m. EDT - Friday, September 6 at 8:00 a.m. EDT**
Law School Cross-Registration Application Period (Not SIPA or Business School - TBA)

**Tuesday, October 1**
LL.M. Writing Project Forms - student submission deadline
2. Identifying Primary and Alternate Choices

The Lottery will try to register you for up to 15 points of academic credit (notwithstanding the Clinics, Externships, and permission courses into which you have been accepted) and you can pre-register for multiple courses up to these maximums:

- 3Ls and LLMs – can pre-register for up to 6 primary and 6 alternate courses
- 2Ls – can pre-register for up to 8 primary and 8 alternate courses

To determine which of your courses you should list as a primary course and which you should list as an alternate course, take note of the key difference in their function for the purpose of the Lottery:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the Lottery ...</th>
<th>Primary Course Choice</th>
<th>Alternate Course Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>... register me?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... waitlist me?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because you will not be waitlisted for an alternate class, you should consider the following for identifying an alternate course choice:

- **You are interested in taking the alternate course if no seat is available in your primary choice class.**
  - ✓ For example, if there were two courses in a particular subject area that would enable you to achieve the same goal but you would only want to take one of them at this time.
    - o You can list the course you might prefer as your primary choice and then list the other course as an alternate.

- **Your alternate course choice is another section of the same course you have identified as a primary choice.**
  - ✓ If you want to increase your chance of being able to take one of these courses, you can list the section you would most prefer to take as a primary choice and the other section as an alternate.

- **Your alternate course choice is scheduled to meet at a time that overlaps with your primary course choice.**
  - ✓ If you have identified two courses of interest that meet at the same time, you will not be registered for both.
    - o You can list the course you might prefer as your primary choice and then list the other course as an alternate.
3. Adding Primary and Alternate Choices

Primary course choices:

- To add – click on the green plus button to add a new course
- To change the order of priority of a primary choice – click on the course box and drag it above or below other classes on your Pre-Registration List

Alternate course choices:

- To add – click ‘add alternative’ option in the primary course box
- To change the order of priority of an alternate choice – click “delete” to remove the course from the relevant primary course choice and add it to a different primary course choice by clicking “add alternative”.

You can continue to add, move, and delete primary and alternate course choices until the close of Pre-Registration. At that time, your Pre-Registration choices will be finalized and you cannot make any further changes, though you can access the record of your selections through LawNet.
4. Strategies for Ranking Course Selections

Because an individual student’s chance of being registered for any individual class is dependent upon both the randomly assigned lottery number AND the expressed preferences of other students, no lottery outcome is guaranteed and you should focus on what is in your control:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In your control:</th>
<th>What you can do:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your interests</td>
<td>Prioritize the classes in the order of their importance to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>Consider prioritizing some seminars over lectures because seminars are typically capped at 15 - 18 students so there are fewer available seats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mix it up</td>
<td>Do not solely pre-register for seminars; add lecture classes to your selections thus increasing your chance of getting into your chosen courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-demand classes</td>
<td>Review the list of courses that are typically in high demand in this handbook and rank them higher in your order of preferences.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Alternates       | Utilize the alternate course selection feature:  
|                  | ✓ This will give you a second opportunity in each Lottery step to be registered in a course of interest.  
|                  | ✓ If your primary choice is full, you can be registered for your alternate if there are seats AND be waitlisted for your primary choice.  
|                  | ✓ Remember that you will never be waitlisted for an alternate course. |
| Time conflicts   | Minimize time conflicts between your primary choices because you will not be registered or waitlisted for any choice if it conflicts with a higher ranked course for which you are registered.  
|                  | ✓ Try to place time-conflicting classes as alternates to each other. |
| Sections         | Sections of the same course are treated as separate courses, so you can list all the sections in your pre-registration choices if you wish. This gives you a greater chance of taking a course that is important to you. |
| Pre- and Co-Requisites | If you have any questions about whether a prior course satisfies a pre or co-requisite, please contact the instructor.  
|                  | ✓ (JDs) If a course has a pre-requisite and you have a written waiver from the instructor (i.e. email permission), please forward it to our office registrar@law.columbia.edu, so we can manually add the course to your rankings.  
|                  | ✓ (JDs) If a course has a co-requisite, you must first add the co-requisite to your rankings and then email registrar@law.columbia.edu, so we can manually add the course to your rankings.  
|                  | ✓ (LLMs) It is strongly recommended that you check with the instructor to ensure you have the requisite knowledge but a pre- or co-requisite will not prevent you from pre-registering for a course. |

Consider meeting with an academic adviser if you have further questions about strategies for ranking courses.
5. How the Lottery Works

The Lottery was established by the Faculty Resolution on the Allocation of Scarce Instructional Resources and all students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these rules.

The Lottery assigns class registrations on the basis of student preference and class standing (i.e. 2L, 3L, or LLM), along with a randomly assigned Lottery number. See below for the multiple steps that make up the entirety of the process.

There are four possible outcomes for each of the steps identified below:

a) A student is registered in their primary choice and not waitlisted for their alternate choice;  
   OR  

b) A student is waitlisted for their primary choice and registered for their alternate choice;  
   OR  

c) A student is waitlisted for their primary choice and not registered for their alternate choice because no seats are available;  
   OR  

d) A student is neither registered nor waitlisted for their primary or alternate choice because the student has been registered for a higher ranked primary or alternate course that meets at the same time.

In order to optimize the possible outcomes for each student, each primary and alternate course for which a student Pre-Registers is considered by the Lottery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lottery Step</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Lottery Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1            | LLMs     | - The Lottery tries to assign a first choice course to LLM students.  
- Each course has approximately one third of its available seats reserved for LLM students for the purposes of the lottery.  
**LLM students are assigned a first choice depending on their randomly assigned lottery number, the order in which the lottery considers each random number, and the preferences of other LLM students.** |
| 2            | LLMs     | - The Lottery tries to assign a second choice class to LLM students, reversing the order in which students’ random numbers are considered.  
**If a student was considered first in Step 1 they will be considered last in Step 2.** |
| 3            | 3Ls      | - The Lottery tries to assign a first choice course to 3L students.  
- Each course has approximately two thirds of its available seats reserved for JD students for the purposes of the lottery.  
**3L students are assigned a first choice depending on their randomly assigned lottery number, the order in which the lottery considers each random number, and the preferences of other 3L students.** |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lottery Step</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3Ls</td>
<td>• The Lottery tries to assign a second choice class to 3L students, reversing the order in which students’ random numbers are considered. <strong>If a student was considered first in Step 3 they will be considered last in Step 4.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2Ls</td>
<td>• The Lottery tries to assign a first choice class to 2L students. <strong>This is based on the randomly assigned number, the expressed preferences of other 2L students, and the number of JD-reserved seats that have not been assigned to 3L students.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>LLMs</td>
<td>• The Lottery tries to assign a third choice class to LLM students, again reversing the order in which students’ random numbers are considered. <strong>If a student was considered last in Step 2, they will be considered first in Step 6.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3Ls</td>
<td>• The Lottery tries to assign a third choice class to 3L students, again reversing the order in which students’ random numbers are considered. <strong>If a student was considered last in Step 4, they will be considered first in Step 7.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>LLMs</td>
<td>• The Lottery tries to assign a fourth choice class to LLM students, again reversing the order in which students’ random numbers are considered. <strong>If a student was considered last in Step 6, they will be considered first in Step 8.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3Ls</td>
<td>• The Lottery tries to assign a fourth choice class to 3L students, again reversing the order in which students’ random numbers are considered. <strong>If a student was considered last in Step 7, they will be considered first in Step 9.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2Ls</td>
<td>• The Lottery tries to assign a second choice class to 2L students, reversing the order in which students’ random numbers are considered. <strong>If a student was considered first in Step 5 they will be considered last in Step 10.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2Ls</td>
<td>• The Lottery tries to assign a third choice class to 2L students, again reversing the order in which students’ random numbers are considered. <strong>If a student was considered last in Step 10, they will be considered first in Step 11.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2Ls</td>
<td>• The Lottery tries to assign a fourth choice class to 2L students, again reversing the order in which students’ random numbers are considered. <strong>If a student was considered last in Step 11, they will be considered first in Step 12.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Lottery Step | Students | Lottery Action
--- | --- | ---
13 | LLMs, 3Ls, 2Ls | - The Lottery then tries to assign classes to LLM, 3L, and 2L students in rotating class-standing order, each time reversing the order in which the random number is considered.  
  o LLM and 3L students will continue to be considered for the 6 primary and 6 alternate classes listed.  
  o 2L students will continue to be considered for the 8 primary and 8 alternate classes listed.  
  **The Lottery will assign available registrations up to 15 points and waitlists places for all additional courses.**

14 | All other students | The Lottery tries to assign classes to Non-degree students.

**Final** | All | - The lottery revisits all classes to assess unassigned seats. Students are registered in these classes solely on the basis of the randomly assigned lottery number and in a randomly assigned order of consideration (i.e. without regard to class standing).  
- Possible outcomes in this final step:  
  ✓ Unassigned seats reserved for LLM students will be distributed to JD and Non-degree students who have pre-registered for the classes, but waitlisted because of the quota conflict. This can result in a 2L being registered ahead of a 3L student;  
  AND  
  ✓ Unassigned seats reserved for JD students will be distributed to LLMs and Non-degree students who pre-registered for the classes and were waitlisted because of the quota conflict.

Note: The Lottery tries to assign up to 15 points, but students are not guaranteed to be registered for a full schedule at the conclusion of Pre-Registration. The actual number of points for which any individual student will be registered by the Lottery will depend upon:

a) Availability of seats in the student’s chosen classes;  
b) Time conflicts among the student’s chosen classes;  
c) The number of points for which students will be registered once accepted into clinics, externships, and permission courses.
6. High Demand Courses

** Due to their small capacity, all seminars and colloquia should be considered high demand.

- A high demand lecture course is defined as either:
  - A lecture that had 3 or more students left on the waitlist following the conclusion of add/drop.
  - OR
  - A lecture for which the number of students who pre-registered with their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th choice is greater than or equal to 100% of the course’s seat capacity. For example, if 150 students pre-registered for Professor Doe’s lecture with either their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th choice, and the course has a seat capacity of 125, this lecture is considered in high demand.

How to Pre-Register for High Demand Courses

Students should consider ranking high demand courses 1 or 2. Prioritizing high demand courses over other courses when pre-registering maximizes their chances of being registered for them.

S. Deals Workshop

A student may not register for a class with the same course number more than once. The system prevents students from doing so. If you register for a Deals workshop in the fall you cannot also register for a section in the spring.

Potentially High Demand Lectures, Fall 2024:

- L6231 Corporations (all sections)
- L6241 Evidence
- L6169 Legislation and Regulation (all sections)
7. Professional Responsibility (PR) & Legislation and Regulation (LegReg) Pre-Registration

Professional Responsibility (3Ls & LLMs): Thursday, July 18 at 12:00 p.m. EDT - Monday, July 22 at 12:00 p.m. EDT

- Graduation requirement for J.D. students and required for LL.M.s curing deficiency for the NY Bar Exam
- Open to 3Ls and LLMs only (2Ls can add PR to their general Pre-Registration selection of courses)

Legislation and Regulation (3Ls): Thursday, July 18 at 12:00 p.m. EDT - Monday, July 22 at 12:00 p.m. EDT

- Graduation requirement for J.D. students
- Open to 3Ls ONLY

PR and LegReg

- Fall and spring courses are listed for pre-registration
- All courses must be ranked in order of preference
- Pre-Registration is NOT time-sensitive or first-come first-served: you can change your selections at any time during the PR or LegReg Pre-registration period
- You will be able to adjust your general Pre-Registration choices on the basis of the PR and LegReg Lottery results
- If you wish to change your fall 2024 PR or LegReg registration, the first opportunity to do so will be during Add/Drop.
- During Add/Drop you can only drop your spring 2025 PR or LegReg registration by emailing Registrar@law.columbia.edu. The next opportunity to add a spring 2025 section is during spring 2025 pre-registration.
- If you have been accepted into a clinic, externship, or permission course, ensure that you place any conflicting sections of PR or LegReg at the lowest place on your ranking.

The results of the PR and LegReg Lotteries will be released on Tuesday, July 23 at 3:00 p.m. EDT

Step One:
Log in to LawNet
Select "PR Lottery" or "Legislation and Regulation Lottery under the "Registration Services" Menu

Step Two:
Rank all courses (fall and spring) in order of your preference
Once you select ‘PR Lottery’ or ‘LegReg Lottery’ under the ‘Registration Services’ menu in LawNet, you will see all the courses for fall 2024 and spring 2025.

**Note about PR:** In the curriculum guide under Additional Attributes, you may select PR Requirement to search for courses.

**You must rank ALL sections in the order of your preference.**

**Please SAVE your sections ranking or they will not be considered for pre-registration:**

This is a sample Student View on LawNet from prior semesters, the course offerings may change each semester.
8. Next Steps

Pre-Registration Record

The record of your Pre-Registration choices is stored in the Pre-Registration module in LawNet.

Lottery Results

The Lottery will try to register you for up to 15 points of academic credit. The fall 2024 results will be published in LawNet by mid-August.

The results will include the classes for which you are registered and the classes for which you are waitlisted. You will also see your position on these waitlists.

Waitlists

When the Lottery results are published, you will have the option to remove yourself from any waitlists for courses in which you are no longer interested. Because this will help other students better assess their actual waitlist position and give them a better chance of registering for these courses, please be sure to remove yourself from unnecessary waitlists. Please be 100% certain that you are no longer interested in the course before removing yourself from the waitlist.

Exam Schedule

A tentative fall 2024 exam schedule will be published by mid-August.

Add/Drop: Wednesday, August 14 - Monday, September 9

During the Add/Drop period, students can:

- Drop classes in which they are registered
- Register for classes, or add themselves to a waitlist
- Register for:
  - supervised research
  - teaching assistantships
  - research assistantships
  - writing credits and projects
- Apply to Cross-Register for other Columbia University classes
9. STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

- **Videos and Text Instructions on LawNet**
  - How to rank PR courses for lottery
  - How to rank LegReg courses for lottery (for JDs)
  - How to register for online courses (Add/Drop)
  - How to check class schedule
  - How to use Classroom Seat Reservations
  - How to use Degree Requirements Status (text only, for JDs)

- **Registration Services Pre-Registration Zoom Drop-in Hours**
  Email, Call: 212-854-2668, or drop by WJW 500

- **Student Services Webinar and Advising Hours (JDs)**
  Student Services will be sharing an Academic Advising webinar before Pre-Registration begins. Student Services will hold remote advising on weekdays from **Thursday, July 18** – **Friday, July 26**.
  - Sign up for appointments (day and evening appointments are available).
    - Appointments are either virtual or on the phone
    - Please only sign up for one appointment. After your appointment you can always follow up directly with the adviser who you spoke with.

- **Office of Graduate Degree Programs LL.M. Webinar and Drop-In Hours (LLMs)**
  The Office of Graduate Degree Programs (OGP) held an LLM Curriculum Planning webinar on **Thursday, June 13 at 9:00 a.m. EDT**. The webinar was recorded and posted to the Student Site for students who could not attend or wish to view it again. The webinar slides are also available. OGP is holding drop-in office hours:
    - June 24, 9-11 AM
    - July 8, 11 AM to 1 PM
    - July 19, 10 AM to Noon
    - July 22, 9-11 AM
    - July 25, 11 AM to 1 PM
    - July 29, 9-11 AM

  If you wish to speak to an adviser but aren’t able to attend drop-in hours, please email gradprograms@law.columbia.edu and an adviser will get back to you!