

Articulation Agreement

The University of Akron
School of Law

and

Bluefield State University

Juris Doctor Degree Partnership Program

January 2025

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW AND
BLUEFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
BACCALAUREATE-JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE ARTICULATION AGREEMENT**

This Articulation Agreement (the “Agreement”) is hereby entered into between Bluefield State University (“BSU”) and The University of Akron for its School of Law (“Akron Law”) as of January 30, 2025 to facilitate a program commonly referred to as a three plus three degree program (“3+3 program”).

This Agreement sets forth the general parameters of a collaborative relationship between BSU and Akron Law designed to enhance and further the educational opportunities available to eligible BSU students. The primary goal underlying this Agreement is to create a seamless, sequential, and developmental learning progression of academic degrees from the baccalaureate level at BSU State University to the *juris doctor* level at Akron Law to meet the career needs and opportunities of students interested in the field of law that will enable a BSU student to obtain a baccalaureate degree from BSU and a *juris doctor* degree from Akron Law in a total of six years.

I. Objectives of the Agreement

This Agreement centers on the principle that BSU students can acquire a baccalaureate degree from BSU by applying the first year of professional law courses at Akron Law to satisfy the graduation and degree requirements at BSU, and also concurrently apply the first year of Akron Law courses (29-30 semester credit hours) toward a *juris doctor* degree granted by The University of Akron. This collaborative program is intended to:

- a) supply broader educational opportunities for eligible BSU students;
- b) offer credit for designated courses from Akron Law that will articulate into a baccalaureate degree at BSU;
- c) provide eligible students with the opportunity to complete a baccalaureate degree and *juris doctor* degree in a shorter time than might otherwise be possible;
- d) provide eligible students the opportunity to complete a baccalaureate degree and *juris doctor* degree at a lower cost than might otherwise be possible; and
- e) afford eligible students opportunities to continue along an educational and professional career pipeline with greater ease and support from both BSU and Akron Law.

II. Conditions of Articulation

A. Eligibility

Any BSU student may apply for inclusion into the 3+3 program at the same time s/he applied for admission to BSU, or anytime while enrolled at BSU. BSU will have discretion to select which major(s) will be eligible for this program. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, BSU students participating in the joint 3+3 program (“Participants”) who have completed the equivalent of three years or more of a baccalaureate degree will be automatically admitted into Akron Law so as long they:

- (1) are in good standing academically, financially, and from a disciplinary perspective at BSU;
- (2) satisfy the character and fitness standards required of all students admitted to Akron Law;

- (3) have an LSAT that is at or above the 25th percentile of the previous year's entering class, and not below a 151; and
- (4) have an undergraduate grade point average at or above the median of the previous Akron Law entering class.

BSU students who are not enrolled in the 3+3 program, or who do not meet the automatic admission criteria set forth above will still be considered for admission into Akron Law on a case-by-case basis.

B. Admissions

For purposes of admission to law school, Participants must, within the established time parameters, register with LSAC, complete and submit the Akron Law application, including all required components and indicate on their application that they are applying as a 3+3 program applicant by marking the appropriate check box. Akron Law reserves the right to require additional documentation from any Participant in the event of character and fitness concerns.

C. Degree Requirements and Courses

(1) Students participating in this Agreement are subject to all applicable requirements of the institution offering the respective course of study.

(2) In all cases, Akron Law will have the sole authority and responsibility to determine the requirements for its *juris doctor* degree in accordance with The University of Akron policies, American Bar Association requirements, and other relevant accreditation standards. All grade-point computations related to Akron Law courses will be made using Akron Law's policies and procedures.

(3) BSU will have the sole authority and responsibility to determine the requirements for its baccalaureate degrees, and determine whether its students satisfy the requirements for its degrees. BSU will make all grade-point computations involving its courses using BSU policies and procedures.

(4) Akron Law and BSU reserve the right to make changes in their course offerings and degree requirements. Each partner agrees to communicate such changes in a timely fashion to the other partner.

D. Completion of Baccalaureate Degree

In support of this Agreement, BSU gives permission for the Participants to apply 29 - 30 credit hours from Akron Law courses toward completion of a baccalaureate degree from BSU. The courses currently offered by Akron Law during the first-year course of study and the respective credit hours are delineated in Table 1. Pursuant to this Agreement, it is anticipated that a Participant will receive his/her baccalaureate degree from BSU upon successful completion of the first year of courses at Akron Law. BSU agrees to award a baccalaureate degree to said Participant regardless of whether the student continues with his/her law studies beyond the first year or acquires a *juris doctor* degree from The University of Akron School of Law.

If a student in the 3+3 program does not successfully complete the entire first year of courses at Akron Law, Akron Law will award that student the credits for any courses in which the student earned a passing grade. It will, however, be at the discretion of BSU whether to accept credits for those courses in which the student's grade(s) falls below the acceptable level that BSU would normally count toward the baccalaureate degree. Students who do not earn the full 30 credits from Akron Law during their first year will be dropped from the 3+3 program and will not be permitted to continue enrollment at Akron Law.

E. Tuition and Financial Aid/Scholarships

(1) During the three years in residence at BSU, students will pay tuition to BSU at the BSU tuition rate. During the three years in residence at Akron Law, students will pay Akron Law tuition at rates established by Akron Law.

(2) During the three years in residence at BSU and the three years in residence at Akron Law, any financial aid or scholarships will be calculated by the host institution's then-current eligibility policies and provided by the host institution.

(3) All BSU students will be eligible for scholarships and grants generally available to any incoming Akron Law student.

F. Athletic Eligibility

(1) BSU students will not retain any athletic eligibility at BSU during residence at Akron Law.

G. Joint program promotion

(1) Akron Law and BSU agree to cooperate in actively promoting the 3+3 program and designing opportunities for BSU students to receive information about said program. Promotional activities and related opportunities may include, among other things, academic advising, the development of written materials, regular information sessions, Akron Law faculty visits to BSU, and other joint activities.

(2) Akron Law and BSU will jointly develop and agree upon procedures designed to handle student advising, student tracking, data retrieval, and feedback. Appropriate Akron Law and BSU faculty and staff will become familiarized with this Agreement as well as the 3+3 program and respective procedures so as to facilitate full participation in and utilization of this Agreement.

(3) Representatives from Akron Law and BSU will meet at least annually for the purpose of consultation regarding the Agreement. In an ongoing attempt to strengthen this educational and degree pathway for the benefit of future students, Akron Law and BSU will foster communication between their administrators and faculties so that they may jointly address common needs for quality assessment.

H. Term

This Agreement, with any revisions or amendments, will remain in effect until terminated by BSU and/or Akron Law. A one-year notice is required prior to termination of this Agreement. In the event of termination, Akron Law and BSU agree to honor the existing articulation arrangement for Participants admitted to this program as of the date of termination.

I. Notices

Any official notice to either party related to this Agreement must be in writing and addressed to the following individuals. Any such notice shall be deemed to have been given when mailed via first class, certified, or express mail.

For Bluefield State University:

Bluefield State University
Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
219 Rock St.
Bluefield, WV 24701

For Akron Law: The University of Akron
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
Buchtel Hall 102
Akron, OH 44325-4703

With a copy to: The University of Akron School of Law Dean
150 University Avenue

Akron, Ohio 44325-2901

J. Generally

(1) Akron Law and BSU agree that they will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or veterans' status in connection with this Agreement.

(2) Neither party may assign or delegate any rights or duties arising pursuant to this Agreement without prior written consent of the other party.

(3) This Agreement and the attached course articulations constitute the entire understanding of the parties with respect to the 3+3 program.

(4) This Agreement shall be governed and construed pursuant to the laws of the State of Ohio.

(5) Any revisions or amendments of this Agreement shall be in writing and signed by BSU and Akron Law.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
SCHOOL OF LAW**

John Wiencek, Ph.D.
Executive VP and Provost

Date

Emily Janoski-Haehlen, J.D.
Dean, School of Law

Date

Barbara C. DiGiacomo, J.D.
Associate Dean, Administration &
Enrollment Management

Date

BLUEFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY

Darrin Martin, Ph.D.
President

Date

Sarita A. Rhonemus, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Date

Table 1
First Year Law Courses – The University of Akron School of Law

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW	CREDIT HOURS
Fall Semester	
Fundamentals of Lawyering	0
Contracts	4
Torts	4
Civil Procedure – Federal Jurisdiction	3
Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing	3
Spring Semester	
Fundamentals of Lawyering (required only for some students)	0 - 1
Civil Procedure – Federal Litigation	3
Property	4
Criminal Law	3
Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing	3
Legislation Regulation	2
Total Credits	29-30 credits