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Plan for Conferring Degrees on the Students of Law in the University of William and Mary (ca. 1792)

St. George Tucker

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Plan for conferring degrees on the Students of Law in the University of William and Mary.

Each candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Law shall have resided three years at the University, and attended at least two complete courses of lectures, or the greater part of three courses, and performed his exercises regularly during that period.

Previous to his admission to his degree, he shall undergo a joint examination by the professors, separately, and must be well acquainted with history, both ancient and modern, the Constitution and policy of the ancient republics, as well as those of our own days. But above all with that of the United States of America in their federal capacity and that of Virginia in particular. He shall be well versed in Ethics, the law of nations, and the municipal laws of his country, including such acts of the British Parliament as have been adopted by our Constitution. He shall be well acquainted with the leading points of practice in the law, and not the least of his talents in this respect shall consist of his power to produce some specimen of his talents in this respect, on a subject proposed of time by the Examining professor. Having undergone an examination by each of the professors as shall have chosen to examine him, he shall submit to an examination by the persons appointed or
to be appointed to examine & admit Attorneys to practice in
the County Courts, or by two of the Judges of the Court of Appeals
and if he shall obtain from them a certificate under their hands
and seals that they have examined & have found him duly
qualified to practice the law in all counties of the Commonwealth,
he shall compose a Thesis on some
subject analogous to his profession, which shall be examined
by the professors, if printed, after which, if no moral objection
be made against him on the Day of Commencement he
shall receive his Degree.

After two years' residence, or four years of non-residence
a Graduate in Law, may, if he please, under similar examination,
be found duly qualified to take a Degree of Master of Arts,
and after four years' residence from the time of taking his
first degree, he shall upon examination, if found duly
qualified be admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Laws.

A student being disposed, if found duly qualified, may
take a Degree in Arts, at the same time that he takes a Degree
in Law.

The Day of Commencement to be fixed so as to enable the
Judge of the Court of Appeals, or some of them, to be present
who are to be requested to examine the Candidates.

Judge of the General Court, over the Honorary Degree of Doctor
of Laws.
A plan of an act of assembly to be passed for the encouragement of the liberal study of the law in a liberal manner.

To long as the statute for conferring degrees on the students of law in the University of W. C. M. shall be adhered to, complied with, the graduates in law at that university shall be entitled to practice law in all or either of the courts of law or equity in this commonwealth, any former laws to the contrary notwithstanding — without paying any fees whatever for his licence or admission to practice in the said courts — subject nevertheless, to all other provisions of this act, as contained in the act for regulating the practice of attorneys.

Doctors of law to be made eligible to any office in this commonwealth —

Provided that the act for regulating the practice of attorneys as relates to barristers be repealed.