



PLAN FOR CONFERRING DEGREES ON THE STUDENTS OF LAW
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF WILLIAM AND MARY (ca. 1792)

Undated manuscript, in hand of St. George Tucker, second professor of law (1790-1804). Original in Tucker-Coleman Collection, Earl Gregg Swem Library; photocopy in special collections of Law Library, Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

Each Candidate for the Degree of Batchellor of Law shall have resided three years at the University, and attended at least two compleat 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 private examination by the professors either separately or collectively, 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 foederal 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 adpoted by our Constitution. He shall be well acquainted with the leading points of practice in the Law, and shall without the Aid of Books, or other assistance, produce some specimen of his Talents in this respect, on a subject proposed *ex tempore* by the Examining professor. Having undergone an examination by such of the professors as shall choose to examine him and being approved of 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 and found him duly qualified to practice the Law in all or any of the courts of Law within this Commonwealth, he shall compose a thesis upon some subject analogous to his profession, which shall be examined by the professors, & printed, after which if no moral objection be made against him on the Day of Commencement he shall receive his Degree.

After two years further residence, or four years of non-residence, a Graduate in Law may if he please, and if upon examination he be found duly qualified, take ye Degree of Master of Arts, and after four years residence from the time of taking his first Degree or eight years of non-residence or five years practice in Sup: Court he shall upon examination and being found duly qualified be admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Laws.

A student being so disposed, & 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 Judges of the Court of Appeals, or some of them & the Attorney General & Councilors to be present who are to be requested to examine the candidates.

Judges of the Land, Attorneys who have practiced for seven years at the Bar of the General Court or in the high Court of Chancery & Court of Appeals, may be admitted to the honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws.