

Cover Sheet: Request 15203

Adding experiential learning requirement and pro bono requirement to official curriculum and degree audit

Info

Process	Major Curriculum Modify Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending at PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)
Submitter	Krista Vaught kfields@law.ufl.edu
Created	7/28/2020 6:40:54 PM
Updated	8/27/2020 9:20:52 AM
Description of request	Adding experiential learning requirement and pro bono requirement to official curriculum and degree audit

Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	LAW - Juris Doctor 012406001	Rachel Inman		7/28/2020
JD program.docx					7/28/2020
College	Approved	LAW - College of Law	Rachel Inman		7/30/2020
No document changes					
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Approved	PV - Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Casey Griffith		8/27/2020
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			8/27/2020
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
Student Academic Support System					
No document changes					
Catalog					
No document changes					
Academic Assessment Committee Notified					
No document changes					
College Notified					
No document changes					

Major|Modify_Curriculum for request 15203

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Description of request: Adding experiential learning requirement and pro bono requirement to official curriculum and degree audit

Submitter: Krista Vaught kfields@law.ufl.edu

Created: 7/28/2020 6:38:23 PM

Form version: 1

Responses

Major Name LAW

Major Code JD

Degree Program Name Juris Doctor

Undergraduate Innovation Academy Program No

Effective Term Fall

Effective Year 2020

Current Curriculum for Major From our website: <https://www.law.ufl.edu/areas-of-study/degree-programs/juris-doctor/degree-requirements>

JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Degree requirements are as stated in the College of Law catalog in effect at the time of enrollment. For students who entered in fall 1994 or thereafter, requirements are as follows.

- Completion with a passing grade of courses totaling at least 88 semester credit hours, of which at least 59 must have been completed in this law school. No more than four of these credits can be earned through co-curricular activities. With permission from the Associate Dean for Students, upon good cause, work up to 29 semester hours from another ABA-accredited law school may be counted.
- Compliance with ABA Length of Study Rule: Standard (304c) requires that the course of study for the J.D. degree be completed no sooner than 24 months and no longer than 84 months after the student has commenced law study.
- Achievement of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average on all graded work attempted in the college.
- Satisfaction of Advanced Writing Requirement through the completion of a seminar (LAW 6936), an approved advanced course, an Independent Research—Advanced Writing Requirement course, an approved masters thesis or doctoral dissertation certified by a College of Law faculty member or through a note accepted for publication in a co-curricular law school journal as certified by the faculty adviser for the journal.

First-Year Requirements	Law	Credits
Contracts 5000	4	
Criminal Law 5100	3	
Torts 5700	4	
Legal Research 5803	1	
Legal Writing 5792	2	
Introduction to Lawyering	5755	2
Civil Procedure 5301	4	
Constitutional Law 5501	4	
Property 5400	4	
Appellate Advocacy 5793	2	

Upper-Level Requirements	Law	Credits
Legal Drafting 6955	2	
Professional Responsibility 6750	3	
Experiential Learning Credits (from clinics, field placements, simulations and externships – each student earns 2 credits from Introduction to Lawyering and 2 credits from Legal Drafting)		
Various Courses	6	
Pro Bono Service	40 hours	

Proposed Curriculum Changes Two graduation requirements need to be added to the official curriculum and the degree audit: an experiential learning requirement (which is a result of the American Bar Association Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools requirements) and a pro bono hours requirement.

Per Standards 303 and 304 of the American Bar Association, students must complete at least one or more experiential courses totaling at least six (6) credit hours. An experiential course is a simulation course, law clinic, or field placement.

Per our law school requirements for students starting in Fall 2018 or later, students must complete 40 hours of law-related pro bono service as a condition of graduation. Students report pro bono work to our Office of Career and Professional Development.

UF Online Curriculum Change No

Pedagogical Rationale/Justification The experiential learning requirement is a requirement of the American Bar Association, per Standard 303 of the Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools. Per Standard 303(a)(3), this means that an experiential course integrates doctrine, theory, skills, and legal ethics; develops concepts underlying the skills being taught; provides the student with opportunities to perform the skills; and provides the student with opportunities to self-evaluate. These align with our goal of preparing practice-ready lawyers. This requirement was integrated into our curriculum for students starting in Fall 2017 or later. Students select courses within the curriculum to meet the experiential credit requirement but the total number of credit hours they must complete has not changed. To reiterate, the experiential learning requirement was integrated into curriculum as an ABA accreditation requirement.

The pro bono hour requirement was added as multiple state boards of bar examiners, including New York, require pro bono hours. We prepare our students to be eligible to take the bar in any of the 51 jurisdictions, and the pro bono requirement assists students in meeting that eligibility requirement. We have required that all students meet the pro bono requirement since the entering class of Fall 2018, and incoming students are aware of this requirement. The mission of the pro bono program is to help students develop an awareness of their future ethical and professional responsibilities to provide service to their community. Participation in the program gives students the opportunity to perform valuable community service while learning about the legal needs of underserved and developing the legal skills necessary to help meet those needs.

Impact on Enrollment, Retention, Graduation These requirements are already in place, but do not appear on the degree audit. Adding them to the degree audit will allow students to more easily track progress toward graduation. Neither involves an increase in the number of credits students must complete to fulfill degree requirements.

Assessment Data Review The program goal of preparing and graduating JD students is relevant. We must also meet the requirements of the American Bar Association, and ensure that our students are eligible to take the bar in all 51 jurisdictions. These requirements are already in place, and updating the degree audit will not negatively affect our non-transfer attrition rate.

Academic Learning Compact and Academic Assessment Plan The experiential learning and pro bono requirements are not specifically mentioned in our Academic Assessment Plan at this time. Two additional pieces should be added to the Academic Assessment Plan:

- All graduating students will complete at least six hours of experiential learning courses.
- All graduating students will complete at least 40 hours of pro bono work.

Catalog Copy Yes

The College of Law combines traditional and innovative teaching methods to provide a dynamic professional program. The three-year Juris Doctor curriculum is designed to develop students' analytical ability, practical knowledge, communications skills, and an understanding of the codes of responsibility and ethics that are central to the practice of law. Students also may enroll in [certificate programs](#) offered in several popular practice areas.

Faculty employ a variety of teaching methods, including the traditional “case” and “Socratic” methods, as well as problems, simulations, and role-playing. Courses designed to develop and refine students' writing abilities are required each year. Seminars and advanced courses provide close interaction and individualized research. Clinical programs (simulated and live) allow students to develop skills in the context of real cases.

The required first-year curriculum teaches students to read and analyze cases, to research points of law efficiently and to express those points clearly in the context of subject matter basic to their legal education. Second- and third-year students choose from more than 100 elective courses and seminars covering all areas of law, both traditional and contemporary.

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