

**Southern Illinois University  
School of Law**

**Rules Relating to the Legal Clinic and Field Placements**

[Excerpted from School of Law Rules  
for AY 2012–13]

**ARTICLE III - ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**

**1. Grades and Grading System**

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- (d) Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading. [amended 10/17/07; 5/11/10] Students may earn academic credit for a grade of “S” in courses graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (“S/U”) basis only in one or more of the following circumstances. A student may earn no more than a total of 30 hours of academic credit for courses described in subsections (d)(i)–(d)(v) and for “credit/no credit” courses transferred under Rule II(3)(c)(ii). All credit awarded for courses graded on an S/U basis shall be excluded in calculating the student’s semester and cumulative GPAs.

...

- (iv) Special S/U Grading in Legal Clinic and Field Placement Courses. [amended 5/5/11] Legal Clinic and Field Placement courses shall be graded according to the following special grade scale:

Satisfactory+	Outstanding Work
Satisfactory	Meets all Requirements Satisfactorily
Satisfactory-	Meets Requirements Minimally
Unsatisfactory	Does Not Meet Minimal Requirement

**ARTICLE IV - SPECIAL RULES REGARDING CURRICULUM**

**1. Legal Clinic and Field Placements** [amended 5/5/11]

- (a) Legal Clinic Courses
- (i) Definition. Legal Clinic courses include skills training, work experience with real clients, and an introduction to the ethics of the legal profession. Students in these courses work under the direct supervision of a member

of the law school faculty or instructional staff whose primary professional employment is with the law school.

- (ii) Available Courses. The following Legal Clinic programs are currently available:
  - (A) Juvenile Justice Clinic;
  - (B) Civil Practice Clinic; and
  - (C) Domestic Violence Clinic.
- (iii) Academic Standing. First-year students are not eligible to enroll in Legal Clinic courses.
- (iv) Credit Hour Limitations [amended 1/2006; 9/22/09; 5/11/11]
  - (A) Students may apply a maximum of twelve hours of Legal Clinic credit toward the 90-hour graduation requirement. The normal clinic experience is three credit hours in a single Legal Clinic course per semester. With written permission from the Faculty Supervisor, however, who will consider the student's semester class schedule and other obligations as well as overall enrollment limitations as provided by Rule IV.5(a)(vi), a student may enroll in fewer than or more than three credit hours in a single semester. No student may enroll in more than six credit hours per semester in a single Legal Clinic course. A student may not enroll in more than one Legal Clinic course per semester except with the written permission of all involved Faculty Supervisors.
  - (B) No student may obtain more than six hours of academic credit in any one Legal Clinic course except with the written permission of the Clinic Director. A student seeking permission from the Clinic Director must demonstrate that the student will gain a substantially distinct educational experience as a result of enrolling in a Legal Clinic course for more than six credit hours. When making decisions about allowing a student to obtain more than six hours of academic credit in any one Legal Clinic course, the Clinic Director must take into account the overall enrollment limitations as provided by Rule IV.5(a)(vi), the requesting student's GPA, previous and future course selection, and other factors relevant at the time a student is making the request for additional credit. The decision to grant such permission lies in the sole discretion of the Clinic Director.

- (C) Students may not use Independent Research and Writing credit to extend participation in a Legal Clinic course beyond what is permitted by this rule.
  - (v) Pay and Credit. No student may receive pay for work in a Legal Clinic course for which the student also receives academic credit. [amended 5/11/11]
  - (vi) Enrollment Limitations. Enrollment in any of the Legal Clinic courses may be limited as necessary by the Clinic Director to ensure adequate student supervision by faculty and staff supervisors. [amended 1/2006; 5/5/11]
- (b) Field Placements [added 5/5/11]
- (i) Definition. Field Placements include externships outside of the regular law school classroom that provide students with an opportunity to engage in skills training, work experience with real clients, and an introduction to the ethics of the legal profession. Although course grades are determined by a Faculty Supervisor who is a member of the law school faculty, direct supervision of a student's work is done by a Field Supervisor.
  - (ii) Available Courses.
    - (A) Judicial Externships;
    - (B) Public Interest Externships; and
    - (C) Semester Away Externships.
  - (iii) Prerequisites [amended 1/2006; 4/15/08; 2/17/09; 9/22/09; 4/19/11; 5/5/11]
    - (A) Academic Standing. First-year students are not eligible to enroll in Field Placements.
    - (B) Public Interest and Semester Away Externships. The Public Interest and Semester Away Externships are open to students who have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.6 [2.45 for students who matriculated at the School of Law prior to June 9, 2008].
    - (C) Judicial Externship. The Judicial Externship is open to students who have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.6 [2.45 for students who matriculated at the School of Law prior to June 9, 2008] provided, however, that students with a GPA below 2.6 may be enrolled with the approval of the Faculty Supervisor after the Faculty Supervisor

has consulted with the student and the proposed judicial supervisor to determine if the placement would be appropriate. [amended 4/19/11]

(iv) Credit Hour Limitations

- (A) Students may apply a maximum of fifteen hours of credit toward the 90-credit graduation requirement from Field Placements, subject to the limitations specified in Rule III.5(c)(viii).
- (B) Judicial Externships and Public Interest Externships. No student may enroll in more than six credit hours per semester in a single Judicial Externship or Public Interest Externship. A student may not enroll in more than one Judicial Externship or Public Interest Externship per semester except with the written permission of all of the involved Faculty Supervisors. No student may obtain more than six hours of academic credit in any one Judicial Externship or Public Interest Externship while pursuing a J.D. degree except with the written permission of the Faculty Supervisor for that externship. A student seeking permission from the Faculty Supervisor must demonstrate that the student will gain a substantially distinct educational experience as a result of obtaining more than six hours of academic credit in a single Judicial Externship or Public Interest Externship. When making decisions about allowing a student to obtain more than six hours of academic credit in any one Judicial Externship or Public Interest Externship, the Faculty Supervisor must take into account the overall enrollment limitations as provided by Rule IV.5(b)(vi), the requesting student's GPA and previous and future course selection, and other factors relevant at the time a student is making the request for additional credit. The decision to grant such permission lies in the sole discretion of the Faculty Supervisor.
- (C) No student may enroll in more than nine credit hours per semester in a Semester Away Externship. No student may enroll in a Semester Away Externship and any other Field Placement in a single semester except with the written permission of all of the involved Faculty Supervisors. A student may obtain academic credit for no more than one Semester Away Externship while pursuing the J.D. degree.
- (D) Students may not use Independent Research and Writing credit to extend participation in Field Placements beyond what is permitted by this rule.

- (v) Pay and Credit. No student shall receive academic credit for participation in a Field Placement for which the student receives compensation. This does not prohibit reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses related to the Field Placement consistent with ABA Standard 305, Interpretation 305-3.
  
- (vi) Enrollment Limitations. Enrollment in any of the Field Placements may be limited as necessary by the Faculty Supervisor to ensure adequate student supervision by faculty and other supervisors.