

Southern Illinois University School of Law Rules Relating to Legal Clinic and Field Placements

[Excerpted from the School of Law Rules for AY 2024-2025]

ARTICLE III - ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

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- (d) Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading. [amended 10/17/07; 5/11/10; 5/6/16]
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 who matriculates at the School of Law on or after August 1, 2016, may earn no more than a total of 22 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); a student matriculating before August 1, 2016, may earn no more than 30 hours of such academic credit. All credit awarded for courses graded on an S/U basis shall be excluded in calculating the student’s semester and cumulative GPAs.
- (i) Courses Approved for S/U Grading. Except as otherwise provided in subsections d(ii)–(d)(v), a student may only enroll in a course for S/U grading if the faculty has approved the course for S/U grading for all students prior to the beginning of the registration period for that course. [amended 5/5/11]
- (ii) Required S/U Grading of Students with Special Relationship to Instructor. S/U grading of a student shall be required if the instructor has an extremely close personal or family relationship with the student. This provision is to be invoked sparingly and only in cases where the relationship is of such nature that the awarding of a high grade in the course may give the appearance of impropriety or an unfair competitive advantage. This rule should not be construed to apply to the normal student-faculty friendship that frequently develops through a course of communication over a three-year period of time.
- (iii) Special S/U Grading in Legal Clinic and Field Placement Courses. [amended 5/5/11; 3/31/23] Legal Clinic and Field Placement courses shall be graded according to the following special grade scale:
- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Satisfactory + | Outstanding Work |
| Satisfactory | |
| Unsatisfactory | |
- (iv) Courses Outside the School of Law. The student may receive S/U credit for one or more courses taken in the Graduate School or at the

undergraduate level at SUIC or SIUE satisfying all the requirements of Rule IV.7.

- (v) Transfer Students. The Registrar shall assign students who have been admitted to the Law School as transfer students a grade of “S” for courses taken at another law school for which the student receives academic credit at this Law School in accordance with Rule II.3.
- (vi) Summer School/Transient Students. The Registrar shall assign students who have been approved to take summer school courses at another ABA/AALS approved law school, or are transient students, a grade of “S” for courses taken at another law school for which the student receives academic credit at this Law School in accordance with Rule III.5(b).
- (vii) Extraordinary Circumstances. The Dean, after appropriate consultation, may approve a course for S/U grading in extraordinary circumstances, including but not limited to, the death, disability, or discharge of the instructor in the course.

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;
 - (C) Domestic Violence Clinic; and
 - (D) Veterans’ Legal Assistance Program 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; amended 9/15/23; 1/26/24]

(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) Residential Externships

(iii) Prerequisites [amended 1/2006; 4/15/08; 2/17/09; 9/22/09; 4/19/11; 5/5/11; 1/26/24]

- (A) Public Interest Externship. For students who matriculated prior to 2023, Public Interest and Externships are open to students who have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.600. For students who matriculated in 2023 and beyond, Public Interest Externships are open to students who are *eligible* to receive their Illinois 7/11 license. [amended 4/27/20; 1/26/24]
- (B) Judicial Externship. For students who matriculated prior to 2023, the Judicial Externship is open to students who have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.600, provided, however, that students with a GPA below 2.600 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. For students who matriculated in 2023 and beyond, Judicial Externships are open to students who are *eligible* to receive their Illinois 7/11 license. [amended 4/19/11; 1/26/24]
- (C) Residential Externship. Students enrolled in the Residential Externship spend a semester away from the law school at an approved satellite program working in a legal office and attend classes (in person and online). The Residential Externship is open to third-year law students with a cumulative GPA of 2.600 or above, and prior instructor approval. [added 9/15/23]

(iv) Credit Hour Limitations

- (A) Students who matriculated prior to 2023 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). Students who matriculated in 2023 or beyond may apply a maximum of nine hours of credit toward the 90-credit graduation requirement from Field Placements, subject to the limitations specified in Rule III.5(c)(viii). [amended 1/26/24]

- (B) Judicial Externships, Public Interest Externships. No student may enroll in more than six credit hours per semester in a single Judicial Externship, Public Interest Externship.. A student may not enroll in more than one 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 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 externship. When making decisions about allowing a student to obtain more than six hours of academic credit in any one externship, the Faculty Supervisor must take into account the overall enrollment limitations as provided by Rule IV.1(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. [amended 4/27/20]
 - (C) 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. If offered by the externship provider, students are eligible for and may accept compensation for their externships. [amended 4/27/20]
 - (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.