

Upper-level Writing Requirement

As you plan your academic program, please be aware that the upper-level writing requirement (Academic Rule 12 in the Announcements) requires all students to complete two substantive writing projects in order to graduate. Courses which satisfy an upper-level writing requirement are normally marked as such both within the course schedule document (as a footnote) and the Course Descriptions area. The Course Schedule and Registration websites also include an upper-level writing “mini” schedule, to help you identify writing courses for the semester. Please be aware that if a course is marked as an “Exam or Paper option”, then the **option is with the faculty member** to choose whether students may complete a project to satisfy the upper-level writing requirement. If you are unsure, please speak with the course professor before assuming you will be able to complete a requirement satisfying writing project.

The upper-level writing requirement must be met by completing a “practice-oriented” legal writing course listed in section A and then a second “academic/scholarly” legal writing course in one of the categories listed in section B **or** any two “practice-oriented” legal writing courses from the types listed in section A.

Section A

The practice-oriented legal writing requirement can be met by successfully completing one of the following courses with a grade of B- or above:

1. Appellate Advocacy
2. Legal Drafting (any variety)
3. Any graded course in which the student completes a writing portfolio will meet the requirements for an Applied Portfolio (Academic Rule 12.B.2.a).

Section B

The academic/scholarly writing requirement can be met by successfully completing one of the following courses with a grade of B- or above:

1. Law Journal Writing
2. Directed Research (DR): Any student enrolled in DR must attend a seminar in Academic Legal Writing*that covers topics related to the writing process. Writing requirement credit will not be posted for the DR unless the registrar receives verification that the student satisfactorily attended the Academic Writing seminar. The faculty member supervising the DR will be required to certify that each of the requirements of the Academic Rules has been met for each student using the DR to satisfy the writing requirement.

3. A Qualifying Course Paper (QP). Any student enrolled in a QP course must attend a seminar in Academic Legal Writing* that covers topics related to the writing process. While credit for the course will be awarded when the faculty member submits the grade, the QP course will not count toward satisfaction of the writing requirement unless the registrar receives verification that the student satisfactorily attended the Academic Writing seminar. The faculty member supervising the QP will be required to certify that each of the requirements of the Academic Rules has been met for each student using the QP to satisfy the writing requirement.

*** The Seminar in Academic Legal Writing will be a non-credit, three-hour seminar offered one time at the beginning of each semester.**

Experiential Learning Requirement

Students who began the J.D. program in the Fall 2016 term or later are required to fulfill the Experiential Learning Requirement. This requirement mandates that students shall satisfactorily complete one or more experiential courses for a total of at least **six** credit hours. At least **three** of these six credit hours must be earned in a transition-to-practice course.

An experiential course is a simulation course, a clinical course, a capstone course, or a field placement (i.e. legal externship) which is primarily experiential in nature; integrates doctrine, theory, skills and legal ethics; engages students in performance of one or more professional skills; develops skills underlying the professional skills being taught; provides multiple opportunities for performance; and provides opportunities for self evaluation. A full-list of the experiential courses offered in a given semester can be found on the Course and Exam Schedule website, within the “Experiential Learning” mini-schedule. Examples of experiential courses Mediation and Arbitration Skills; Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiating Skills; Legal Drafting; Appellate Advocacy; Trial Practice and the Columbus Community Legal Services clinics.

A transition-to-practice course is a clinic or capstone course which includes the general features of an experiential course and requires students to synthesize doctrine and skills; exercise professional judgment in the performance of a range of lawyering tasks in simulated or actual litigation, transactional matters, policy matters, or community legal education and training; assume a professional role and take responsibility for the progression or management of one or more simulated or actual cases, projects or matters; offers the opportunity to identify, analyze and resolve ethical issues in simulated or actual practice contexts; and includes a classroom instructional component involving the engagement of each students in skills performances that are assessed by the instructor. For a capstone course to qualify as a transition-to-practice course, the course must be offered for at least three credit hours. Examples of transition-to-practice courses include, CCLS clinics; Trial Practice; Legislation: The Making of a Federal Statue; Securities Regulation: Compliance; Advanced Criminal Procedure: Anatomy of a Homicide; and Labor and Employment Litigation Capstone.

Please Note: Credits earned in an experiential course may satisfy **both** the Experiential Learning Requirement and one of the two upper-level writing requirements if the experiential course is also designated as an upper-level writing course and the student satisfies all of the writing rule requirements. However, per American Bar Association rule, a student cannot “double-count”

more than once. For example, if a student has used a Legal Drafting course to fulfill one of the two upper-level writing requirements and three credits of the six credit Experiential Learning Requirement, then he or she cannot use Legislation: The Making of a Federal Statute to satisfy both the second upper-level writing requirement and the remainder of the Experiential Learning Requirement. In this case, this student would need to take one additional upper-level writing course or an additional Experiential Learning course of three or more credits in order to fully satisfy both requirements.