

Experiential Courses FAQ

Introduction

All Juris Doctor students must complete one or more experiential course(s) totaling at least six credit hours. There are three types of experiential courses: 1) simulation courses; 2) law clinics; and 3) externships. To satisfy the EL requirement, a course must be primarily experiential in nature and must:

- x integrate doctrine, theory, skills, and legal ethics, and engage students in performance of a professional skill;
- x develop the concepts underlying the professional skills being taught;
- x provide multiple opportunities for performance; and
- x provide opportunities for self-evaluation.

Note that six credit hours of experiential courses is a minimum, not a cap.

Frequently Asked Questions

DO I HAVE TO TAKE COURSES FROM ONE CATEGORY?

No, the graduation requirement allows any combination of simulation courses, externships, and clinics so long as the courses total at least 6 credit hours.

DO ALL EXTERNSHIPS HAVE A CLASSROOM COMPONENT?

Yes. There are four approved externship programs: Corporate Counsel Externship, Federal Judicial Externship, Government & Public Interest Externship, and Small and Mid-Size Firm Externship. Each is connected to a number of field placements. Students enrolling in the Corporate Counsel Externship, Federal Judicial Externship, and Small and Mid-Size Firm Externship must concurrently enroll in the classroom component, and may take that externship only once. Students enrolling in the externships in the Government & Public Interest Externship must concurrently enroll in the classroom component the first time they take such an externship. If a student subsequently enrolls in another field placement in the Government & Public Interest Externship, the student will be supervised by a Faculty Supervisor but does not need to enroll in the classroom component a second time.

HOW MANY HOURS OF AN EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM COUNT TOWARD THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING REQUIREMENT?

The hours allocated to the entire program count toward the EL requirement. In other words, the following number of hours count toward the EL requirement for each program

- x Federal Judicial Externship (3 hours);
- x Corporate Counsel Externship (10 hours); and
- x Government & Public Interest Externship (14 hours, as the case may be)
- x Small and Mid-Size Firm Externship (3 hours)

IS THERE A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH EXTERNSHIP FIELD PLACEMENT CREDIT I CAN APPLY TOWARD MY J.D.?

Yes. Students may apply no more than 6 credit hours from externship field placement work toward their J.D. degree. However, the hours allocated to the classroom component don't count toward this limit. The field placement hours that do count toward the limit are:

- x Federal Judicial Externship (2 hours);
- x Corporate Counsel Externship (2 hours);
- x Government & Public Interest Externship (3 hours) and
- x Small and Mid-Size Firm Externship (2 hours)

Therefore, think carefully when making decisions about enrolling in externships for credit. You wouldn't want to run out of hours before enrolling in the externship of your dreams.

MAY I TAKE MORE THAN ONE EXTERNSHIP, OR AN EXTERNSHIP AND A LAW SCHOOL CLINIC AT THE SAME TIME?

Students enrolled in the Federal Judicial Externship Course are not allowed to do so. As to the others, it is often prohibited but sometimes permitted. We strongly suggest that you do so. If you do hope to take more than one externship, or both a clinic and an externship, at the same time, you must consult both the clinic director and externship faculty supervisors involved to get permission to do both in the same semester.

I'M ON A BOA INTERSCHOOL MOOT COURT OR MOCK TRIAL TEAM.

x CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR IT?

x DOES THAT CREDIT COUNT TOWARD THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING REQUIREMENT?