

Chapter Three: Academic Rules, Policies, and Procedures

Section 2: Curriculum Requirements

A. Required Courses

In addition to the Graduation Requirement described in Section 1 of this Chapter, students are required to pass all first year and upper division required courses as listed below.

First Year Required Courses (28 credits):

- Civil Dispute Resolution (4 credits)
- Torts: The Common Law Process (4 credits)
- Criminal Law: Statutory Interpretation (3 credits)
- Contracts: Transactional Law (4 credits)
- Property: Jurisprudential and Comparative Analysis (4 credits) – *see Note 1 below*
- Liberties: Advanced Legal Reasoning (3 credits)
- Writing and Representation: Advocacy and Problem Solving (6 credits)

Upper Division Requirements:

- Professional Responsibility (3 credits) – *see Note 2 below*.
- Constitutional Law/Powers (2 or 3 credits) – *see Note 3 below*
- 6 credits in Experiential Courses
- Advocacy (3 credits) – satisfies 3 credits of Experiential Courses – *see Note 4 below*
- Upper Level Advanced Research and Writing (fulfilled through various courses, seminars, clinics, journals/law review, or independent study/research) – *see Section B below*

Note 1 – HUSL legacy students who have successfully completed the 3-credit Property class are considered to have satisfied this requirement.

Note 2 -- HUSL legacy students who have successfully completed Practice, Problem-Solving and Professional Responsibility are not required (and are not eligible) to take Professional Responsibility.

Note 3 – HUSL legacy students who matriculated prior to 2015 are not required to take this course.

Note 4 – HUSL legacy students who have successfully completed Legal Research and Writing III: Litigation are not required (and are not eligible) to take Advocacy. HUSL legacy student who have successfully completed Trial Advocacy are not required or permitted to take Advocacy.

B. Advanced Research and Writing Requirement

All students must write an Advanced Research & Writing (“ARW”) paper as a requirement for graduation. Students are required to complete this requirement after their first year and are strongly advised to complete it before their final semester.

Purpose & Content

The ARW requirement is consistent with American Bar Association accreditation standard 302, which requires a “rigorous writing experience” after the first year. It is designed to reflect two key aspects of the practice of law identified in the American Bar Association’s Model Rules of Professional Responsibility. First, a lawyer is a counselor who is expected to “exercise independent professional judgment and render candid advice.”¹ Second, a lawyer “is a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system and a public citizen having special responsibility for the quality of justice.”²

The ARW paper furthers five competencies essential to law practice:

- (1) Legal research;
- (2) Fact Investigation;
- (3) Writing, including organization, grammar, and style;
- (4) Strong personal work ethic and time management; and
- (5) Creative problem-solving

Although many ARW papers will take the form of a law review-style essay, other kinds of writing may also satisfy the requirement. In each case, the focus is on using the competencies identified above to identify and solve a problem of the sort confronted by lawyers. Description and regurgitation are not enough.

Here are some illustrations:

Unlikely to satisfy ARW requirement	Likely to satisfy ARW requirement
Essay describing a new case about the rights of homeless people	Essay assessing current homelessness and proposing new legislative approach
Business agreement based entirely (or nearly so) on a model or form document	Business agreement requiring substantial transactional analysis and problem- solving
Clinic brief reusing legal arguments made in other clinic cases; moot court brief relying on facts supplied by competition organizers	Clinic brief or amicus brief requiring development of facts and presenting novel legal arguments

Permission and Credits

ARW papers are usually written under the supervision of a full-time faculty member. Supervision by an adjunct faculty member is permitted only if the paper is completed as part of an ARW-designated course taught by that adjunct faculty member or, in rare circumstances, if the paper is completed as part of an Independent Research Project.

ARW-designated Courses

Some courses are designated by the Curriculum Committee as satisfying the ARW requirement. Because of the intensive work required between class sessions, three-credit ARW courses meet for

¹ ABA MODEL RULES OF PROF'L CONDUCT R. 2-1.

² ABA MODEL RULES OF PROF'L CONDUCT pmb1.

two hours each week. Students who wish to take the course without fulfilling the ARW requirement will register for two credits, rather than three.

Journals

Papers written for law review or journal articles require the advance permission of the journal's Editorial Board, in addition to approval of a supervising professor. Such a paper receives the credit normally associated with journal service.

Independent Research Project

A student may write an ARW paper as an independent research project (see additional information under Independent Research in Course Descriptions found in the Current Student portion of the Mitchell Hamline website). Students ordinarily receive one or two credits for Independent Research projects, although in rare circumstances, three or four credits may be approved.

Format

Regardless of form or genre, ARW papers shall ordinarily be at least 8,500 words. This requirement is meant to ensure that the project is substantial enough to measure and develop the five competencies identified above and to provide a summative writing experience for the student. Beyond the length requirement, formats will vary according to context and should be appropriate to the genre of the writing project. So, for example, essays should generally adhere to law review style conventions, while briefs must adhere to good citation practices and the relevant jurisdiction's filing rules. Prior to the first draft, the student and supervising faculty shall identify the appropriate format for the paper.

Writing Process and Deadlines

Unless the supervising faculty member requires otherwise, the paper is required to be written in the following stages:

- outline
- research plan
- partial first draft covering one or two parts of the paper
- full draft of all elements of the paper
- second full draft of all elements
- final paper

Students should expect significant feedback from their faculty supervisors at each of these stages.

Missed deadlines may be taken into account in grading, particularly if the student does not obtain an extension until after the deadline has passed. Final papers are due no later than the last day of class for the semester. An extension of the final due date must be requested in advance and must be approved by the instructor. Students requesting a change should complete a "Request for Extension" form and submit this form to the Dean of Student Affairs and Student Life. This form can be found at <http://mitchellhamline.edu/students/forms/>.

After the ARW paper is completed, the student should fill out and have the supervising faculty member sign an Advanced Research & Writing Certification form available at <http://mitchellhamline.edu/students/forms/>. The signed form must be submitted to the Registrar in order for the ARW requirement to be satisfied.