

Writing Requirements for Students Starting the First Year of Law School *Fall 2008 or later*

In order to qualify to receive the J.D. degree, a student entering the law school in fall 2008 or later must satisfy each of two writing requirements:

- (1) the “writing intensive experience” requirement, and
- (2) the “capstone writing” requirement, as follows:

1. Writing intensive experience. The student must successfully complete a “writing intensive experience.”

This requirement may be met in any of three ways:

(a) The student successfully completes a course that has been designated by the Curriculum Committee as a “writing intensive” course. Courses will be designated as writing intensive courses only if they include *substantial instruction and feedback on writing skills as a central component of the class*, apart from any coverage of an area of substantive law.

(b) The student successfully completes a course in which the instructor certifies, upon completion of the course, that the student’s work in the course was a “writing intensive” experience. Work will qualify for this designation only if it includes *substantial instruction or coaching, and feedback, on writing skills as a central component of the work*, apart from any coverage of an area of substantive law.

(c) The student successfully completes an independent study project that upon its completion is certified by the supervising faculty member to have been a “writing intensive” independent study project. Projects will qualify for this designation only if they include *substantial coaching and feedback on writing skills as a central component of the project*, apart from any coverage of an area of substantive law.

The course or project must be graded by a faculty member, and receive a grade of “C” or better; or a faculty member must certify to the Registrar that the student’s written work would, if graded, receive a grade of “C” or better.

2. Capstone writing experience. The student must successfully complete a course or independent study project which, upon its completion, the instructor or supervising faculty member certifies was a “capstone writing” experience for the student. Courses and independent study projects will qualify for this designation only if they *require a significant written product that involves complex legal analysis and the use of sophisticated writing skills*. The written product must involve a mandatory rewrite after a draft has been reviewed and commented upon by the faculty member grading the written product; the final product must be reasonably responsive to the commentary and criticism received. The course or project must be graded by a faculty member and receive a grade of “C” or better.

This requirement cannot be satisfied by a course, paper, or other experience supervised by an adjunct faculty member without *prior* approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Students are strongly encouraged to complete the “writing intensive experience” before undertaking the “capstone writing” project.

The following rules are applicable to both the “writing intensive experience” requirement and the “capstone writing” requirement:

- A. The course or project must be undertaken for academic credit for at least two semester hours.
- B. The student’s written work must demonstrate articulate, thoughtful, and well structured analysis of the subject matter, based on careful and competent research.
- C. No one course, project, or written product may be used to satisfy both the “writing

intensive experience” requirement and the “capstone writing” requirement.