

As Adopted by the Faculty – November 8, 2007
Upper Level Writing Requirement

Policy:

Each student must satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement by, after completing the first year, taking a letter-graded course in which the student will complete an academic paper of a minimum of between twenty and twenty-five pages (not counting endnotes or footnotes) or an equivalent substantial writing project(s). In a course with one academic paper, the student will submit a draft, receive a critique from the instructor, and respond to the critique by submitting a revised version of the paper. In a course with an equivalent substantial writing assignment(s), the instructor may choose alternate formats that achieve the goal of student writing, instructor critique, and additional student writing following the critique. The Registrar will prepare regularly a list of courses that satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement. Normally, the instructor will limit enrollment in the course at between twelve and twenty. The instructor may offer the course in either a two credit or three credit format.

A course may entail both a substantial writing project and skills performances, and accordingly afford a student the opportunity to satisfy either the Upper Level Writing Requirement or the Skills Requirement. The student may choose which requirement the course satisfies, but may not count the same course toward both requirements simultaneously.

This policy goes into effect beginning with the Class of 2010.

Recommendations:

A) The faculty suggest that if, during a particular semester, the number of courses satisfying the Upper Level Writing Requirement permits, instructors of those courses should consider limiting enrollment at the middle or low end of the normal enrollment range.

B) The faculty suggest that, when possible, the Law School should: (1) offer at least five courses satisfying the Upper Level Writing Requirement during each semester, and an appropriate number of courses during the summer depending on enrollment; (2) ensure that tenured and tenure-track faculty teach at least 50% of those courses; and (3) ensure that instructors not resident in the Law Center or a related program teach no more than 20% of those courses.

C) The faculty encourage the Law School to promote excellent student writing by: (1) establishing significant monetary or scholarship prizes for the best student writing produced during each semester; and (2) funding electronic submission costs of student papers recommended for publication by the instructor.

D) The faculty suggest that the Curriculum Committee should review periodically the courses that satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement.