

**Upper Level Writing Requirement  
(adopted and effective Oct. 20, 2021)**

Each student may satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement (“ULWR”) by taking a letter-graded course in which the student completes an academic paper of a minimum of 5,000 words excluding endnotes and 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 ULWR. 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 ULWR or the Skills Requirement. The student may choose which requirement the course satisfies, but may not count the same course toward both requirements simultaneously.

A student may satisfy the ULWR by completing eligible writing classes, as identified by the Registrar or pursuant to an Individual Study I or II, that are less than 3 credits provided that a total of at least 3 credits are earned in such courses. For such a 1-credit course, the writing must be at least 1,250 words, and for such a 2-credit course, the writing must be at least 3,000 words, in each case excluding footnotes.

Recommendations:

A) The faculty suggest that if, during a particular semester, the number of courses satisfying the ULWR 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 ULWR 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 and Practices Committee should review periodically the courses that satisfy the ULWR.