

Substantial Upper Level Writing Requirement Fact Sheet

(formerly Upper Credit Writing Requirement)

Why? You must satisfy the Substantial Upper Level Writing Requirement in order to graduate.

When? After completing the first-year legal writing courses.

What? The Substantial ULWR product consists of significant supervised research and writing. It may consist of a single written work product or may be a series of combined documents. Your product must achieve all of the following guidelines to satisfy the Substantial ULWR:

1. A significant research experience;
2. An opportunity for in-depth study and analysis (involving sustained reflection) of a particular area of the law;
3. An opportunity to articulate your own ideas and evaluation of the law;
4. A faculty-supervised writing experience involving meaningful feedback on at least one rewrite of a substantial piece of your writing. Additional rewrites may also be required. You will be graded not only on the final product but also on the first draft submitted (at least 35% of the final paper grade); and
5. A well-written-and-researched analytical paper or brief of at least 5,000 words and more typically will contain 10,000 words (excluding footnotes).

Additionally, your writing must be on the level of serious work of a serious attorney and you must earn a minimum grade of "C."

How? You may satisfy the Substantial ULWR in one of the following ways:

1. A paper submitted in a course or seminar;
2. An upper class writing course in which the student writes one major paper;
3. An upper class writing course in which the student writes several papers that are each shorter than the typical length for a single Substantial ULWR paper but which are designed to satisfy the goals of the Substantial ULWR and have been approved for this purpose by the Director of Legal Writing;
4. A significant written work, produced substantially by the individual student in a professional skills course, which has been reviewed by the faculty member who certifies that it satisfies the goals of the Substantial ULWR;
5. The written product of a faculty supervised independent research project.

What classes fulfill the Substantial ULWR*?

The following classes can be used to complete the Substantial ULWR:

Adv. Bankruptcy Colloquium
Appellate Advocacy
Bioethics and Public Policy Seminar
Comparative Constitutional Law
Critical Race Theory
Cybersecurity Law and Political Practice
Disability Law
Discovery Workshop
Federal Tax Practice & Procedure
Fundamentals of Legal Drafting
Fundamentals of Legal Drafting: Transactions
Fundamentals of Legal Drafting: Litigation
Healthcare Regulation: Compliance
Immigration Workshop
Independent Research
International Human Rights and IP Seminar (With Professor Approval)
Law & Capitalism in US History
Lawyers Leading Change
Mental Health Law
National Security Law
National Security & Human Rights Law
Native American Law
Pension Rights and Executive Compensation
Rule of Law, Nazi Law, and War Crimes
Special Education Law Seminar
Telecommunications Law
US Trade and Customs Law
Writing for the Trial Lawyer
Other Courses with Professor Approval

*Completing any of the courses listed above does not *automatically* count as completion of the Substantial ULWR. It is the students' responsibility to ensure their work product meets the specific requirements outlined above.