Cornell Law School
Supervised Writing, Supervised Teaching, & Lawyering Honors Program
Supervised Writing/Teaching

Fall 2018

You will need to print this form and have it signed by the instructor(s).

You must also register for the course and return the signed form to the Law School Registrar’s Office by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, August 29.

1. Please select the option you are registering for:

[  ] Supervised Writing [ ] Check if the writing will continue for two semesters. Available with permanent faculty members [adjuncts, visitors, and others who are not members of the permanent faculty may supervise such courses only with the written consent of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs].

[  ] Supervised Teaching

[  ] Lawyering Honors Program Supervised Teaching/Supervised Writing

Details about the options are on page 2 of this form.

[  ] Thesis [may enroll in a maximum of 5 credits]

2. Please provide the following information.

(Note: for Lawyering Honors Program topic details are not required.)

Student’s Name: (please print)__________________________________________

Topic: ________________________________________________________________

Credit Hours: __________________________
(To be determined before the semester begins)

Faculty Signature: ______________________________________________________

Please print faculty name: _______________________________________________

Date: __________________________

3. In addition to completing this form you must also register online for this course by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, August 29.
Credit limitation:

Students may take no more than 20 credits outside of regularly scheduled law school classes. These 20 credits include full-term externships, part-time externships, directed readings, supervised writings, supervised teaching (including Lawyering Honors Fellows), courses taught in other university divisions, and clinics taught by instructors whose primary professional employment is not within the Law School. In the past, very few law students (if any) exceeded such a 20-credit limitation on nonregularly scheduled courses. However, particularly for those interested in doing a full-term externship, advance planning will be more critical to avoid disappointment. See ABA Standard 311 and Interpretation 311-1(b). http://www.abanet.org/legaled/standards/2009-2010%20StandardsWebContent/Chapter3.pdf

In connection with this change, the current limits on the total number of each category of credit will be removed, except that we will continue to allow a maximum of twelve credits from courses in other university divisions. We will also continue to apply the per course limits and the per semester limits on such courses as directed readings and supervised writings. For example, a student will now be able to do twelve credits of supervised writing (compared to the three-credit overall limit in the past). However, only one three-credit supervised writing course will be allowed per semester. As another example, directed readings are currently limited to two credits. Under the new approach, students would be able to take a two-credit directed reading each upperclass semester for a total of 8 credits. All externships and identified clinics and directed reading, supervised writing and supervised teaching will be graded S/U. (Note that students will continue to have the ability to take two graded upperclass courses S/U if that option is made available by the course instructor).

Writing Requirement: For J.D. students, Supervised Writing may not be used to fulfill the writing requirement. For LL.M. students, a 3-credit Supervised Writing may be used to fulfill the writing requirement.

Supervised Writing

Second- and third-year students may do supervised research and write on topics of their choice for academic credit. The work is done during the academic year under the supervision of a law faculty member. Students may not earn more than 3 credit hours for supervised written work in one semester.

Available with permanent law faculty members [adjuncts, visitors, and others who are not members of the permanent faculty may supervise such courses only with the written consent of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs].

Arrangements for the supervised writing program are made by the student with a faculty member who agrees to undertake this responsibility. In determining whether to do so, a faculty member may require the student to submit a detailed outline of the proposed paper, as well as a summary of previous writing on the subject or other appropriate information. Normally a faculty member also requires that the student complete, as a prerequisite, the basic course or courses in the chosen area.

A student who is accepted in the program must submit outlines and drafts to the faculty member for review and discussion on a regular basis. Students may earn 1, 2, or in exceptional situations, 3 credit hours for any project of supervised writing. The amount of credit is determined by the supervising instructor at the outset of the project, based on its difficulty and magnitude. Projects for 2 or 3 credit hours may be carried over an entire academic year, for part of the total credit in each term.

Students must complete a single long paper (15-20 pages per credit hour) or an equivalent series of shorter papers.

Work that has been done in another context, such as a summer job, the Cornell Law Review, the Cornell International Law Journal, or legal aid, may not be used for supervised writing credit; however, a paper that represents a substantial further development of work done in one of those contexts may be used. Neither remedial work by the student nor routine research assistance for the faculty member are appropriate projects in this program. Instead, the research and writing should be scholarly and independent. Grading will be on an S/U basis.

Supervised Teaching

Second- and third-year students may provide supervised teaching assistance for 1 or 2 credit hours in a semester in connection with a law-related course given by a law faculty member elsewhere in the university, or with any Law School course for which the course description approved by the whole faculty specifies the terms and duties of the supervised teaching component. Grading will be on an S/U basis.

For supervised teaching and any Lawyering Program Honors Fellowship combined, a student cannot receive more than 2 credit hours in the same course in one semester (or semester portion of a year-long course) or in any one semester. Grading will be on an S/U basis.