

Class of 2019

Strategies on Selecting Classes & Opportunities: *Advice to Plan Your 2L & 3L Years*

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ESSENTIAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- **86 total units of coursework (AR101)**
 - Maximum of 20 units for non-classroom work (AR1203)
 - E.g., clinic/externship *fieldwork*, independent study, TA, RA, competition team, journal

- **Full-time enrollment for six semesters (AR101)**
 - 12 units each semester for full-time status (AR201; exceptions in AR202-204)
 - Students in final semester may petition for reduced course load (AR106)
 - Accelerated graduation in five semesters requires 12-16 units over two summer sessions (AR104)

- **Moot Court (AR701)**
 - Enroll in Spring of 2L year if Legal Analysis taken 1L year

- **Ethics Requirement (AR702)**
 - Satisfying courses: Legal Ethics / Professional Responsibility / Roles & Ethics in Practice
 - Earn a grade of C or better

- **Writing Requirement (AR703)**
 - Substantial research paper demonstrating professional and scholarly proficiency in research, analysis, and writing
 - Satisfy with seminar or 2-unit independent study
 - Qualifying seminars identified in catalog & WebAdvisor
 - Earn a grade of C or better
 - Faculty certification required

- **Experiential Requirement (AR704)**
 - Six units of experiential courses
 - E.g., trial and appellate advocacy, ADR, counseling, interviewing, negotiating, problem solving, factual investigation, organization and management of legal work, legal drafting
 - Qualifying courses identified in course catalog & Webadvisor
 - Earn a grade of C or better, or CR if mandatory CR/NC
 - May not use same course to satisfy Writing requirement

New ABA Requirement re EXPERIENTIAL course load

The ABA is now recognizing what UC Hastings has long known: gaining practical experience is an essential component of your legal training! **Beginning with the Class of 2019, all law students at ABA-accredited law schools must take at least 6 units of experiential coursework** before they graduate. Many of you will want to take many more than six units.

You can earn these units through three different types of courses: **clinics, field placements** (also known as externships), or **simulation courses**.

1. What should I know about Clinics?

A **CLINIC** is an *on-campus law office* in which *students take lead responsibility* to serve real parties under the *supervision of a UC Hastings faculty member* and earn academic and fieldwork credit.

Why do a clinic?

- Clinics are designed to maximize your learning.
 - Cases are selected to give you *lead responsibility* and a *start-to-finish experience* within the semester.
 - Faculty supervisors are there to train and support you, to give you individualized feedback, and to guide you to develop your vision of the sort of lawyer you aspire to become.
- You'll learn firsthand
 - how law is applied in the real world
 - how it feels to be responsible for a case and client
 - what it's like to develop and prove facts
 - the impacts of your work on people's and businesses' lives.

What kinds of in-house clinics do we have at Hastings and what skills do they teach?

- You will do **policy advocacy** in our [Community Economic Development Clinic](#).
- You will learn to **litigate** (in court or before administrative judges) in our [Individual Representation Clinic](#) and our [Refugee & Human Rights Clinic](#).
- You will learn **transactional** skills in our [Business Tax Practicum](#), our [Medical Legal Partnership for Seniors](#), and our [Social Enterprise & Economic Empowerment Clinic](#).
- You will learn and apply **dispute resolution** skills in our [Mediation Clinic](#).
- In these clinics, you'll also learn about interviewing, counseling, fact investigation, negotiating, persuasive storytelling, project planning, time management and much more.

What if I don't plan to focus on the subject matter of any of the clinics?

- Don't let this stop you! **Skills** and ideas about lawyering that you refine in a clinic **are readily transferrable** to other areas of law. Any experience of taking lead responsibility for lawyering tasks will reflect well on your resume and in interviews

The Nitty Gritty

- You can take most clinics starting in Fall semester of your 2L year.
- Most are 6-8 units (20+ hours per week).
- Many have a common application process that runs in April.

To learn more go to: <http://www.uchastings.edu/academics/clinical-programs/clinics/index.php>.

2. What should I know about Field Placements?

In a **FIELD PLACEMENT** (also known as an externship), you will work on legal matters in an *outside law office, agency, or court* and earn credit for the experience. Your work is *supervised by a site supervisor* at the agency or court, and a faculty supervisor teaches an accompanying seminar.

Where can I extern?

- You can earn credit for working in a court or in a non-profit or government agency (in a practice area not covered by one of our clinics or *after* you have taken a clinic).
- **Judicial field externships** include the trial and appellate courts, at the state and federal level, as well as specialty courts (family law, immigration court) and agency courts.
- **Legal externships** include non-profit and governmental organizations that cover nearly every subject matter area.
- Some of our field placements have “Clinic” in their title:
 - In the **Criminal Practice Clinic**, students work in a local District Attorney’s or Public Defender’s office – handling motions and evidentiary hearings or trials.
 - In the **Local Government Clinic**, students work at a city attorney’s office.
 - In the **Environmental Clinic**, students work at a non-profit or government agency.
- **UCDC** is a program where you work in DC for a semester.
- **Lawyers for America** enables you to work at an agency your third year and be paid to work there the year after graduation.

How are Field Placements different from Clinics?

- You get to see a busy, real-world court or law office – and learn from observing too.
- You may have a start-to-finish experience or you may work on pieces of a case or project.
- Your site supervisor will also be handling her/his own caseload.

The Nitty Gritty

- You can start earning credit for an externship starting in your **4th semester**.
- Legal field placements are for 4-5 units; Judicial field placements are for 4-10 units.
- The Criminal Practice Clinic, Lawyers for America, and UCDC are close to full-time placements and provide 10-12 units of credit.
- For most field placements, you apply as you would for a summer position. You can find job postings on Hastings Career Online or on specific websites.
- Information on prior student experiences with specific judges and agencies can be reviewed in the Externship Office in Suite 350 of the Tower.

3. What should I know about Simulation Classes?

In a **SIMULATION CLASS**, you will practice one or more lawyering skills (e.g., appellate advocacy, contract-drafting, negotiation, taking depositions, witness examination) in **simulated settings** (often based on real cases).

- You will receive training and feedback on your performance of those skills from instructors who are either full-time UC Hastings faculty or adjunct professors from practice.
- Examples include: Negotiation, Trial Advocacy I & II, Commercial Contract Drafting, Taking and Defending Depositions

All these clinics, field placements, and simulation classes are great ways to gain practical experience – by doing what lawyers do and learning from that experience. **Try all three kinds!**

Career Opportunities to Keep in Mind Your 2L Year

1. Judicial Clerkships

What is a “Judicial Clerkship”?

A Judicial clerkship is a paid post graduate job in which you work for a judge for one to two years after you graduate.

What Courts do law clerks work in?

Judicial clerks work in federal and state courts, specialty courts, as well as administrative law agencies at the state and federal level.

What makes a good law clerk?

Someone who enjoys research and writing, attention to detail, and working in small quarters with a judge and his or her staff.

Timeline?

You can start applying **July 1st, 2017**. You can continue to apply throughout your time in law school and after you graduate.

What do you need?

A resume, cover letter, grade sheet, 5 to 10 page writing sample, and three letters of recommendation. (i.e., Two from a Professor and one from an employer who knows your work product).

What can you do to prepare?

Get to know your professors. You will be asking them for letters of recommendation and the better they know you, the stronger your letter will be. Have your resume and cover letter reviewed by the Judicial Clerkship counselor Fairuz Abdullah in the Career Office. Develop a strong writing sample during your first year LWR and Moot Court classes.

Who should you speak to?

Meet with the Associate Director of Public Interest Programs Fairuz Abdullah in the Career Office who counsels students on the clerkship process. Meet with Professors on the Judicial Clerkship Committee: Professor(s) Rory Little (Chair), Zachary Price, and Lisa Faigman. You can also meet with former members of the Committee/Friends of the Committee: Professor(s) Richard Marcus, Evan Lee, Robin Feldman, Abe Cable, Marsha Cohen, David Takacs, Eumi Lee and Jared Ellias.

Where can I find information?

You can find information on the Judicial Clerkships page of Hastings Careers Online (HCO) www.hastingscareersonline.com where you will find clerkship FAQ's (frequently asked questions), list of alumni clerks, alumni judges, faculty who have clerked, and information on federal, state, and administrative law clerkships.

What do law clerks do?

Judicial law clerks perform a variety of tasks for a judge that differ depending on the court they are working in and the expectation of the judge they are working for. These include conducting legal research, drafting opinions, preparing bench, research and trial memorandum, performing legal analysis, briefing your judge on various legal issues, and helping the judge make legal determinations. A law clerk in a trial court may support all aspects of litigation which include making recommendations on papers that are filed, attending settlement conferences, and preparing trial memorandum. An appellate-level law clerk's work can be described as more academic. The clerk participates in all levels of the appeals process such as screening cases to decide which ones the court should hear oral arguments for, reviewing the trial transcripts and evidence, drafting bench memorandum, and summarizing parties' briefs before oral argument and drafting the court's opinion.

2. Post-Graduate Public Interest Fellowship

What is a post-graduate public interest fellowship?

It is funding for graduates to work on social justice issues for a fixed amount of time, usually one to two years.

What is the benefit of applying?

You can create your own public interest job. You can work in a non-profit to alleviate inequity and fight injustice. You can create your own project or work with a non-profit to advance its mission. Fellowships provide recent graduates with an excellent opportunity to get a start in the public interest legal field.

What type of fellowships are available?

- **Organizational:** In house fellowship in which the organization hiring the fellow is also funding the fellow. The applicant applies to work for one to two years on an existing project created by the organization. Applications usually require a cover letter/statement of interest, resume, writing sample, letter of recommendation, and/or references (*Some organizational fellowships:* Equal Justice Society, ACLU, Equal Rights Advocates).
- **Project Based:** Are funded by an outside organization to work with a host organization on a project designed by the fellow. The fellow applies to a fellowship funding organization that funds the project, not to the host organization. (*Some project based fellowships:* Equal Justice Works, Soros, Skadden).

Where can I find information?

Take a look at www.psjd.org. There are hundreds of fellowship opportunities available.

Timeline?

Most applications are due early in your 3L year. However, for project based fellowships, you should start thinking about securing a sponsoring organization during the spring of your 2L year and into the summer.

Who should you speak to?

Make an appointment with Fairuz Abdullah who counsels students on public interest positions. Also, meet with a clinical faculty member. Start with members of your Inn.

3. Lawyers for America (LfA)

What is Lawyers for America?

LfA is a two year fellowship program designed to provide hands on legal experience to law students in the public and nonprofit sector starting in the third year of law school, followed by a post-graduate year of full-time employment.

What is the benefit of applying?

LfA provides practical experience at a single placement site to enable the in-depth learning and skill-building that develops from hands on experience. You will be paid during your post-graduate year.

What is the benefit to students?

Students receive on the job training in a field of interest while in school and have a job lined up when they graduate. Fellows' externship fieldwork is supervised by clinical faculty during their third year. They will have far more extensive training and practical experience by the end of their fellowship than their peers have at the same point in their careers, a benefit when seeking permanent positions. Fellows are placed in the offices of district attorneys, public defenders, nonprofits, and government.

Timeline?

Applications are due early in the spring of your 2L year.

Who should you speak to?

Professor Mai Linh Spencer or Professor Marsha Cohen (visit the *Lawyers for America* Page on the UC Hastings website).

Bar Preparedness and Academic Planning

Awareness of the relationship between what the bar exam tests and the courses offered at UC Hastings will assist students with academic planning for the 2L and 3L years. For detailed information on the bar exam, admissions requirements, and Hastings' bar passage support resources, please visit the Bar Passage Support Resources webpage <http://uchastings.edu/barsupport>.

1. Hastings Courses that Cover Bar-Tested Subjects or Teach Bar Test-Taking Skills

Bar Subjects	Hastings Courses
Constitutional Law	Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, Constitutional Law III
Contracts	Contracts I, Contracts II, Sales and Lease of Goods
Criminal Law and Procedure	Criminal Law I, Criminal Procedure, Criminal Procedure the Adjudicative Process
Evidence (Federal and California)	Evidence
Federal Civil Procedure	Civil Procedure I, Civil Procedure II, Civil Procedure II: Law and Process
Torts	Torts
Real Property	Real Property
Business Associations	Business Associations and Introduction to Federal Securities Law
California Civil Procedure	California Civil Procedure
Community Property (California)	California Community Property, Community Property
Remedies	Remedies, Remedies: Doctrine and Practice
Wills (California) and Trusts	Wills and Trusts
Professional Responsibility (California and ABA)	Professional Responsibility, Legal Ethics & the Practice of Law, Roles & Ethics in Law

Examples of Courses that Teach Bar Test Taking Skills

Critical Studies

Doctrinal/Legal Analysis Hybrid Courses (e.g. Civil Procedure II: Law and Process and Remedies: Doctrine and Practice)

Advanced Legal Writing

2. Hastings' Bar Prep Extracurricular Resources

In addition to courses that help you prepare for the bar exam, we offer a number of extracurricular resources that you can access during your 2L and 3L years. These include:

1:1 Bar Prep Advising: If you would like to schedule a 1:1 bar prep advising appointment, please email Academic and Professional Success Lecturer Margaret Greer at mgreer@uchastings.edu.

Library: The Library's resources include a database of California Bar Exam essay questions and selected answers, dating back to 1977, books and flashcards on reserve, such as *Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam* by Mary Basick and Tina Schindler and Critical Pass MBE Flashcards, and free online bar resources. To access the resources, follow this link <http://libguides.uchastings.edu/ca-bar-exam/home>.

Prior Bar Lectures and Workshops Canvas Page: The Canvas page contains recordings of prior bar programming events, subject refresher lectures, workshop handouts, and lecture PowerPoint presentations. To access the Canvas page, follow this link <https://uchastings.instructure.com/enroll/7G388H> and enter your UC Hastings username and password.

Special Bar Prep Programming: During Bar Sweeps Week, which takes place in the fall and spring each year, you can learn about the different commercial bar review courses and attend special bar exam informational lectures, panels, and presentations. Additional bar prep workshops and lectures are scheduled throughout the year. By attending these workshops and lectures during your 2L and 3L years, you can start to learn and to practice the skills that are needed for success on the bar exam.

3. CA State Bar Admissions Checklist

You only need to do a few things to get ready for the bar exam and the only step that should be completed by the end of your 1L year is registering with the State Bar of California. By the end of your 3L year, you will need to have signed up for a commercial bar review course, taken the MPRE, petitioned for disability accommodations, if needed, completed the moral character application, and signed up for the bar exam. Some of these tasks need to be completed earlier than others. For example, we recommend that students take the MPRE in the 2L year, if possible, and that students who need to apply for accommodations on the bar exam begin that process in the 2L year, as well.

For the complete checklist, information on when you need to complete the checklist items, and cost information, please read [The CA State Bar Admissions Checklist](http://www.uchastings.edu/about/admin-offices/academic-support-gateway/bar-passage-support/California.php) (<http://www.uchastings.edu/about/admin-offices/academic-support-gateway/bar-passage-support/California.php>).

The State Bar of California: Summary of Requirements¹

To be admitted to practice law in California, an applicant must:

- ✓ Complete the requisite general and legal education;
- ✓ Register with the Committee of Bar Examiners as a law student or attorney applicant;
- ✓ Pass or establish exemption from the First Year Law Student's Examination (students attending an ABA accredited law school are exempt from the First Year Law Student's Examination);
- ✓ File an application to take the California Bar Exam and after eligibility has been confirmed, take and pass the examination;
- ✓ File an application for a moral character determination and receive a positive moral character determination from the Committee of Bar Examiners;
- ✓ Take the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination, which is administered and graded by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (www.ncbex.org), and achieve a minimum scaled score as determined by the Committee of Bar Examiners;
- ✓ Be in compliance with California court ordered child and family support obligations; and
- ✓ Meet all admission requirements and take the attorney's oath of office no later than five years from the last day of administration of the California Bar Exam that the applicant passes.

¹ The full text of all requirements for admission are set forth in Title 4, Division 1, Chapter 4 of the Rules of the State Bar of California. For more information on admission requirements, refer to the State Bar of California's Admission Requirements webpage at <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov/Requirements.aspx>.

Separate and distinct applications are required for registration, a moral character determination, and the bar exam. All applications can be accessed online through the Admissions' portion of the State Bar of California's website <https://www.calbarxap.com>.

NOTE: Students applying to take the bar in another state should refer to the ABA's Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements to determine the rules and requirements for that state.