UH Law Center
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Office of Student Affairs
4170 Martin Luther King Blvd, Ste. 240 · Houston, TX
77204-6060 Office: 713.743.2182 · Fax: 713.743.2194 ·
www.law.uh.edu

Special Research & Writing Course Petition

Overview: The Law Center permits students to earn academic credit for writing an independent paper under the supervision of a faculty member. Students should approach a faculty member that teaches subjects related to his/her area of interest. You should have some idea about the topic before approaching a possible faculty supervisor for your project.

Note: Students must receive permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (ADAA) to have anyone other than these categories of full-time faculty supervise this course: tenured/tenure-track faculty; or promotion-eligible Non-Tenure-Track (PE-NTT) faculty as defined in the UHLC bylaws, which comprise the titles clinical professor, instructional professor, and research professor (collectively, "Qualifying Supervisory Faculty"). Students must seek permission to use non-Qualifying Supervisory Faculty before contacting such faculty about the project. When asking the ADAA for this permission, copy the Office of Student Affairs (OSA).

Credit: Credit for this course is graded on the ordinary grading scale from A to F. Faculty may also withdraw you from this course for unsatisfactory performance. Special Research & Writing does not satisfy the senior writing requirement and the paper produced cannot be used for other courses. The Law Center awards credit for coursework in compliance with ABA standard 310. Academic activities for credit other than classroom instruction must equivalently meet ABA standard 310. This equivalency is implemented with the paper length requirements below, but under the assumption that the course of study will put upon the student approximately sixty hours of effort to generate the words necessary for each credit hour level specified below.

Requirements:

1. Students are able to obtain a maximum of four hours of Special Research & Writing credit for his/her law school career.
2. Special Research & Writing credit is included within the non-substantive course cap towards your graduation requirements.
3. You must finish your paper and submit it to the professor during the semester in which you registered for the credit in time to receive a grade. Students whose grades are not submitted within this time frame may be administratively withdrawn.

Paper Lengths (per credit):

1 credit - 5,000 words, including footnotes
2 credits - 10,000 words, including footnotes
3 credits - 15,000 words, including footnotes
4 credits - 20,000 words, including footnotes

Number of credits: _____

Supervising Professor name: _____ (Print clearly)

Professor's Signature: _____ Date: _____/_____/_____
(signature certifies ABA standard 310 will be met for the writing project)

Registration Information

Student Name: _____ PeopleSoft ID# _____

Course #: _____ Section #: _____ Semester/Year: Spring 2025 __

Comments:

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