

PUBLIC GOOD DISTINCTION

The Public Good Distinction is an honor that Denver Law awards graduating students based on their demonstrated commitment to public interest law throughout their legal education. The Distinction was developed by a group of Denver Law students, but is administered by faculty and staff. Students must apply to earn the Distinction.

There is no minimum GPA, but students must be in good standing.

For more information:

Visit <https://www.law.du.edu/public-service-portal/public-good-distinction>

Contact Alexi Freeman: afreeman@law.du.edu

To qualify students must do the following:

I. COMPLETE 16 CREDITS OF PUBLIC GOOD COURSES

- a. Students must complete at least 16 public good credits, and a minimum of 4 credits of these must be designated as experiential by Denver Law. There is no specific list of courses – students can chart their own path and make choices that fit for their career interests. Examples of courses that may count as public good courses are listed on the website, but the list is not exhaustive. Students are encouraged to meet with the advisor in advance on course selection.
- b. While arguably every course could have a public interest lens and/or is relevant for any legal career path, students must present a cohesive narrative about their program of study. Core requirements cannot satisfy the 16 credits (e.g. evidence).
- c. When applying for the Public Good Distinction, students must list the courses, explain why those courses fit the public good distinction, and describe why they are relevant for this student's career path. Complete this [application](#) to submit courses (<http://tinyurl.com/Distinction-Course-Submission>). This is due by the first day of classes of the student's final semester.

II. COMPLETE THE PUBLIC INTEREST CAPSTONE

- a. The Capstone is a 0 credit, non-graded opportunity for graduating students who have a focus on public interest law. It focuses on issues like financial planning, building community, maintaining passion, the job search, and managing stress.
- b. The capstone meets no more than 4 times per semester during the students' final semester. Students must attend 2 sessions. They enroll during regular registration in the fall of their 3L year to take the course in the spring. Meeting dates are announced each term.

III. COMPLETE A CULMINATING REFLECTION ESSAY

- a. As part of the Capstone, students must submit a culminating, personal reflection essay (more information provided in the Capstone – we expect most essays to be at least 3 pages).
- b. The essay provides an opportunity to connect pre-law school ideals with the experiences and opportunities presented during law school, and is a way to explain accomplishments of the past years and expectations for the future.

IV. PARTICIPATE IN ACADEMIC ADVISING [OPTIONAL, BUT ENCOURAGED]

- a. Students are encouraged to seek out academic advising at multiple points during their tenure at Denver Law to help to chart a path with intentionality (including choosing courses that fit with students' visions to become public interest lawyers). To set up a meeting, email afreeman@law.du.edu. You may be connected to particular faculty/staff.

V. PARTICIPATE IN ASPIRATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE HOURS [OPTIONAL, BUT ENCOURAGED]

- a. Engaging in legal and non-legal volunteer work beyond Denver Law's Public Service Requirement is encouraged, but not required. Any efforts should be discussed in the essay.