

Legal Externship Program

Student Handbook

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This handbook is required reading for all students interested in pursuing an externship and/or currently enrolled in an externship at Denver Law.

It includes the following:

- A. Externship Program Introduction
- B. Educational Objectives
- C. Externship Program Faculty & Staff
- D. Guidelines for Before You Enroll, including Searching for Placements
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INTRODUCTION

At Denver Law, there are numerous ways to participate in experiential learning opportunities and to gain practical knowledge. With more than 725 placements a year, Denver Law's Legal Externship Program is one of the biggest and most robust programs in the country, offering students an effective and comprehensive bridge to go from law student to lawyer.

Legal externships specifically refer to monitored legal and law-related work experiences in which the placement is outside of the law school (versus working in an in-house clinic or as part of a lab with a faculty member). In externships, students get real-world working experience while establishing intentional learning goals and reflecting actively on what is learned throughout their experience under the guidance of both a Faculty Supervisor and Supervisor in the field. Students earn credit for their fieldwork.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Legal Externship Program aims to provide opportunities for students to work directly with practicing attorneys while engaging in critical reflection about the legal profession, their legal career, and their priorities and values as lawyers and individuals through supervised field experiences and faculty-guided reflection.

Specific objectives include to:

- Develop the art of lawyering, including skills such as research, writing, legal analysis, client interviewing, communication, negotiation, and advocacy.
- Provide opportunities to integrate substantive learning with the practice of law.
- Promote the ethical practice of law by sensitizing students to issues of professional responsibility.
- Help students develop confidence in practical lawyering situations.
- Increase students' understanding of their own individual strengths and areas for growth as future lawyers.
- Explore and understand workplace issues such as time management, workplace culture, diversity and inclusion, teamwork, giving and receiving feedback, artificial intelligence, and achieving balance in one's life, among others.
- Promote self-directed and lifelong learning and reflection.

LEGAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM FACULTY & STAFF

To assist you with the process of identifying professional interests, translating those into externship opportunities, and supporting you throughout your experience, a team of faculty and staff are available.

You can always contact law-externship@du.edu or visit suite 365 to be connect with members of our team. Our team is listed here: www.law.du.edu/externships

GUIDELINES: BEFORE YOU ENROLL

Denver Law has established the following prerequisites and guidelines for enrolling in an externship for credit aligned with ABA standards, university rules, and best practices for externships:

- Only students who have completed a minimum of 22 credit hours are eligible to earn credit for an externship. This means full-time students can extern after completion of their 1L year. Part-time students can extern after completion of the first two semesters of their 1L year; part-time students externing in their first summer should be sure to notify placements which 1L courses they have not yet taken.
- Students receive academic credit for externships and must pay the standard tuition rate for all credits.
- Students can receive both financial compensation and academic credit for an externship simultaneously. More information on this is found in the Externship Policies section and on the Paid Externships section of our website: <http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/legal-externship-program/information-for-students/paid-externships>. Denver Law does not ask for payment amounts but does track whether students are paid.
- Some GPA requirements exist. More specifically, students can enroll in an externship during their 1L summer even if their G.P.A. is lower than 2.3. Students can also enroll in an externship during fall/spring semesters if their GPA is below 2.3, but they must first consult with the externship director. Students must notify the externship director if they drop below academic probation during an externship.
- Students can work under the supervision of non-lawyers in particular, limited circumstances. See more on this in the section titled Externship Policies.
- Students may not earn academic credit for an externship if the Supervisor is a family member. Students should disclose to the Legal Externship Program any familial relationship within the Supervisor's office. Students may also be unable to earn academic credit for an externship if someone at the office is a family member – this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Students cannot be enrolled in a clinical program (i.e. the Student Law Office) or be completing clinical cases from a prior enrollment while also being enrolled in an externship.

- Students can repeat an externship for credit one time without any additional approval. However, repeats at the same placement for a third time require prior approval. The Supervisor must submit a brief email describing how the externship will be substantially different and will provide additional educational value with a third semester. Generally, repeat externships are limited to two semesters at the same placement, but exceptions may apply. See more on this in the section titled Externship Policies.
- The Externship Program strongly discourages students from enrolling in two externships simultaneously. In our experience, neither the student nor either placement organization receives the full benefit of the externship experience if a student's time is divided in this way. Students are likely to miss opportunities at each placement that would otherwise be available to them, and Supervisors may develop the impression that a student's interest in the externship is not as robust. Additional considerations include the potential for conflicts of interest between the placement organizations to arise, and the danger that the student may be overwhelmed with the workload. Accordingly, while students may request permission to enroll in two externships simultaneously from the Externship Program faculty, permission will be granted only in rare or extenuating circumstances and written approval from both supervisors is required.
- Students must notify the Legal Externship Program and the Supervisor of any legal/law related employment and/or volunteer work being done concurrently. Supervisors must provide written knowledge and approval. The student should notify the Legal Externship Program and the Supervisor if the student changes employers or volunteers elsewhere during the externship.
- The failure of a student to disclose in writing any work, volunteer, and clinical activities is a serious violation of the Externship Student Certifications, the Student Honor Code, and the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct. The student may be subject to discipline including expulsion from the externship with a grade of "No Pass," and other disciplinary proceedings under the honor and professional codes.
- If a student receives a grade of No Pass for the fieldwork credit of an externship, the student *may not* be eligible for enrollment in future externships for credit.

GUIDELINES: WHILE YOU ARE ENROLLED

- Failure to complete any of the requirements of the externship as stipulated by the Syllabus/Fieldwork Course Requirements may result in a grade of "No Pass."
- If a student receives a grade of No Pass for the fieldwork credit of an externship, the student *may not* be eligible for enrollment in future externships for credit.
- All representations of a student's hours and the materials submitted regarding the externship are subject to the Student Honor Code.
- If the student appears in court or administrative tribunal, the student must comply with C.R.S. 12-5-116, known as the Student Practice Rule. Any violation may subject the student and/or Supervisor

to liability for the unauthorized practice of law. Students must have 60 credits to be eligible for the Rule. Sixty credits are required at the end of the semester prior to which the student will work (e.g. end of spring for a summer SPA experience). The externship offices processes all SPA paperwork.

- The student must provide quality professional services to the best extent possible.
- The student must devote the time required to complete the externship commitment.
- The student must preserve the confidentiality of clients, office affairs, and the like.
- Externs must complete all assignments required by the Externship Program. To ensure compliance with the ABA, both first-time externs and repeat externs will be required to engage with externship faculty/staff to ensure they participate in ongoing, contemporaneous faculty guided reflection. First-time externs will be required to enroll in a 1 credit seminar. Repeat and first-time externs will receive their respective syllabi at the onset of the semester.
- Students can seek to add additional credit(s) to their fieldwork in any given semester provided they submit the request in writing to the externship office by the deadline shared that semester (it must be prior to the last day of classes in the given semester and according to the deadline provided by the office).
- The law school email account is the primary notification method of the Legal Externship Program and students are expected to check this email account on a regular basis. Students may also receive emails from CORELMS (no-reply@corehighered.com); please add it to your accepted senders.

FINDING AN EXTERNSHIP

I. Searching

There are namely two ways to find a Supervisor and an externship.

1. **Search via our [database](#).** The Legal Externship Program maintains a large, password protected, database for Denver Law students only that includes Supervisors that have already been approved by our program.

The database is searchable by:

- a) Rotation/placement type, such as corporate, nonprofit, etc.
- b) Practice area, such as environmental law, family law, etc., and/or
- c) Name of the Supervisor.

Your login for CORE is your DU email address (this is typically firstname.lastname@du.edu) and your PioneerWeb password. If you do not remember your PioneerWeb login, please contact University Technology Services at 303-871-4700.

After you identify Supervisors/placements of interest, consider contacting them to be sure they have an extern position for the semester in which you want to work. Don't forget to reach out to us for feedback on placements and ideas.

2. **Identify your own Supervisor.** Students can also establish a relationship with a prospective Supervisor and engage in the steps to set up their own externship. Such externships may be arranged at any location where appropriate supervision and work is found – this includes out of state and international opportunities. The Supervisor must be licensed to practice law for at least five years in any one state or combination of states, OR for non-lawyers, must have at least five years of relevant experience and must still be able to provide with you a substantial lawyering experience as defined by the ABA. Supervisors with inactive status may or may not be eligible to supervise, depending on the nature of the work.

If you identify a Supervisor and secure a placement, the Supervisor must complete and submit the [Supervisor Application \(https://rxpreceptor.com/signup/p/?UDenver\)](https://rxpreceptor.com/signup/p/?UDenver), which can also be found on our website. The institution code is SUPERVISINGATTORNEY. Once completed, approval is not automatic. Our office will carefully review the application and will share information about our program with the prospective supervisor to ensure the placement will be an educational benefit to the student. We will notify you and the Supervisor if and when the placement is approved. Given this process, it is recommended that all students have a back-up plan and allow time for the approval process.

II. Timing/Deadlines

Remember, not every student is selected to extern for the first office they interview with. We advise you to start your search early to give yourself plenty of time to secure an externship!

The externship program has both priority deadlines and rolling deadlines for each semester. The following are guidelines. Be sure to review the semester relevant form located on our website and read semester specific emails for up-to-date deadlines:

- For **summer** externships:
 - o The externship **priority deadline is the last day of Spring classes**. Students who submit their completed externship registration materials on or before that date will automatically be accepted into the program for the summer.
 - o Students who submit externship registration materials after the priority deadline but by the rolling deadline (listed on the externship website and shared with students) will be admitted on a **rolling** basis until capacity is reached. No registrations will be processed after that date. Such deadlines will be published on the externship website and shared via email.
- For **spring** externships:
 - o The externship **priority deadline is the last day of Fall classes**. Students who submit their completed externship registration materials on or before that date will automatically be accepted into the program for the summer.
 - o Students who submit externship registration materials after the priority deadline but by the rolling deadline (listed on the externship website and shared with students) will be admitted on a **rolling** basis until capacity is reached. No registrations will be processed

after that date. Such deadlines will be published on the externship website and shared via email.

- For **fall** externships:
 - o The externship priority deadline is typically **early August, year dependent**. Given how close the priority deadline is to the start of the fall semester, there is no rolling deadline for fall externships. The deadline will be published on the externship website and shared via email.

These dates are subject to change. For the most up-to-date/current semester deadlines and specific dates, please refer to the program website.

Note: Securing your externship means ensuring that you have uploaded the signed Supervisor Acceptance Form to your account in CORE and that the Supervisor has already been pre-approved (i.e. the supervisor is our database), or the new Supervisor application has been submitted and reviewed as described above. See more information on this process below (and on the externship website).

REGISTERING FOR AN EXTERNSHIP

If a Supervisor offers you an externship, congratulations! You are well on your way to having a robust educational experience.

I. Student Steps for Enrollment

1. **Once you secure a placement, ask your Supervisor to complete the Semester Specific Supervisor Acceptance form (located on our website)**. Again, if the Supervisor is new, the [Application](#) is also required. You list the number of field credits you want on that form.

Upload a completed Supervisor Acceptance form to your account in CORE by the deadlines discussed above. **You will not be approved for academic credit until the application (if applicable) and acceptance form has been received and approved by the Legal Externship Program Faculty**. If you do not submit materials on or before the published deadline, you risk being unable to earn academic credit for your externship. Instructions on how to upload that signed form (signed by you and the Supervisor) is on the main page of CORE, our semester specific registration document on our website, and described here:

Log into CORE. Click on Scheduling on the left tab and then click on Research Center. Type your Supervisor's name in the search box at the top. Click view next to your Supervisor. Click Submit to Site Prospector on the top. Fill out the required fields and attach the signed form.

2. **Determine the number of field credits**. You may enroll in an externship for 2 to 6 credits, which ranges from 100 hours to 300 hours. 50 hours = 1 credit.

If you want to do an externship for 5 or 6 credits (250-300 hours) and are a rising 2L or a 2L, email law-externship@du.edu to discuss and secure the required pre-approval.

3. **If applicable, complete the [Student Practice Rule form](#) and submit it to our office in suite 365 for processing.** Do this ONLY if a) you will have earned 60 credits in the semester prior to the semester you intend to practice in court under your attorney’s supervision AND b) you are working at an eligible placement, including a nonprofit group or in the government (PD and DA included). Once approved by the court, your placement Supervisor will be notified. Allow at least 4 weeks for internal processing. If you do this early, you will ensure that you are ready to practice in court at the start of your externship. Do not send this form to the registrar. Your supervisor and you will be notified once your Student Practice Rule certification is approved.
4. **If you are a first-time extern, save the date for the mandatory orientation session.** The date will be listed on the Legal Externship Program website. It is usually the Thursday or Friday morning before classes begin. More information on this is under Externship Policies and listed on the externship website.

II. Externship Program Steps for Enrollment

1. Once the required forms are received and approved as outlined above, you will receive an email from our office confirming your status. You are not registered until that happens; we appreciate your patience. Registration is a manual process, and we complete it one-by-one.

EXTERNSHIP POLICIES

Denver Law has established certain prerequisite and guidelines for enrolling in an externship for credit aligned with ABA standards, university rules, and best practices for externships. Details on some of these policies follow.

I. Limitations on Credits

As noted above, an extern must work 50 hours for each credit hour earned. Students may earn between 2 to 6 credits, per semester, and approval is required for enrollment for 5 or 6 credits because it is a significant amount of credits to devote to a placement and to use from your credit limits as described below.

A student may earn no more than 15 hours of academic credit from externships during law school. The exception to this includes participating in the Semester in Practice, when that limit automatically increases to 19, or if and when students file a successful online petition to allocate more fieldwork credits. This petition is reviewed by Student Affairs/Department of Academic Advising.

Externship credits are considered “out-of-class” credits, and a student may earn no more than 25 out-of-class credits toward their JD degree. Other out-of-class credits are earned through directed research, clinics (not counting the seminars), externships (not counting the seminars), journals, non-law graduate University of Denver courses (including Grad Tax), and other law practicum courses that function similarly to clinics (such as the Animal Activist Defense Project work). Students can petition to have a maximum of 26 out of class credits using the petition process.

Please note: With the exception of Semester in Practice students, students may start counting hours for their externship up to two weeks prior to the start of the semester (first day of classes) and two weeks

after the start of classes until the designated end date (typically a week after classes end). Follow the dates in your semester specific syllabus. You must extern for at least 10 weeks during fall or spring, and at least 6 weeks in the summer.

II. Repeating an Externship

Externship students can repeat an externship one time at the same placement and follow the standard registration procedures. Students seeking to repeat an externship for a third time at the same placement, whether paid or unpaid, must have their Supervisor submit a brief email describing how the externship will be substantially different, what different projects they will be working on, and the increased educational value of a third semester in that externship. This information should be sent directly from the Supervisor to law-externship@du.edu.

III. Paid Externships

As of August 2016, in accordance with revised ABA standards, Denver Law permits students to receive both pay and credit simultaneously. However, the externship must still abide by all requirements and regulations set forth in the student and Supervisor manuals and forms as well as all Denver Law and ABA policies. For the most up-to-date information on paid externships, please visit <http://www.law.du.edu/legal-externship-program/information-students/paid-externships>. Students must still register as required for the externship pay for all externship credit when they are paid just like when they are unpaid.

IV. Working with Non-Attorney Supervisors

As of summer semester 2017, in accordance with revised ABA standards, Denver Law permits students to work under the supervision of non-lawyers in limited circumstances. Such supervisors must have at least five years of experience in their respective field. The experience still must provide a substantial lawyering experience that is reasonably similar to the experience of a lawyer advising or representing a client or **engaging in other lawyering tasks** in a setting outside a law clinic under the supervision of a licensed attorney or an **individual otherwise qualified to supervise**. We anticipate most supervisors who would be approved in these limited circumstances would work in policy or compliance type environments, though other circumstances may exist. We recommend talking with the Externship team prior to pursuing this type of externship. Certainly, externs and supervisors cannot engage in the practice of law if working with a non-attorney supervisor.

V. Withdrawal from Externship or Reduction/Increase of Field Credits

Permission to withdraw from an externship requires the written permission of the placement Supervisor (email is fine), the Director of Externships, and sometimes, the Dean of Student Affairs. Because Supervisors make a commitment to our students and rely on the student's commitment, only extremely compelling circumstances will be considered for withdrawal from the course, or for reducing credits. Class scheduling conflicts will not constitute extremely compelling circumstances. Even if the add/drop period has not passed, we strongly discourage dropping your externship for these same reasons and will discuss the situation with you if you take steps to drop or reduce credit. Supervisors will be contacted with any credit reductions.

You are able to reduce field credits by the add/drop date listed on the DU registrar's website (or shared in your syllabus) if you make the request to the externship department in writing. Do not contact the registrar for externship credit reduction and do not attempt to do this on your own. To withdraw from an externship or reduce the number of credits after the end of the drop/add period, a student must complete a Drop/Add Petition (located on the Registrar's website). This petition will be submitted electronically to the Dean of Student Affairs and Dean of Academic Affairs for consideration in consultation with the externship director. You are likely to lose your funds.

If you wish to increase the number of field credits for your externship after the drop/add period has passed, please contact the externship office to discuss. This must be submitted according to the deadlines given by the externship office and by the last day of classes for the relevant semester. If you choose to add credit, you will have to pay for the additional credit added.

VI. Orientation

Orientation is **mandatory** for all first-time externs and counts for part of your seminar credit. Students will be excused only in extenuating circumstances of a serious nature. Orientation will help ensure that you understand the program's requirements, ethical considerations, and more. The date of orientation is determined and published on the Legal Externship Program's website at least one semester prior, and often earlier, to the relevant semester of the externship. For spring and fall, it is typically the Thursday or Friday morning before classes for the semester begin. For summer orientation, it is typically the Thursday after finals end. Part-time students do not have to participate in Orientation live but will have a required make-up.

VII. Reflective Engagement – First-Time Externs & Repeat Externs

1. First-Time Externs and Repeat Externs

To ensure compliance with the ABA, both first-time externs and repeat externs will be required to engage with externship faculty/staff to ensure they participate in ongoing, contemporaneous faculty guided reflection. First-time externs will be required to participate in a 1 credit seminar. Repeat externs will not have an additional for credit class but are still required to engage with the Externship office and complete some assignments. Both first-time externs and repeat externs will be provided with syllabi at the beginning of each semester outlining their roles, requirements, and responsibilities as Denver Law externs. All requirements must be completed to be eligible to receive a grade of Pass.

2. Specialty Programs

Each semester, the Legal Externship Program develops and offers a range of different specialty programs in which applications are solicited and students enroll in subject-specific, robust seminars that range from 1 to 3 credits. More information is available each semester on our website under Specialty Programs - <http://www.law.du.edu/legal-externship-program/information-students/program-requirements/specialty-programs>. The corresponding seminars often teach a mix of substantive law and skills relevant to the area of practice. These programs often have earlier deadlines than regular externships. Such deadlines and/or requirements will be posted on the Legal Externship Program's website during the semester prior to the program and will be emailed.

3. Semester in Practice Program

The Semester in Practice Program (SiP) is one of our flagship specialty programs. SiP gives students the opportunity to develop practice skills by fulfilling up to 15 credits (a minimum of 8 and maximum of 12 field work credits plus a 3-credit graded seminar). Students work full time during the externship throughout the semester regardless of the number of field credits needed. Students cannot enroll in any other courses simultaneously; this includes directed research and journal credit.

In this capstone experience, offered only to students in their last year of law school (i.e. their final fall and spring semesters), students have significant exposure to the substantive law in their externship, and focus on skills and professional identity in their seminar. One of a handful of such programs in the country, the Semester in Practice is a bridge from law school to practice. Each SiP is customized to the needs and desires of the student. Faculty meet with prospective students to help them find the externship that will provide significant development for them on their way to becoming practicing lawyers. Students in the past have participated in the SiP at a huge range of placements, both private and public.

Students who participate in the SiP program are permitted to take a total of 19 externship credits during their time in law school (15 credits are permitted otherwise) and a total of 25 out-of-class credits. The SiP Program is offered only during the fall and spring semesters to students in their last year of law school.

As enrollment is limited and the amount of time and tuition funds a student expends is much more for a SiP placement, the application process is a bit different than traditional externships. Students are required to complete an application to be admitted to the program and required to meet with externship faculty. Supervisors may also be contacted prior to approval. Application information is sent via email and posted online. Check the website for more detailed information each semester, however, **generally, applications are due around late March (for fall) and October (for spring). Students may be accepted after the published deadlines as space allows.**

VIII. Email Communication

Students are expected to use their law school email accounts. Email will be the primary notification method of the Legal Externship Program; therefore, it is the student's responsibility to check the law school email account on a regular basis. Students may email from home accounts but generally all

emails originating from the Legal Externship Program will be sent to the student's law school email account. COREELMS may also send emails. Please add to your list of accepted senders.

IX. Financial Aid & Scholarships

Students must pay for all externship credit just like any other class. Students who will be enrolled in an externship during the summer semester and intend to seek financial aid are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office during the semester prior to their externship to discuss how to best utilize their financial aid awards. Generally, 4 credits are required to receive aid in the summer but contact Financial Aid to confirm. Scholarships may or may not be eligible for disbursement in the summer but contact Financial Aid to confirm.

X. Public Service Requirement

There are a variety of ways to satisfy Denver Law's Public Service Requirement (PSR), which requires all JD students to engage in a minimum of 50 hours of supervised, uncompensated, law-related public service work during their law school careers as a prerequisite to graduation. One way to satisfy the PSR includes enrollment in certain externships. An externship for credit with a government agency (including state/local/federal agencies, public defender offices, and district/US attorney offices), a nonprofit organization, or a judicial externship automatically satisfies the PSR provided you pass the externship and do not receive any sort of payment or compensation. No additional assignments or documentation is required. Following the relevant semester, your progress report will indicate satisfaction of the PSR.

Additionally, an externship at a private law firm may satisfy the PSR if the student completes fifty hours of pro bono work (no pay received by the student or the placement/lawyer) and the project has been approved by the Director of Public Interest Initiatives. For questions regarding the Public Service Requirement, including engaging in a Volunteer Legal Experience which requires volunteering for 50 hours at an entity versus working for credit, email alexi.freeman@du.edu.

XI. Research

Research database companies have different policies regarding their usage for externships and this can change each semester/year and can change depending on the semester, type of placement, and pay status. Please review your semester syllabus for the most up-to-date information to ensure what is permissible.

EXTERNSHIP GRADING

I. Fieldwork / Seminar

The Legal Externship Program Faculty shall award a grade of Pass or No Pass to students, as appropriate, for the field work component of the externship. Whether first-time or repeat externs, students' fieldwork grades are determined both by satisfactory performance in the field and completion of Denver Law's fieldwork assignments, as described above. More information on what is required by Denver Law to earn field credit is listed in the semester-specific syllabus, which is provided at the onset of each semester. In accordance with University policy, a grade of "No Pass" for the fieldwork will not affect the student's G.P.A. If a student receives a grade of "No Pass," the student will receive no credit for the externship and the grade of "NP" will appear on the student's transcript.

First-time extern seminars as well as specialty seminars are letter graded. More information on the seminars is provided in the semester-specific syllabus, which is given to students at the onset of each semester. Externship seminars are clinical courses and are exempt from the curve.

II. Weekly Hours Tracking/Reporting Time Worked

Students must submit hours worked on CORE each Monday by 11:59 p.m. (for the previous week). The time report must not provide identifying information about clients or cases, confidential information, any information that may violate the attorney-client privilege, or any information that the Supervisor has reasonably asked the student to keep confidential. You are asked, however, to categorize the type of work you completed and how many hours in each type. If you only include total hours and do not categorize the hours, you will be asked to input the hours again.

Logging hours helps you and our program determine whether you are on track to complete the hours requirement associated with the field credits you are registered for. Remember, each credit is worth 50 hours and thus if you enrolled for 3 field credits, you must work 150 hours within the required timeframe.

Hours must be completed during the registered semester. Specifically, during the Fall and Spring semesters externs must work a minimum of 10 weeks. During the summer semester, students must complete externship hours in a minimum of 6 weeks.

You are asked to record hours in **15-minute intervals**. Many lawyers are required to track their time and we imagine that some of you may be trained on this in your office. For our purposes, 15 minutes allows you to get into the practice of tracking time without being too onerous.

Follow these directions to submit your time reports:

1. Log into CORE
2. Click on "Hours Tracking/Timesheet" on the left-hand navigation.
3. Click on "Record New Hours" on the right-hand side of the screen.
4. Fill out your Supervising Attorney/Site information, dates you are entering time for, and enter your hours into the appropriate boxes in the pre-set timesheet.
5. Click Submit.

Note: Time reports not submitted in a timely manner may be rejected and the hours may not count towards the student's required hours. **Submission of timesheets and the representation of hours worked therein are subject to the Student Honor Code.**

We will periodically review and confirm your hours through the semester. More information will be in your specific syllabus.

III. Ongoing, Contemporaneous Faculty-Guided Reflection

The pedagogy behind externships promotes reflection, which can take on very different forms, from journals to blogs to in-person discussion groups. Overall, regardless of the medium or end work product, our program aims to help you actively reflect on your experience. Hopefully, this process will help you make sense of what you've learned, why you've learned it, and how the learning took place. In addition, reflection will help you link what you have learned in your classes to the wider perspective of learning, allowing you to see the big picture.

Reflection has been discussed in the following ways:

Reflection is an essential part of learning from experience. It is not a practice that is simply useful for law students, but rather a practice that can be helpful throughout your professional life. The importance of reflective journaling was described as follows by several professors:

Reflective practice should help you to decide what type of practice you will pursue and to refine the moral and ethical standards you will bring to that practice. You may begin with an ill-defined idea of your professional interests. Alternatively, you may have a clear vocation in mind that may change or evolve as you continue your professional development. The extent to which you achieve satisfaction from your work will depend on your ability to integrate your values into your professional choices. For example, you may think that you want to do criminal defense work because you believe that society has a duty to guarantee fairness to those accused of crimes. As you gain experience in the practice of criminal law, you may feel frustrated by the players and process. This perspective may lead to changes in your professional goals. You may conclude that you want to work on policy or legislative changes in the criminal justice system rather than represent individual clients. Reflective observation will help you to surface your reactions to and thought about your professional aspirations.¹

First-time externs and repeat externs will have different requirements as it relates to reflection. Details and due dates will be discussed in your respective syllabi.

If essays or blogs are required, please be sure to follow the length and word requirements as indicated. Unless otherwise indicated, reflective exercises are reviewed by Externship faculty only but are also accessible to Externship staff. Blogs or other types of exercises may also be reviewed by your classmates. You may be provided with topics, or you may be able to select topics.

¹ L. Lerman, J.P. Ogilvy, L. Wortham, Learning from Practice (Westgroup 1998).

COLORADO STUDENT PRACTICE RULE

Students who have completed 60 credit hours by the onset of the semester in which they intend to work and work for particular types of legal organizations may be certified with the Attorney Registration Office of the Colorado Supreme Court to appear in court in certain non-felony cases in accordance with Rule 226.5 (reproduced below). Students in these types of placements, which only include nonprofit organizations and government entities, should complete and submit the [Student Practice Rule form](#) as early as possible since certification can take up to four weeks to process internally. Students submit the form to the Externship office (even if you are not working for credit), and we work with the Dean and registrar to submit it to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will notify the extern and extern's supervisor directly when the extern is certified to practice. You must have 60 credits prior to the semester in which you are hoping to do SPA work (e.g. by end of spring for SPA work in summer).

Only qualified students and qualified agencies are eligible for certification. Students shall not violate the rule and should notify the Externship Office in writing if their Supervisor asks them to do so. Be aware that students who violate the rule risk personal liability for the unauthorized practice of law. The text of the rule is here:

[https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Court_Probation/Supreme_Court/Rule_Changes/2023/Rule%20Change%202023\(12\).pdf](https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Court_Probation/Supreme_Court/Rule_Changes/2023/Rule%20Change%202023(12).pdf).

Please note: You should always be sure to designate yourself as “law student extern or intern” vs. “student attorney, student attorney intern” or anything else similar to that. Colorado Attorney Regulation Counsel’s position is that designations using the word “attorney” are forbidden in all contexts because they risk suggesting a general authorization to practice law. When in doubt, check with your Supervisor or Externship faculty.

EXTERNSHIP CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of Professional Responsibility

All students are expected to conform their conduct to the standards of the Code of Professional Responsibility and the Judicial Code, as applicable. Students are prohibited from discussing confidential case information with anyone other than personnel at their placement. Cases will not be discussed during any reflection activities, and students should not discuss confidential information in their essays or blogs, with their instructor, or with any externship students who are not working at the same placement as authorized by their Supervisor(s).

Students must disclose to their Supervisor and to the Legal Externship Program any current employer and any volunteer legal work they perform. Students must also update their Supervisor and the Legal Externship Program if any of these relationships change during the semester. All disclosures must be in writing. Failure to fully disclose work, volunteer, and clinic activities can result in expulsion from an existing externship and a grade of No Pass. Failure to fully disclose these or any other potentially conflicting activities will also be considered a violation of the student honor code and will subject students to disciplinary actions thereafter. **Externship requests will be denied if a student’s activities create a potential professional conflict of interest which cannot be reconciled.**

Externs must certify that they have read, understood, and agree to be bound by all of the [Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct](#) (as well as the relevant rules for their state if they are not working in Colorado). Students should read all of the rules and pay special attention to the following rules: Rule 1.6. Confidentiality of Information; Rule 2.7. Conflict of Interest: General Rule; Rule 1.10. Imputed Disqualification: General Rule; among others.

ABA and DENVER LAW POLICIES

While the Externship Program will work directly with supervisors on insurance requirements, students should be aware of the following:

Insurance Requirements

I understand that the following insurance requirements apply:

- a. If the extern student is completing an externship and receiving DU course credit, then the student's work in their externship position will have coverage under DU's liability insurance policy. If requested, DU will provide the externship site a current Certificate Of Insurance with the applicable types of insurance requested. DU carries general liability:
 1. \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$2,000,000 aggregate limit;
 2. malpractice insurance \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$3,000,000 aggregate, and
 3. workers' compensation with limits as required by applicable state law.
- b. The externship site is required to carry insurance with insurers who are duly licensed or authorized to do business in the state in which work and/or services are to be performed, and have an "A.M. Best" rating of not less than A-VII. Policies must remain in full force and effect for the duration of the externship.
- c. Externship sites may be asked annually to provide proof of current insurance via a Certificate of Insurance, which shows that the site has the following:
 1. **Commercial General Liability Insurance:**
 1. **Limits required:** Minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$2,000,000 per annual aggregate.
 2. **Malpractice Insurance:** This insurance must provide coverage for the extern student who becomes legally obligated because of any act, error, or omission in the rendering of or failure to render professional services with the externship.
 1. **Limits required:** Minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$3,000,000 per annual aggregate.
 3. **Workers Compensation Insurance:** If the extern student is paid, the externship site must also provide workers' compensation insurance coverage for the extern student. If the student is working in **ND, OH, WA, or WY**, the externship site is required to provide worker's compensation insurance for the extern student if the student is paid or unpaid.
 1. **Limits required:** The statutory amount(s) as required by applicable state law.
 - d. Externship sites understand it is their responsibility to have the requisite insurance on hand and if asked, will supply it to DU. Externship sites release the law school of any responsibility and liability if the supervisor fails to provide the documentation if asked and/or does not have the requisite insurance as outlined.

**Government entities and judicial chambers must carry applicable insurance with proper limits related to their jurisdiction's immunity cap, and those limits may be different than what is listed above and will be accepted. Corporate placements may be exempt from the malpractice insurance requirement if they aren't practicing law and aren't giving legal advice. This may also apply to some nonprofit organizations.*

Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Policies

The University is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which people are treated with dignity, decency and respect. The environment of the University should be characterized by mutual trust, freedom of inquiry and expression, and the absence of intimidation, oppression, and exploitation. People in this community should be able to work and learn in a safe atmosphere. The accomplishment of this goal is essential to the academic mission of the University. For the most up-to-date policies, visit: [EOIX Policies & Procedures | University of Denver](#).

Disability Accommodations

The University of Denver is committed to providing students with disabilities equal access and participation in academic areas and other programs sponsored by the University as mandated by federal law. The process for granting qualified students with documented disabilities accommodations to obtain equal access is managed by Disability Services Program (DSP). Students requesting disability accommodations engage in a collaborative process with DSP staff that includes disclosing the disability(ies) and providing appropriate documentation. For more information, visit: [Disability Services Program | Student Affairs \(du.edu\)](#).

Most Relevant ABA Policies

Standard 304. Simulation Courses, Law Clinics, and Field Placements

American Bar Association
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar,
Revised Standards for Approval of Law Schools

For the most up-to-date standards, visit:

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/standards/

(Click Chapter 3, program of legal education)

(a) A simulation course provides substantial experience not involving an actual client that (1) is reasonably similar to the experience of a lawyer advising or representing a client or engaging in other lawyering tasks in a set of facts and circumstances devised or adopted by a faculty member, and (2) includes the following:

- (i) direct supervision of the student's performance by the faculty member;
- (ii) opportunities for performance, feedback from a faculty member, and self-evaluation; and
- (iii) a classroom instructional component.

(b) A law clinic provides substantial lawyering experience that (1) involves advising or representing one or more actual clients or serving as a third-party neutral, and (2) includes the following:

- (i) direct supervision of the student's performance by a faculty member;
- (ii) opportunities for performance, feedback from a faculty member, and self-evaluation; and
- (iii) a classroom instructional component.

(c) A field placement course provides substantial lawyering experience that (1) is reasonably similar to the experience of a lawyer advising or representing a client or engaging in other lawyering tasks in a setting outside a law clinic under the supervision of a licensed attorney or an individual otherwise qualified to supervise, and (2) includes the following:

- (i) direct supervision of the student's performance by a faculty member or site supervisor;
- (ii) opportunities for performance, feedback from either a faculty member or a site supervisor, and self-evaluation;
- (iii) a written understanding among the student, faculty member, and a person in authority at the field placement that describes both (A) the substantial lawyering experience and opportunities for performance, feedback and self-evaluation; and (B) the respective roles of faculty and any site supervisor in supervising the student and in assuring the educational quality of the experience for the student, including a clearly articulated method of evaluating the student's academic performance;
- (iv) a method for selecting, training, evaluating and communicating with site supervisors, including regular contact between the faculty and site supervisors through in-person visits or other methods of communication that will assure the quality of the student educational experience. When appropriate, a school may use faculty members from other law schools to supervise or assist in the supervision or review of a field placement program;
- (v) a classroom instructional component, regularly scheduled tutorials, or other means of ongoing, contemporaneous, faculty-guided reflection;
- (vi) evaluation of each student's educational achievement by a faculty member; and
- (vii) sufficient control of the student experience to ensure that the requirements of the Standard are met. The law school must maintain records to document the steps taken to ensure compliance with the Standard, which shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, the written understandings described in Standard 304(c)(iii).

(d) Credit granted for such a simulation, law clinic, or field placement course shall be commensurate with the time and effort required and the anticipated quality of the educational experience of the student.

(e) Each student in such a simulation, law clinic, or field placement course shall have successfully completed sufficient prerequisites or shall receive sufficient contemporaneous training to assure the quality of the student educational experience.

Interpretation 304-1

To qualify as an experiential course under Standard 303, a simulation, law clinic, or field placement must also comply with the requirements set out in Standard 303(a)(3).

Standard 302. Learning Outcomes

A law school shall establish learning outcomes that shall, at a minimum, include competency in the following:

- (a) Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law;
- (b) Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication in the legal context;
- (c) Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system; and
- (d) Other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.

Interpretation 302-1

For the purposes of Standard 302(d), other professional skills are determined by the law school and may include skills such as, interviewing, counseling, negotiation, fact development and analysis, trial practice, document drafting, conflict resolution, organization and management of legal work, collaboration, cultural competency, and self-evaluation.

Standard 303. Curriculum

(a) A law school shall offer a curriculum that requires each student to satisfactorily complete at least the following:

(1) one course of at least two credit hours in professional responsibility that includes substantial instruction in the history, goals, structure, values, and responsibilities of the legal profession and its members;

(2) one writing experience in the first year and at least one additional writing experience after the first year, both of which are faculty supervised; and

(3) one or more experiential course(s) totaling at least six credit hours. An experiential course must be a simulation course, a law clinic, or a field placement. To satisfy this requirement, a course must be primarily experiential in nature and must:

- (i) integrate doctrine, theory, skills, and legal ethics, and engage students in performance of one or more of the professional skills identified in Standard 302;
- (ii) develop the concepts underlying the professional skills being taught;
- (iii) provide multiple opportunities for performance; and
- (iv) provide opportunities for self-evaluation.

(b) A law school shall provide substantial opportunities to students for:

- (1) law clinics or field placement(s);
- (2) student participation in pro bono legal services, including law-related public service activities; and
- (3) the development of a professional identity.

(c) A law school shall provide education to law students on bias, cross-cultural competency, and racism:

- (1) at the start of the program of legal education, and
- (2) at least once again before graduation.

For students engaged in law clinics or field placements, the second educational occasion will take place before, concurrently with, or as part of their enrollment in clinical or field placement courses.

Interpretation 303-5

Professional identity focuses on what it means to be a lawyer and the special obligations lawyers have to their clients and society. The development of professional identity should involve an intentional exploration of the values, guiding principles, and well-being practices considered foundational to successful legal practice. Because developing a professional identity requires reflection and growth over time, students should have frequent opportunities for such development during each year of law school and in a variety of courses and co-curricular and professional development activities.