

MHSL Policy on Externship Credit for Paid Work

Approved October 2018

Based on the law school's experience with paid field placements over a four-semester pilot program Summer 2017, as well as information about paid externships at law schools around the country, the faculty approves continuing to allow credit for paid field placements on a long-term basis subject to same requirements and limitations adopted in connection with the pilot, to wit:

1. All requirements for unpaid field placements apply, including
 - a. substantial lawyering work with opportunities for performance, feedback, and self-evaluation;
 - b. written education agreement among student, site supervisor, and faculty supervisor;
 - c. ongoing, contemporaneous, faculty-guided reflection;
 - d. regular contact between school and site supervisor (minimum 2-3 contacts per semester), including vetting of new sites to determine appropriateness of work and willingness of site to ensure educational quality;
 - e. sufficient prerequisites or contemporaneous training to assure quality of student educational experience;
 - f. forty-five hours of work per credit including work with faculty supervisor; and
 - g. 4-credit cap (total over law school) on independent externships (waivable with permission of the Externship Director).
2. Education Agreement provides that administrative work must be kept to a minimum. Students will log administrative work so faculty supervisor can assess quantity.
3. Faculty supervisor, site supervisor, and student must meet in person for a mid-semester meeting to review student progress toward learning goals. For remote externships, the meeting may occur using Skype or similar means of holding an online face-to-face meeting.
4. High-credit externship (8-15 credits)—Residency—allowed only during last three semesters of law school, including summer (e.g., for FT student, last three semesters after 2L spring). Before the last three semesters, general limitations on externship credits per semester apply (4-credit total independent externship cap (waivable); credit limits imposed by externship course instructors).
5. Maximum 15 credits total over law school (to permit paid Residency placement; 19 of 83 credits is ABA limit on non-classroom credits).