

## Independent Long Paper Proposal (4260)

The independent long paper option is permitted only in limited circumstances.

Students must be in good academic standing and in their final two semesters to be registered for an independent long paper.

Independent long papers are graded A-F and earn two credits. (Students may petition the Vice Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs for an independent long paper for fewer than two credits, but not more. The requirements to fulfill the advanced research and writing requirement remain the same regardless of the credits proposed.) Students may not earn credits through independent research while completing their long paper requirement.

This proposal must include the following:

1. why the independent long paper is necessary;
2. a description of the topic;
3. the reason for interest in the topic;
4. the extent and type of research anticipated;
5. previous work completed in the area;
6. identification of a subject matter expert with whom the student will consult (which could be a faculty member); and
7. a description of the written product that will be produced.

**Return completed form and a copy of the independent long paper proposal to the Registrar's Office by the add deadline for the selected term (registrar@mitchellhamline.edu or Room 120).**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervising Professor: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester:  Fall  J-Term  Spring  Summer      Year: 20\_\_\_\_

Current Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Term \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have agreed to supervise this Independent Long Paper.

Professor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Office use only

Date received \_\_\_\_\_

Date processed \_\_\_\_\_

Completed by \_\_\_\_\_

*Updated February, 2021*

# MHSL Advanced Research and Writing Requirement

## Purpose & Content

The ARW requirement is consistent with American Bar Association accreditation standard 302, which requires a “rigorous writing experience” after the first year.

The ARW paper furthers five competencies essential to law practice:

- (1) Legal research;
- (2) Fact Investigation;
- (3) Writing, including organization, grammar, and style;
- (4) Strong personal work ethic and time management; and
- (5) Creative problem-solving

Although many ARW papers will take the form of a law review-style essay, other kinds of writing may also satisfy the requirement. In each case, the focus is on using the competencies identified above to identify and solve a problem of the sort confronted by lawyers. Description and regurgitation are not enough.

## Format

Regardless of form or genre, ARW papers shall ordinarily be at least 8,500 words, excluding footnotes. This requirement is meant to ensure that the project is substantial enough to measure and develop the five competencies identified above and to provide a summative writing experience for the student. Beyond the length requirement, formats will vary according to context and should be appropriate to the genre of the writing project. So, for example, essays should generally adhere to law review style conventions, while briefs must adhere to good citation practices and the relevant jurisdiction’s filing rules. Prior to the first draft, the student and supervising faculty shall identify the appropriate format for the paper.

## Writing Process and Deadlines

Unless the supervising faculty member requires otherwise, the paper is required to be written in the following stages:

- Detailed outline
- Research plan
- First draft
- Second draft
- Final paper

Students should expect significant feedback from their faculty supervisors at each of these stages.

Further details about the advanced research and writing graduation requirement can be found in the Student Handbook.