



Criminal Law & Advocacy Concentration

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Southwestern offers a comprehensive program of courses, clinics, and externship opportunities to advance and guide the training of J.D. students in Criminal Law and Advocacy.

In addition to the Criminal Law and Constitutional Criminal Procedure courses that are required to be taken by all Southwestern J.D. students, Southwestern has offered numerous specialized courses related to criminal law, as well as related seminars. In addition, Southwestern has offered externship placements at the California Court of Appeal, California Superior Court, Federal Public Defender, Inner City Law Center, Los Angeles County District Attorney, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Moreover, Southwestern offers a Youth Offender Parole Clinic. Southwestern's active and award-winning Trial Advocacy Honors Program and Moot Court Honors Program also provide useful skills for students interested in criminal law and advocacy.

Eligibility

To receive optimal advising, students are encouraged to register for the Concentration at the end of their first year (end of the third semester for part-time students), or as soon as possible thereafter. To register for the Concentration, students must be in good academic standing.

A student who completes the Concentration program with at least 6 graded units of core and elective courses and graduates with a Concentration grade point average of 3.33 or higher will receive the following designation on the student's transcript: "Concentration in Criminal Law and Advocacy with Honors." A student's Concentration grade point average will be calculated at the time of the student's graduation in the following manner:

- every graded course a student has taken on the list of core and elective courses below is included in the Concentration grade point average and weighted in accordance with the number of units of that course; and
- a student's grade in the Constitutional Criminal Procedure and Evidence courses will also be included in the Concentration grade point average and weighted in accordance with each course's units.

Curricular Requirements

To obtain a J.D. Concentration in Criminal Law and Advocacy, a student must take at least 15 units of Core and Elective Courses from the list below. Students who complete the J.D. Concentration will receive a designation of "Concentration in Criminal Law and Advocacy" on their transcripts.

Not all courses listed below are offered every year, and students must meet all course prerequisites and requirements. This Concentration does not change any course prerequisites. Every Southwestern J.D. student is currently required to take various courses related to criminal law, including Constitutional Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law, and Evidence, so those required courses are not included in the concentration-related courses listed below.

1. CORE COURSES

A. Clinic, Externship, or Practicum Courses: Students must take at least one course and at least two units total from the following courses:

Advanced Children's Rights Clinic (1 to 3 units)
Advanced Street Law Clinic (1 to 3 units)
Amicus Project Practicum (2 units)
Appellate Litigation Clinic (5 units)
Children's Rights Clinic (5 units)

Externship (approved sites related to criminal law only)
Removal Defense Clinic (3 units)
Street Law Clinic (3 units)
Youth Offender Parole Clinic (6 units; year-long)

B. Skills Courses: Students must take at least three courses and at least six units total from the following courses:

Advanced Legal Writing (2 units)
Appellate Advocacy: Mock Supreme Court (2 units)
Appellate Process and Brief Drafting (1 unit)
Art of Persuasion (1 unit)
Capstone: Complex Criminal Litigation (2 units)
Courtroom Procedure 101 (1 unit)
Criminal Law in Action (1 unit)
Criminal Litigation in Practice (2 units)
Evidence Law and Practice I and II (SCALE) (1 unit from each 3-unit course may be applied)

Evolution of Cannabis Law (1 unit)
Interviewing, Counseling & Negotiating (3 units)
Moot Court Honors Program (up to 3 units may apply)
Negotiation and Dispute Resolution (2 units)
Select Problems in Evidence Lab (1 unit)
Trial Advocacy (2 or 3 units)
Trial Advocacy Honors Program (up to 3 units may apply)

2. ELECTIVE COURSES

To the extent that the required fifteen (15) Concentration units are not satisfied by a student's taking additional Core Courses from the courses listed above, students must satisfy the remaining Concentration units by taking Elective Courses from the following list:

Antitrust Law (3 units)
Advanced Criminal Procedure (bail to jail) (3 units)
California Evidence & Sentencing Law (2 units)
Criminal Law Practice (3 units)
Criminal Law Seminar: Contemporary Issues (2 units)
Criminal Law Seminar: Sex Crimes (2 units)
Crimmigration Law Seminar (2 units)
Critical Race Theory Seminar (2 units)
Defenses in the Law (3 units)
Driving Under the Influence Prosecution and Defense (1 unit)
Immigration Law and Crimes (1 unit)
International Criminal Law (2 units)

International Protection of Human Rights Seminar (2 units)
Law and Social Change (2 units)
Legal Arguments about Moral & Political Issues Seminar (2 units)
Legislation (2 units)
National Security Law (3 units)
Prison Law and Mass Incarceration (2 units)
Race and the Law Seminar (2 units)
Restorative Justice (1 unit)
Transgender Law (1 unit)
Trial of Jesus Seminar (2 units)
White Collar Crime (3 units)
Youth at Risk (2 units)