

J.D. Major / Minor Writing Registration Form

See page 2 for a detailed explanation of each degree requirement.

 **Columbia Law School**

Office of Registration Services

500 William and June Warren Hall

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212-854-2668 | 212-854-1135 (fax)

Registration due by Monday, February 4, 2019

Name: _____ UNI: _____
Last First

Email: _____ Class: 2L 3L Current Term _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Rule 1.4 Legal Writing Requirements

Two Writing Credits are required to satisfy the J.D. Writing Requirement, at least one of which must satisfy the requirement for Major Writing Credit. No more than one of these credits can be earned in a course that is used to satisfy the experiential course work requirement set out in Rule 1.1.5.

L6675 Major Writing – Graded CR/F only

Check this box if you wish to register for Major Writing by undertaking a substantial and rigorous piece of legal writing, consisting of at least 2 drafts, the second of which responds to your supervisor's comments and suggestions on the first draft.

Please see page 2 for detailed information regarding the above offering. If you are registering a paper you are writing for a course, enter the course number and title of the course below.

Course Number _____ Title _____ Term Registered _____

Supervising Faculty _____
Print Name

Supervising Columbia Law School Faculty Signature

Date

L6672 Minor Writing—Graded CR/F only

Check this box if you wish to register for Minor Writing by writing an ordinary course paper, brief, or other written work under the supervision of a Columbia Law School faculty member.

Please see page 2 for detailed information regarding the above offering.

If fulfilled by Seminar/Course that automatically grants Minor WC, instructor signature is not required.

The class grants automatic minor writing credit (Check One): Yes No

Course Number _____ Title _____ Term Registered _____

Supervising Faculty _____
Print Name

Supervising Columbia Law School Faculty Signature

Date

Major and Minor Writing Credits

The J.D. Writing requirement ensures that students will have completed one substantial piece of supervised research and writing during their studies. The purpose of laying down some rather strict rule for the Major Writing Credit is to ensure that this research and writing exercise is properly supervised and evaluated, and to clarify the relation between the Writing Credit requirement and the ordinary paper requirement for papers, courses, etc. At the same time, by providing a relaxed regime for the second or Minor Writing Credit, it is the hope that a variety of legitimate writing projects may be accommodated that may not be pursued with the same degree of supervision as the Major Writing Credit.

Registration of Writing Credits requires all students to propose their topic to and secure agreement of supervision from a law school faculty member to act as Supervisor before submitting registration. It is not sufficient to register for a seminar, research offering, clinic, journal or moot court and to expect the award of any writing credit.

Journal editors may not act as Faculty Supervisors. A paper or note submitted to and/or accepted by a journal or law review may qualify for Writing Credit, but only under faculty supervision.

Major Writing Credit 0 pts

1.4.2 A piece of written work (“the paper”) shall satisfy the Major Writing Requirement only if it fulfills all of the following conditions:

1.4.2.1 The paper is a substantial and rigorous piece of legal writing on a topic approved in advance by a faculty member who has agreed to act as Faculty Supervisor;

1.4.2.2 The paper has been submitted in draft to the Faculty Supervisor, who has provided comments on the draft, and a further version of the paper has been produced which is responsive to those comments;

1.4.2.3 The paper has been approved by the Faculty Supervisor as satisfying conditions 1.4.2.1 and 1.4.2.2.

1.4.2.4 The Faculty Supervisor shall be a member of the regular or clinical or adjunct or visiting faculty.

1.4.2.5 In this paragraph, “substantial and rigorous” refers to work comparable to that required by a paper that serves as the primary basis of evaluation for a two-credit seminar (e.g., approximately 6,500 to 8,000 words). A shorter paper reporting extensive empirical, archival, or like work, however, could also qualify as substantial and rigorous.

1.4.3 A paper meeting the three conditions set out in 1.4.2 may satisfy the Major Writing Requirement even though:

1.4.3.1 it, or an earlier version of it, is also submitted for a grade in a course, seminar, workshop, supervised study, or externship. Seminar instructors will advise students at the beginning of the semester whether they are willing to act as Faculty Supervisor so that the students’ seminar papers can also satisfy the Writing Requirements;

1.4.3.2 it has been submitted to or accepted by a journal for publication. Editorial work, cite-checking, etc. for law reviews and other journals shall not be sufficient in itself to satisfy the Writing Requirement.

1.4.3.3 it has been prepared by a team of students working collaboratively; provided, however, that (i) the individual contributions of each of the students are identified in a joint memorandum so as to enable the Faculty Supervisor to determine that each student's contribution qualifies under Rule 1.4.2.1, (ii) the requirements of Rules 1.4.2.2.-1.4.2.4 have been satisfied, (iii) each team member certifies in the joint memorandum that all team members have contributed in the way(s) identified in section (i), and (iv) the length of the work and the explanation of the contributions of each student are sufficient to convince the Faculty Supervisor that the contributions of each student in terms of research, analysis, writing, editing, etc. are comparable in overall scope to that required of individual students under Rule 1.4.2.5.

1.4.4 Students must obtain the agreement of a faculty member to act as Faculty Supervisor and register for the Major Writing Requirement not later than the end of the Change of Program Period of their fifth semester.

1.4.5 The Minor Writing Credit may be earned by an ordinary course paper, or brief, or other written work under the supervision of a faculty member. It may be earned at any time during the second or third year.

Minor Writing Credit 0 pts

1.4.6 Written work sufficient to satisfy the Minor Writing Credit includes, but is not limited to:

1.4.6.1 Research as an unpaid faculty assistant under Rule 1.6, if conducted under a faculty member’s active supervision and if the supervising faculty member so recommends.

1.4.6.2 Service as a paid legal assistant on the staff of the Legislative Drafting Research Fund, if the director of the Fund so recommends.

1.4.6.3 Participation in the second year as counsel in the fall term elimination rounds or spring term final rounds of the Harlan Fiske Stone Honor Competition, if the brief is certified as satisfactory by a faculty member and the Moot Court Executive Committee.

1.4.7 Students must obtain the agreement of a faculty member to act as Faculty Supervisor and register for the Minor Writing Requirement not later than the end of the Change of Program Period of their sixth semester.

1.4.8 All written work submitted in satisfaction of the Major or Minor Writing Requirements must be completed by the first day of the month preceding the month by which the student anticipates graduating. Any such work that is also submitted to fulfill any other degree requirement must also satisfy Rule 3.3.