Policy on Law 399 Supervised Research and Writing

Law 399 Supervised Research and Writing provides law students an opportunity to undertake substantial research and writing on a legal subject approved by a Faculty member who agrees to supervise the paper. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to students on proposals to write a Law 399 research paper.

The calendar description for Law 399 is as follows:

Units: 1.0-4.0

During either of the second or third years of a student’s program, a student may undertake a substantial research and writing project on a legal subject approved by a member of the Faculty of Law who agrees to supervise the project. With the approval of the Dean or the Dean’s nominee: (1) a student may be awarded credit for two separate supervised research papers provided that the total credit does not exceed 4 units and each paper is started and completed in separate terms; (2) this course may be extended over two terms; or (3) if this course is to be taken for 1 unit only.

The following guidelines apply to Law 399 paper proposals.

- Students are generally expected to satisfy their Law 390 Major Paper Requirement in a regular course offering rather than applying for Law 399.
- An exception can be made where Law 399 offers a student an opportunity to complete an original research and writing project, of publishable quality, where the subject matter of the paper is such that there is not a course-based opportunity to complete this work.
- Students are strongly advised to seek Faculty Member approval for a Law 399 well in advance. Faculty Members may be approached by students about supervising a Law 399 one to two terms in advance.
- Faculty Members are generally not available to supervise Law 399 papers in their non-teaching term. In particular, there are limited opportunities to write Law 399 papers in the summer term.
- Sesssional and adjunct instructors do not normally supervise Law 399 papers.
- The availability of Law 399 is subject to the agreement of a supervising Faculty Member. Whether, and under what circumstances, a Faculty member agrees to supervise a Law 399 is ultimately subject to the discretion of the supervising Faculty Member.
- Students should keep in mind that a Law 399 paper is a major undertaking. A Law 399 paper worth 1.5 units will be analogous to the time requirements of a 1.5 unit course.
Registration in Law 399

- Students cannot register themselves for Law 399; this will be done by a member of the Associate Dean’s office upon submission of the appropriate documentation.
- In order to register for Law 399, you must have your instructor sign the Consent to Supervise Law 399 Supervised Research and Writing and/or Law 390 Major Paper Within a Course form and you must file the completed form with the Associate Dean’s office. The form is available at the Associate Dean’s office and on the JD Course registration and timetables webpage.
- Registration must be completed no later than the add/drop deadline for the particular term in which the Law 399 paper is to be completed.
- The approval of the Associate Dean is needed if Law 399 is to be completed for only 1.0 unit. A Law 399 paper that is completed for only 1.0 unit of credit and that has fewer than 7,500 words does not meet the Faculty’s major paper requirement.
- Where a student is seeking to complete a Law 399 in a topic that could be addressed within course work, Faculty are encouraged to consult with the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations.
- In rare occasions due to exceptional circumstances, the course may be extended over two terms with prior written approval of the supervising professor and the Associate Dean.

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