

Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study

The Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study at the College of Law [<http://law.unl.edu/litigation/>] is designed for students who seek a litigation focus during their time at the Law College. The purpose of the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study is threefold: (1) to recommend those courses the faculty believes are important for the study and development of skills, values and doctrines necessary to be an effective and competent litigator; (2) to sequence those courses in such a way that students will gain maximum benefit from the skills, values and doctrines the courses teach; and (3) to recognize the achievements of those students completing the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study.

The faculty recognizes that, among other skills, every effective and competent litigator requires the ability to analyze and work with substantive doctrines and the ability to bring to litigation the perspectives of different schools of thought and different disciplines. Therefore, the faculty also encourages students participating in the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study to take a broad sampling of doctrinal courses that emphasize different areas of law and the perspectives of different disciplines.

Students who have declared their intention to participate in the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study will be given priority over non-Program students in some of the required or recommended courses. Those courses in which Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study students will receive priority are indicated in the description of the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study. **Students who wish to receive an enrollment preference as the result of having declared their intention to participate in the Program must make that declaration no later than the end of the first semester of their second year.** The College of Law will recognize a student who successfully completes the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study by making a notation in the student's transcript and by awarding the student a certificate of recognition at the time of the student's graduation. Students who do not declare their intention to enroll in the Program by the end of the first semester of their second year but complete all of the required courses and enroll in the Program before graduating will still receive a notation in their transcript and a certificate of completion.

The Specialized Litigation Skills Courses are frequently oversubscribed and students often have difficulty in being able to take the necessary two skills courses before graduating. **IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that you begin participation in the lotteries for the skills courses as early in your law school career as possible.

The Dean's Office has designated Professors Ruser, Sullivan, and Schmidt, and Dean Pearce as the Program Coordinators to administer the requirements of the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study. The responsibilities of the Program Coordinators include: (1) assisting students who seek recognition for completion of the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study in completing all Program requirements; (2) considering requests from individual students to take non-Program courses in fulfillment of Program requirements due to a required or recommended Program course being unavailable; (3) adding courses to the Program requirements as such courses are adopted by the faculty ; and (4) any other responsibilities necessary to administer the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study, including but not limited to deleting courses from the Program requirements if courses are either not taught at all or are not taught with sufficient frequency to be realistically available to students.

The Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study is designed for students who seek to develop their litigation skills during their time at the College of Law. Students may choose a general litigation focus or may choose to focus on either civil or criminal litigation skills. Students may elect to have their certificate of completion of the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study indicate a civil emphasis, a criminal emphasis, or a general emphasis in litigation skills.

REQUIRED COURSES

All students in the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study at the College of Law shall take and pass the following courses:

FIRST YEAR

Students must take and pass all required first-year courses in order to complete successfully the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study.

SECOND AND THIRD YEARS

General Emphasis

Students who wish to pursue a general emphasis in litigation skills shall take and pass the following courses:

- Civil Clinic* and/or Criminal Clinic* or Immigration Clinic** or Children's Justice Clinic**
- Criminal Procedure
- Evidence
- Pretrial Litigation
- Trial Advocacy.

Civil Emphasis

Students who wish to emphasize civil litigation skills shall take and pass the following courses:

- Civil Clinic* or Immigration Clinic** or Children's Justice Clinic**
- Evidence
- Pretrial Litigation
- Trial Advocacy.

Criminal Emphasis

Students who wish to emphasize criminal litigation skills shall take and pass the following courses:

- Criminal Clinic*
- Criminal Procedure
- Evidence
- Trial Advocacy.

(*Program students have priority over non-Program students in these courses.)

(**Students enrolled in the Children's Justice Clinic are only eligible to take an additional clinic during the summer following their second year. Students taking the Immigration Clinic are not eligible to take any other clinics.)

SPECIALIZED LITIGATION SKILLS COURSES AND COMPETITIONS (TWO COURSES)

In addition to the required courses listed above, students in the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study shall take at least two courses from the following block of specialized litigation skills courses during their second and third years at the College of Law:

- Advanced Legal Research
- Advocacy in Mediation
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Capstone Course in Labor and Employment Law
- Client Interviewing and Counseling
- Construction Practice
- Family Law Practice
- International Mediation Team
- Mediation
- National Moot Court Team
- National Trial Team
- Negotiations
- Regional Client Counseling Team

SEMINAR

Students in the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study are encouraged to complete at least one litigation-related paper in a senior level seminar.

To declare your intention to participate in the Litigation Skills Program of Concentrated Study, go to the Law College website at <http://law.unl.edu/litigation/>. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the red words "REGISTRATION FORM."

Suggested Course Sequencing for Litigation Skills
Program of Concentrated Study

Civil Emphasis

Courses Required	Fall	Spring	Summer
Children's Justice Clinic*	<i>Offered every fall/spring (two-semester commitment)</i>		
Civil Clinic*	<i>Offered every fall</i>	<i>Offered every spring</i>	<i>Offered every summer</i>
Evidence			
Immigration Clinic*	<i>Offered every fall</i>	<i>Offered every spring</i>	<i>Offered every summer</i>
Pretrial Litigation	<i>Offered every fall</i>	<i>Offered every spring</i>	
Trial Advocacy		<i>Offered every spring</i>	

*Civil Emphasis requires Civil Clinic, Children's Justice Clinic or Immigration Clinic

Criminal Emphasis

Courses Required	Fall	Spring	Summer
Criminal Clinic*	<i>Offered every fall</i>	<i>Offered every spring</i>	<i>Offered on "odd-numbered" years only</i>
Criminal Procedure			
Evidence			
Trial Advocacy		<i>Offered every spring</i>	

*Criminal Emphasis requires Criminal Clinic

General Emphasis

Courses Required	Fall	Spring	Summer
Children's Justice Clinic*	<i>Offered every fall/spring (two-semester commitment)</i>		
Civil Clinic*	<i>Offered every fall</i>	<i>Offered every spring</i>	<i>Offered every summer</i>
Criminal Clinic*	<i>Offered every fall</i>	<i>Offered every fall</i>	<i>Offered on "odd-numbered" years only</i>
Criminal Procedure			
Evidence			
Immigration Clinic*	<i>Offered every fall</i>	<i>Offered every spring</i>	<i>Offered every summer</i>
Pretrial Litigation	<i>Offered every fall</i>	<i>Offered every spring</i>	
Trial Advocacy		<i>Offered every spring</i>	

*General Emphasis requires one of the above clinics

Two additional Specialized Litigation Skills Courses or Competitions must be completed as well. Consult class schedule for semesters during which those courses are taught.