



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL of LAW

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Experiential Education Department
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Q. What is “Experiential (pronounced, ex-pier-e-in-chul), Education”?

A. This is a multi-pronged answer:

- a. Student focused education, in that **student decision** making is one of the primary focuses.
- b. Opportunities that place students in **live advocacy and work situations, where nothing is ever perfect.**
- c. Students personally live the experience of **being a professional**, working tasks and assignments that are assigned to newly licensed lawyers, including creating resolutions for problems that may or may not be anticipated.
- d. Students achieve competence and mastery of lawyering skills by:
 - i. actually, performing the skills;
 - ii. evaluating the work performed;
 - iii. reflecting on what they learned about what went right, what could have gone better, what not to do again;
 - iv. studying introspectively about personal accountability; and
 - v. re-performing the skills with modifications in required.

Q. How many Experiential Education credits must I earn, minimally to graduate?

A. The American Bar Association's Standard for Law Schools, section 303 mandates that an accredited law school must offer a curriculum that requires each student to satisfactorily complete at least **one or more experiential courses** totaling at least **6-credit hours**. Therefore, you must earn minimally 6-credit hours of experiential education credit to meet the minimum graduation requirement.

Q. What courses on the curriculum count as Experiential Education?

A. The following classes count as Experiential Education credits:

Course	Credit Hours	Course	Credit Hours
Trial Simulation Lecture-Required 2L course*	2 Hours	Judicial Externship	4-6 Hours 4 in Summer
Trial Simulation Practicum- Required 2L course*	2 Hours	Criminal Externship	4-6 Hours 4 in Summer
Street Law	3 Hours	Juvenile Lifers Without Parole	4-6 Hours 4 in Summer
Mediation	2 Hours	CPS Litigation/Child Welfare	4-6 Hours 4 in Summer
Law Practice Management	3 Hours	Innocence Project	4 Hours
Civil Externship	6 Hours	Legislative Internship	12 Hours
Criminal Law Clinic	6 Hours	Family Law Clinic	6 hours
Immigration Clinic	6 Hours	Wills and Probate Clinic	6 Hours
Mergers and Acquisitions	3 Hours		

Q. Is taking a Legal Clinic an Experiential Education requirement for graduation?

A. No. However, while participating in a legal clinic is not required, it is highly recommended for the practical opportunities offered.

Q. Is taking an Externship an Experiential Education requirement for graduation?

A. No. However, while participating in an externship is not required, it is highly recommended for the practical opportunities offered in the form of “live client” representation; drafting experience; legal research and writing experience of quality expected by sitting judges and expanding legal networking opportunities.

Q. Why do I have to wait until my 2L or 3L year to earn Experiential Education credit?

A. The first 58 hours of your 1L and 2L curriculum are mandated and must be taken in sequence. As such, your schedule will not be able to accommodate an experiential education course that is more than 2 credit hours until the summer of your rising 3L year.

Q. What is my responsibility with regard to meeting the 6-hour Experiential Education requirement?

A. You are responsible for making sure that you have met the 6-hour Experiential Education requirement by the time you are ready to graduate. Plan your schedule carefully.

Q. Can I take an externship and a clinic?

A. Yes, you may participate in more than one Experiential Education program like the legal clinical program and the externship program; however, you can only take one program per semester.

Q. Can I take more than one externship during my 3L year?

A. Yes, you may participate in more than one externship however, you can only take one externship course per semester.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Smith Ledesma
Stephanie Smith Ledesma
Assistant Professor