

AALS COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

SURVEY OF INNOVATIONS IN LAW SCHOOL CURRICULA

The AALS has decided to focus on the issue of curriculum reform in American Law Schools, and would like to set up a process that enables law schools to share information about what is being done, help each other develop new initiatives, and generally catalyze the effort to bring law teaching into the 21st century. The first step in this process is a survey of current curriculum reform efforts. We understand that surveys come thick and fast these days, but we promise that this is not an effort to collect information that will then sit on someone's shelf, or in someone's hard drive. First, you'll receive information in return, information about new ideas and implementation strategies that other law schools have developed. Second, we'll use the results of the survey to design various settings where law school faculty and administrators can come together to share ideas and develop plans about reforming the law school curriculum.

The following questions are designed to be answered by brief statements, sometimes one or two words, sometimes one or two sentences. We would be delighted if you want to attach a longer description of any program or plan that you regard as particularly worth sharing. In addition, feel free to attach documents you've already prepared for other purposes.

I. First Year

1. Do you have an elective in the first year? **No**

If so, what does it consist of?

A limited number of courses specially designed for the first year

A limited number of upper division courses

Any upper division course the student chooses to take

Something else (please describe)

2. Do you offer or require any skills courses or training in the first year other than legal writing and/or Legal Research? If so, please describe.

If you offer or require legal writing, is it something other than a separate class taught by specially-hired, non-tenure track instructors? If so, please describe.

3. Aside from the electives and skills courses described above, do you require any course other than Torts, Contracts, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Property and Constitutional Law?

No

If so, what is it?

Legal Methods
Regulatory Law
International Law
Evidence
Criminal Procedure
Theories of Law
Other, please describe

4. Do you offer a separate curriculum in the first year that students can choose, or to which they are assigned? If so, please describe.

5. Have you made significant changes or innovations in your first year curriculum recently other than those described in response to the foregoing questions? If so please describe.

II. Second and Third Years

1. Do you offer a specialized track or concentration program in any of the following areas?

Business Law
Public Law
International Law
Transnational Law
Social Justice
Criminal Law and Procedure
Other, please describe

Tax, Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Employment and Labor Law

Business Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify) **Yes, all of them**

Offers special courses (please describe) **None just for students in the concentration**

Requires special courses (please describe) **we require students to take 6 core courses: Agency and Partnership, Commercial law, Corporations, Secured Transactions, Tax I and II**

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe) **not provided per se, but an externship or clinic may satisfy the 'major Project' requirement**

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **Yes, noted on trans. if the student successfully completes the concentration (all course requirements, maintaining a 3.0 in the concentration and not getting below a C+ in any concentration course).**

Other features (please describe) **One additional business elective, other ways to complete the 'major project' such as an independent legal writing project; only one course may be Pass/Fail.**

Criminal Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify) **Yes, all of them**

Offers special courses (please describe) **none are limited**

Requires special courses (please describe) **3 required courses: Criminal Law, Priminal Procedure I and II**

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe) **none provided but an externship may satisfy the major project requirement**

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **see answer under business law**

Other features (please describe) **3 additional courses, Pass/Fail optin as descrbied under business law**

Tax, Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Employment and Labor Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify) **none limit courses to only those in the concentration**

Offers special courses (please describe) **all courses are part of the regular curriculum**

Requires special courses (please describe) **none limit required courses, all have required courses**

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)
none specifically provide these services, but all allow students to fulfill the concentration requirements by participating in regular clinics, etc.

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **All do, as stated under**

business law

Other features (please describe) **All have course requirements beyond the required courses and all require completion of a 'major project'**

2. Apart from the standard live client clinics, and the clinical programs described in your answer to the previous question, do you offer any other kinds of clinical programs? If so, please describe.

Not being sure what a 'standard live client' clinic is, we have, apart from those that represent individuals, 3 that work with community groups: the Environmental Law Clinic, the Law and Public Policy Clinic, and the Community ADvocacy Clinic.

3. What joint degree or accelerated degree programs do you offer?

Dual Degree programs: JD/MBA, JD/Masters of Public Administration, JD/Masters of Environmental Studies, JD/Masters of Urban PLanning, Design and Development,

4. Other than the programs described above, do you have any other interdisciplinary programs of note?

No.

5. Have you made significant changes or innovations in your second and third year curriculum recently other than those described in response to the foregoing questions? If so please describe.

No

III. Curricular Reform Process

1. Did you gather data in connection with any of the curriculum reforms described earlier? If yes, and if you can share them, please attach a copy or describe their general findings.

I am sure we did, but I was not on the Committees and I was not Associate Dean at the time.

2. How did the most significant curricular change in your school in the last 10 years come about - - who initiated the change and by what process?

Faculty discussions would lead to the Curriculum Committee or the Teaching Committee being assigned (by the Dean) the task of studying and recommending changes to the faculty. We discuss the proposals at 'brown bag' lunches, through emails, and faculty meetings and vote on them at faculty meetings.

IV. Next Steps

1. What information would you like to receive about curricular reform?

New Courses, courses no longer offered, 'e-learning' courses.

2. Would you be interested in presenting any curricular reform(s) that you are undertaking in a special session at an AALS annual meeting? Which one(s)?

No, only because I do not think ours are that interesting!

If so, would you be interested in doing so at the next (2007) meeting? It will be held in San Francisco, and spec

No