

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.

Our legal writing course is a year long, six credit course that combines legal writing and substantive criminal law. It is taught by full-time tenured or tenure track faculty. All of the writing assignments are in the area of substantive criminal law.

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?

yes

If so, what is it?

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

Professional Responsibility

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.

We recently made all of our first year courses one-semester, four-credit courses instead of year-long courses. The only exception to that is the crim law/legal writing course, which is a six credit year long course. In the fall we offer torts (4), contracts (4), property (4) and crim law (3) and in the spring we offer civ pro (4), con law (4), Prof. resp (3) and crim law (3). We are currently looking at this model to see if we want to move professional responsibility out of the first year and either replace it with another course, or add credits to some other courses. We are also looking at the first year crim law/LAW course to see if we want to change it in any way.

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

Environmental Law, Land Use/Real Estate Law

Business Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify)

Offers special courses (please describe)

Requires special courses (please describe)

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)

Securities Arbitration Clinic

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what)

Other features (please describe)

International Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify)

Offers special courses (please describe) **London Program Abroad**

Requires special courses (please describe)

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)

summer International Internship, International Trade externship, Immigration Law clinic

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **Certificate in International**

Law

Other features (please describe) **International law Review**

Criminal Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify)

Offers special courses (please describe)

Requires special courses (please describe)

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)

Criminal Defense internship, Prosecutorial Externship, Innocence Project,

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what)

Other features (please describe)

Environmental Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify)

Environmental Skills, Hazardous Waste

Offers special courses (please describe) **Many Environmental seminars**

Requires special courses (please describe)

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe) **Environmental Clinic, Environmental Externship, DC Externship, Comparative Environmental Law in Brazil, Externship with the UN**
Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **Yes--Environmental Law**
Other features (please describe) **Environmental Law Review, Environmental Moot Court,, Environmental Law Society, joint JD/MA programs with Yale University and Bard College, Pace LLM and SJD in environmental Law**

Real Estate Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify)
Offers special courses (please describe) **Land Use, Real Estate Transactions, Putting Together a Real Estate Deal**
Requires special courses (please describe)
Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)
Land Use Law Center
Grants a certificate (please tell us for what)
Other features (please describe)

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.

We have live client clinics, externships and simulations. Live Client Clinics--Criminal Defense Clinic, Environmental Litigation Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, Securities Arbitration clinic, Disability Law clinic, Post-Conviction clinic. Externships--Prosecution Externship, Family Court Externship, Environmental Externship, International Trade Externship, Federal Judicial Honors Externship, State Judicial Externship, Legal Services Externship, DC Externship Simulations: Trial Advocacy, Advanced Trial Advocacy, Advanced Appellate Advocacy, Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation, Mediation and Arbitration, Pre-Trial Civil Litigation, Drafting Legal Documents

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

Joint JD/MPA with Pace University Joint JD/MBA with Pace University Joint JD/MA with Sarah Lawrence College Joint JD/MA with Bard College Joint JD/MA with Yale University LLM in Environmental Law LLM in comparative Legal Studies SJD in Environmental Law

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

Land Use Law Center Women's Justice Center Center for Environmental Legal Studies Energy Project Pace Investor Rights Project Real Estate Law Institute

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.

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.

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?

IV. Next Steps

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

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)?

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