

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? **yes**

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.

no

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.

no.

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.

Students are assigned in their first and second semester to the courses listed in #3. In the spring, they choose from a list of electives that are also open to upper level students.

Yes, during the spring semester, students can choose the civil law track. On this track, students take Civil Law Property I instead of Common Law Property and Obligations I rather than Contracts II (UCC course).

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.

no.

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

certificates: sports law, environmental, admiralty, civil law, european studies

Admiralty; Sports Law; Environmental; Civil Law

certificates: sports law, environmental, admiralty, civil law, european studies

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

Yes.Examples: Students in Sports Law certificate program take

Antitrust and Labor Law. Students in Environmental take administrative law, natural resources and pollution control.

Offers special courses (please describe) **Sports Law I and II for certificate students but open to others.**

Requires special courses (please describe) **Sports Law I and II are**

required.

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)

Certificate directors assist students with internship placements

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what)

Other features (please describe)

Transnational Law

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

Offers special courses (please describe) **Obligations I; Comparative Law; International Business Transactions; EU I; EU II**

Requires special courses (please describe) **Same as Above**

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe) **No**

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **Yes, for 'European Legal**

Studies'

Other features (please describe)

Admiralty

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

Admiralty I

Offers special courses (please describe) **Admiralty II, many upper level courses**

Requires special courses (please describe)

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe) **No**

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **Admiralty Law**

Other features (please describe)

Sports Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify) **Sports Law I**

Offers special courses (please describe) Sports Law II, Seminar
Requires special courses (please describe)
Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe) No
Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) Sports Law
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.

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

JD/MBA; JD/MPH

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

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?

Through the deans and Academic Affairs committee (faculty)

IV. Next Steps

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

Upper-level specialized programs being taught at other law schools. Information on recent offerings in international law.

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.

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