

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)

Faculty approved, but the option include some upper level required course (i.e. Civ Pro II and PR).

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.

1st year workshops for on of the substantive 1st year courses

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.

No separate curriculum - first year students are assigned to certain required courses in their first and second semesters. Semester 1 have to take Civ Pro I, Torts, Contracts, Legal Writing, and Intro to Legal Research. In Semester 2 - assigned Criminal Law, Property, Constitutional Law, Legal Writing II and get to choose one elective.

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.

There are now separate classes for Writing and Research classes (previously combined into one class). And there are workshops with tutors offered for the first year courses.

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

Native American Law Certificate, National Environmental Law & Policy Institute Certificate Program, and Health Law Certificate.

Business Law

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

Entrepreneurial Law (Business Management), Basic Corp. Law, Agency & Partnership

Offers special courses (please describe)

Requires special courses (please describe) **Entrepreneurial Law Seminar**

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)

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

Entrepreneurial Law

Other features (please describe)

Public Law

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

Courses from 6 areas: Admin/Regulation Law; Public Law; Economic & Resource Regulations, Fairness Regulation, protecting of Health Svcs

Offers special courses (please describe)

Requires special courses (please describe) **Service Internship or Writing**

Credit

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **Public Policy & Regulations**

Certificate

Other features (please describe) **we offer a JD/PhD in criminal justice jointly w/Sam Houston State**

International Law

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

Comparative and International Law Center

Offers special courses (please describe) **Semester in London, summer in Dublin, summer in Argentina**

Requires special courses (please describe)

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)

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

& Int'l Law

Other features (please describe) **Promotes globalization**

Environmental Law

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

National Energy-Environmental Law & Policy Institute

Offers special courses (please describe) **Courses in energy, environment & Natural resources**

Requires special courses (please describe) **Symposiums offered array of**

topics

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **National Energy-**

Environment Law & Policy Certificate and Resources, Energy & Environmental Law (REEL) Certificate

Other features (please describe)

Native American Law

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

American Law

Offers special courses (please describe) **Specialized courses & library holdings in Indian Law History, government documents & policy**

Requires special courses (please describe)

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe)

Internship Boesche Legal Clinic and Externships with Tribal government, federal depart of Interior or Legal Aid Program

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

Center Certificate

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/MA in Anthropology JD/MA in History JD/MA in Industrial/Organizational Psychology JD/MA in English JD/MA in Biological Sciences JD/MA in Clinical Psychology JD/MA in Geosciences JD/MBA program JD/MBA in Computer Sciences JD/MA Taxation Program

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

6 hours graduate/undergraduate available to take at the University. Some classes cross listed such as Women's Studies and some Law and Religion classes

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.

Constitutional Law II as required course. Also, if someone drops below a 2.5, certain core courses are now required, which include Administrative Law, Advanced torts, Agency & Partnership, Criminal Procedure: Police Practices, Family Law and Federal Taxation or Taxation of Estates, Trusts & Gifts.

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.

Looked at information on Bar Passage Rates and added courses to be required if a person fell under 2.5 gpa such as Administrative Law, Advanced Torts, Agency & Partnership, Criminal Procedure: Police Practices, Family Law, and Federal Taxation or Taxation of Estates, Trusts & Gifts. This is an effort to make sure at risk students take substantive courses, thus helping increase their chances at passing the bar.

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?

Most likely the required courses for those that fall under 2.5 gpa most significant curricular change which was brought about by the Faculty Bar Passage Committee and ultimately approved by the Faculty.

IV. Next Steps

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

If any significant changes have made differences in such things as bar passage rates.

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)?

Not interested in any presentations at this time.

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

no