

Section 2-109. Rules Governing Satisfaction of Substantial Paper Requirement

(a) Purpose

The substantial paper requirement provides students with the experience of deep, sustained engagement with a legal topic or issue. The student will set goals for the paper with a faculty advisor; perform extensive legal research in the relevant doctrinal area (including, as appropriate, the scholarly literature); craft an original argument that advances the goals of the paper; and develop this argument via organized, persuasive legal argument.

(b) General Requirement

To graduate, each student must complete a substantial paper of satisfactory professional quality under the close, frequent supervision of a faculty member. That paper must involve significant independent research and analysis of a legal topic or issue. The paper may be a scholarly article, a legal brief, or some other piece of professional or academic legal writing.

(c) Methods of Satisfying General Requirement

Students may complete this requirement in one of three ways:

- (1) Complete, with a passing grade, a three-unit substantial paper seminar (offered under course number LAW 696N);
- (2) Complete, with a passing grade, a “Student-Initiated Substantial Paper” (offered as LAW 696N); or
- (3) Complete, with a passing grade, Advanced Legal Writing (offered under course number LAW 653A).
- (4) As a member of the Arizona Law Review (ALR), Arizona Journal of International & Comparative Law (AJICL), Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy (AJELP), or Arizona Law Journal of Emerging Technologies (JET), write a Note of publishable quality under the close supervision of a faculty member AND earn at least four units as provided in section 2-109(g)(2).

(d) Requirements for Substantial Paper

Any substantial paper must meet these requirements:

- (1) The paper must be at least 7,500 words long, excluding footnotes, tables of authority, and other supporting documentation;
- (2) The student must submit an abstract, an outline, and at least one rough draft of the paper to the supervising faculty member for substantial review and comment; and

- (3) The student must write and submit a final draft of the paper that meaningfully responds to the supervising faculty member's comments on previous drafts.

(e) Oral Presentation Requirement

To satisfy the substantial paper requirement, the student must make an oral presentation of the paper to the students in the seminar or to another group of students and faculty, including the supervising professor, at a time to be scheduled by the professor. This presentation generally should take place after the student has submitted a rough draft but before the student has submitted the final draft, and generally towards the end of the semester.

(f) Limitation on Award of Student-Initiated Substantial Paper Units

- (1) Unless the student is required to re-enroll as a result of receiving a failing grade, a student may enroll only once for a "Student-Initiated Substantial Paper" (LAW 696N §3). A student who wishes to perform additional in-depth research and writing under the individualized supervision of a faculty member may do so as an Independent Study.
- (2) In the same semester, a student may not register both for a "Student-Initiated Substantial Paper" (LAW 696N § 3) and a substantial paper seminar (LAW 696N) where the topic of the student's student-initiated paper is addressed by the seminar course. An exception will be made where the student demonstrates to the satisfaction of the academic dean that the topics are sufficiently distinguishable to merit the units in both courses.

(g) Faculty Supervision of Substantial Paper

(1) Who May Supervise

Any tenured, tenure-eligible, continuing-status, and continuing-status-eligible faculty, as well as visiting assistant professors, professors of the practice, and faculty emeriti may supervise substantial papers. In addition, adjunct faculty and other faculty within the Law College, visiting faculty, and other faculty within the University of Arizona may supervise substantial papers with the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

(2) Supervision Requirements

- (A) All faculty teaching a substantial paper seminar or supervising a student-initiated substantial paper or student note should discuss the following topics, preferably during class or in some other way that effectively communicates their importance to students:
 - (i) Selecting a topic;
 - (ii) Conducting preliminary research;
 - (iii) Organizing legal analysis;

- (iv) Developing a thesis; and
 - (v) Structuring an oral presentation.
- (B) All faculty teaching a substantial paper seminar, supervising a student-initiated substantial paper or supervising a student Note must:
- (i) Consult with the student on selection of a topic;
 - (ii) Approve the topic;
 - (iii) Review and consult with the student about a thesis for the paper and provide written or oral feedback after reviewing the thesis statement;
 - (iv) Consult with the student about research;
 - (v) Review and provide substantial written comments on an abstract;
 - (vi) Review and provide substantial written comments on an outline;
 - (vii) Review and provide substantial written and oral comments on a rough draft;
 - (viii) Attend and give comments on oral presentation;
 - (ix) Read final paper and assign grade for entire semester; and;
 - (x) Work with the student at the beginning of the semester to establish the timeline for accomplishing i-ix.
- (C) All tenured, tenure-eligible, continuing status and continuing status-eligible faculty members are expected to be available to supervise four (or more) substantial papers, including Notes, each academic year. Other faculty are encouraged to supervise substantial papers, particularly within their area of expertise.
- (D) All faculty members supervising substantial papers shall inform the Office of Faculty Support of the details of the oral presentations of their students so that the law community may attend or participate.

(h) Special Rules Governing Students Who Satisfy Substantial Paper Requirement through Section 2-109(c)(3)

(1) Total Units

Students who satisfy the substantial paper requirement as members of the ALR, AJICL, AJELP, or JET by writing a Note of publishable quality under close faculty supervision must also earn at least four units of credit as provided in section 2-109(h)(2).

(2) Earning Units

A second-year student may earn three units of credit by completing one Note of publishable quality. A third-year student may earn three units of credit for serving on the editorial board, two units of credit for participating as a third-year writer and completing a second publishable Note, or one unit of credit for work in the support and production areas of the publications.

(3) Definition

A 'Note' is an extensively researched paper on a narrowly defined legal topic. It is a thorough analysis and discussion of a specific legal issue, but it does not necessarily focus on a single case. A Note of 'publishable quality' contributes something new to legal scholarship.

Chapter 2. ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Section 2-201. University and College Grading System

(a) Grades

The College of Law employs a letter grading system, including plus and minus grades, in which "A" means excellent, "B" means good, "C" means fair, "D" means poor, and "E" means failure. In addition, "P" means pass, "F" means fail, "I" means incomplete, and "W" means withdrawal. The letter grades have the following numerical equivalents:

A = 4.00
A- = 3.67
B+ = 3.33
B = 3.00
B- = 2.67
C+ = 2.33
C = 2.00
C- = 1.67
D+ = 1.33
D = 1.00
D- = .67
E = 0.00

(b) Limitations on Mandatory Plus and Minus Grades

Under the mandatory grading system described in subsection (a): (1) a grade of A+, E+, or E- may not be awarded; and (2) for purposes of raising grades on the basis of class participation, an instructor's discretion is limited to raising a grade by one grade increment only. For example, a B- may be raised only to a B and a B+ only to an A-.