

University of Kansas School of Law Field Placement Program Course Description and Summary of Requirements

Contact:

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Program Description

The Field Placement Program allows students to earn credit for performing legal work under the supervision of a practicing attorney at approved governmental agencies, as well as approved non-profit organizations. Students work a specified number of hours per week under the direct supervision of a practicing attorney, do primarily legal work, complete a goals memo, maintain weekly journals of their experience, write a reflective paper, engage in directed readings and writing, and actively participate in the field placement class.

Course Goals

Students will develop lawyering skills and practice readiness in three ways:

- Observing lawyers and other legal professionals at work.
- Performing legal work under close supervision and receiving meaningful feedback on that work.
- Reflecting on their observations, experiences, and impressions.

Participation in field placements allow students to build on skills they have begun learning in classroom simulations, clinics, and other legal work experiences.

Academic Considerations and Requirements

To participate in the Program, students must have completed the equivalent of two semesters of law school and be in academic good standing.

Students may earn one to six credit hours for their field placement depending on the total number of hours they work in a semester or summer session.

A student may earn a maximum of six hours of credit toward graduation through LAW 894. In addition, LAW 894 hours count toward the 16-credit hour limit on field placement and clinic credit hours that may be applied to graduation.

Each credit hour requires 42.5 hours of work. All work must be completed during the academic semester or summer session in which the student is enrolled in the Field Placement Program. The work schedule is determined by the student and the supervising attorney, and a regular schedule should be set before the student begins work at the placement.

The Program is graded on a credit/no credit basis.

If approved, a Field Placement will consist of two components:

- (1) A work experience in the approved field placement (a “job” at the organization), which consists of working a specified number of hours of work per week.

AND

- (2) An academic component, which consists of:
 - Completion of significant assigned coursework;

- Attendance at scheduled classes;
- Discussions with the program director;
- Completion of a goals memo during the first week of the field placement;
- Submission of weekly journal entries to the Program Director; and
- Completion of a reflective paper.

Jobs that Qualify for Field Placement Program Credit

A student may receive academic credit for legal positions with approved government agencies, as well as approved non-profit organizations. All placements must be approved by the program director.

Placements appropriate for credit are those that involve work assisting attorneys or clients with legal matters. Such placements should include the opportunity to practice lawyering skills such as legal research, analysis, writing, advocacy, and other work that attorneys typically perform. Placements should also afford students the opportunity to observe at least one lawyer performing daily work.

Positions with private, for-profit law firms and other for-profit entities do not qualify for Field Placement Program credit.

A student may not gain academic credit for work in which the student receives monetary compensation of any kind, including scholarship assistance contingent on the placement. Reimbursement for expenses such as mileage may be permitted. Students may not receive Field Placement Program credit at placements where they have previously been employed for pay, or where they have already received an offer of paid employment.

Students may not receive Field Placement Program credit in a placement for which there is an existing specialized KU Law clinic or field placement without prior permission from both the director of the affected specialized clinic or field placement and the director of the Field Placement Program. Generally, students with prosecution placements should participate in the Prosecution Field Placement Program; students with judicial placements should participate in the Judicial Field Placement; and so forth.

Obtaining a Field Placement

The Field Placement Program is self-placing, meaning that students find their own placements and apply to receive credit through the program. Some, but not all, field placement opportunities are posted on Symplicity, which is an online database used by the Career Services Office. Students may, of course, seek assistance and guidance from the program director and the Career Services Office.

Applying for the Field Placement Program

An application for participation in the Field Placement Program must be submitted for each academic term (fall, spring, or summer) in which the student wishes to participate in the Program. Applications should be submitted to the program director by the deadline set by the program director.

For a Field Placement Program application to be processed, four requirements must be met:

- The student must obtain a placement with a qualified employer.
- The student must complete and submit an application by the applicable deadline. The application can be found and downloaded from the KU Law website (go to Academics/Hands-on Learning/Field Placements, click Field Placement Program).
- The supervisor at the placement must be a licensed lawyer. The supervisor must submit a letter of interest, specifying what the student will do for the organization and addressing how the organization will ensure an excellent legal learning experience for the student. The letter of interest can be included

- with the application packet or can be submitted separately to the program director.
- The student must submit the “Field Placement Program Supervising Attorney, Student, and Director Agreement,” signed by the student and the supervising attorney.

Please submit the above application and supporting documentation to Janette Roundy, Faculty Support Professional, at janetteroundy@ku.edu.