

Externships and Judicial Internships: Guidelines for Seeking Academic Credit

1. Students can earn academic credit for work with a non-profit organization, government agency, or member of the judiciary.
2. A student can receive a maximum of 4 credit hours for one placement. Therefore, if a student chooses to work for a placement for the entire summer, he or she can receive a maximum of 4 credits. Students are allowed to split their summer between two judicial internships/externships and can receive 3 or 4 credits for each placement. Additional credit for a subsequent judicial internship/externship at the same placement in another semester or for an international placement for an entire semester will be considered on a case by case basis.
3. To receive academic credit, a student must have completed his first year law courses and have a minimum GPA of 2.5 for externships and 2.7 for judicial internships and health law externships.
4. IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ABA, A STUDENT MUST TAKE THE CLASS COMPONENT IN THE SAME SEMESTER IN WHICH THEY ARE EARNING ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THEIR FIRST INTERNSHIP/EXTERNSHIP.
5. Students cannot receive credit for participation in a placement for which they receive compensation. This policy includes fellowships. Therefore, if a student receives a fellowship, stipend, scholarship, etc., he or she cannot receive academic credit as well.
6. Students must be engaged in legal work (as opposed to administrative work or work that is non-legal in nature) at the placement and students must be supervised by an attorney who has been licensed for at least three years. For judicial internships, law clerks and other attorneys with less experience may supervise the student as long as the student has the opportunity to receive final approval and feedback on his or her work from the judge. Court coordinators and other nonlawyers should not be supervising a student's work.
7. If a student is interested in a placement that is not on the clinic website at www.law.uh.edu/clinic, he or she must see Professor Bonadero to determine whether the placement meets the criteria for credit.
8. The externship and judicial internship courses fall within the non-substantive hour cap, which is 12 hours for 1Ls. The one-credit hour, graded class component (Judicial Process or Public Interest Workplace) does not.
9. If a student chooses to do a judicial internship and an externship during the summer, they must take both the Judicial Process and Public Interest Workplace classes.
10. If a student does not receive an externship or judicial internship in the summer, he or she should consider the fall or spring semesters. Many judges and other placements take students during these semesters and the positions are not as competitive as in the summer.