

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW UPPER-LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENT RULES

As a requirement for graduation, all students must satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement by writing a significant legal research paper under faculty supervision. Students may complete this requirement by writing a paper in a seminar or in an approved independent research project supervised by a member of the College of Law's full-time faculty. However, only full-time faculty members who teach outside of the Legal Methods and Academic Success and Bar Preparation programs supervise Upper-Level Writing Requirement independent research project.

The objective of the Upper-Level Writing Requirement is for each student to improve his or her writing and research skills and to produce a significant scholarly research paper before graduation. Students should be prepared to receive substantial feedback, complete multiple drafts of their work, and produce a final paper that is of publishable quality.

To satisfy the requirement, all students must write a paper of at least twenty-five (25) pages, including footnotes. The body of the paper is to be double-spaced, with footnotes single-spaced. The paper must earn a grade of B- or higher to satisfy the requirement and must meet the following criteria, as certified by the supervising faculty member:

- A significant analytical paper;
- Reflects substantial legal research;
- Contains original thought;
- Displays proper writing style; and
- Uses correct citation form.

The research topic must be approved by the supervising faculty member and must be work specifically prepared for the Upper-Level Writing Requirement. Students may not resubmit work from a prior course, prior independent study, or clinical experience.

Seminar Papers and Seminar Grades

Depending on the nature of the seminar, the seminar paper grade and the final course grade may not be the same. Students should review the seminar syllabus for grading standards in the particular seminar in which they are enrolled. If there are any questions, consult with the faculty member who is teaching the seminar.

Using Independent Study to Satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement

To satisfy the Upper-Level Writing Requirement through independent study, students must enroll in LAW 6905, Independent Research. In order to register for LAW 6905, students must:

- **Complete an Upper-Level Writing Requirement Application Form – Independent Research (“Application Form”), including providing all required attachments;**
- **Obtain the approval and signature of the supervising faculty member;**
- **Obtain the approval and signature of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; and**
- **Submit the completed Application Form, including all signatures, to the College of Law Registrar’s Office on or before the first day of the Add/Drop period.**