

What is the experiential requirement for graduation? 6 credits total. 3 credits must be “live client”, which you can meet by taking either a clinic (3 or 6 credits) or an externship with an attorney (3 credits). The other 3 credits may be clinic, *any* externship *except Advanced*, or a simulation/workshop. More details and course listings [here](#).

What’s the difference between Clinics and Externships?

	Clinics	Externships
What You Do	<p>Serve as the primary/“first-chair” lawyer for your own real-life clients</p> <p>Personally stand up in court or at agency hearings, meet with clients and opposing counsel, counsel your client about their options, etc.</p> <p>Temporarily licensed to practice law under faculty supervision as a member of UBalt’s in-house educational law firm</p>	<p>Work for a practicing attorney or judge (<i>note: judicial externships do not fulfill the live client requirement</i>)</p> <p>Do substantial work as a law clerk that meets educational standards, under the direction of the field supervisor.</p> <p>Not licensed to practice law</p>
Time Commitment	<p>Minimum average of 10 or 20 hours per week (3 or 6 credits), including seminar and seminar work</p> <p>Times largely not fixed in advance; details below</p> <p>Ratio of in-person vs. remote varies based on your client’s needs</p>	<p>Minimum average of 9-10 hours of fieldwork per week over at least 10 weeks (130 hours total), plus seminar and seminar work</p> <p>Times largely fixed in advance and dependent on placement’s needs</p> <p>Ratio of in-person vs. remote based on your placement’s needs and as agreed in advance</p>
When to Apply	<p>Apply mid-semester for the clinic lottery, which prioritizes students closest to graduation (Innocence Project Clinic: can apply during spring only for a Fall start)</p>	<p>Start looking at least 2-3 months in advance. You must secure a position, paid or unpaid, that meets educational standards. Must be submitted for approval to the Director of Externships (processes and timelines vary by placement type).</p>
Evening/ Summer Options	<p>Twilight/evening seminars available; no summer options</p>	<p>Seminars are synchronous and remote; available during lunch hour, twilight, or evening hours. Limited summer options for part-time students and under extenuating circumstances.</p>
Credits	<p>3 or 6 live-client, classroom credits</p>	<p>3 live-client credits (attorney externships only, not judicial); count toward the 12-credit cap on non-classroom credits; maximum of 9 externship credits total</p>
Pre-/Co-Reqs	<p>First-year courses and others. Clinics with all co-requisites can be taken as soon as your first-year courses are complete.</p>	<p>First-year courses (28 credits); no others.</p>

Can you tell me more about the time commitment?

Externships require 130 hours of fieldwork per semester over at least 10 weeks (at least 9-10 hours per week), plus the 75-minute seminar and class work. Students must create a time-blocked schedule approved by the placement prior to approval. All other jobs or academic obligations must be clearly bifurcated from externship hours, including for remote externship work.

6-credit clinics require a minimum of 20 hours a week. The clinical license to practice law carries both enormous benefits and commitments on your part. For example:

- 6-credit clinics require an average minimum of 20 hours per week, or roughly 3 hours every day for the duration of the semester. As the first-chair lawyer for real people with pressing legal needs, you may need to work even more. That's the nature of the practice of law!
- You may need to appear in court or at agency hearings, attend mediations, and meet with clients, colleagues, opposing counsel, and others. Some of these can be arranged ahead of time; some cannot. It is critical that you have some scheduling flexibility even in light of other personal or professional obligations. That's also the nature of the practice of law!
- Evening-friendly clinics are designed with twilight or evening seminars and an understanding that evening students often have demands on their time during the day. Client needs must still come first, however. Daytime obligations of evening-friendly clinics must be fulfilled, as required by the course requirements and by your clients' needs.
- The unique demands of practicing law in the clinic means that required "attendance" includes fulfilling the full range of your clinic obligations. Consult the Student Handbook on what "attendance" means in the clinic context.

You can find out more about each clinic's scheduling requirements at the Clinic Fair (look for emails; usually held around midsemester) and at individual meetings with clinic faculty after lottery results are posted. You can rank clinics in order of preference. If you don't get into your top choice at first, but the waiting list opens up, then you can move into it. All clinics teach similar skills that are transferable to any area of practice.

Course	# Credits	Evening-Friendly	Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites: ALL Courses Require ALL First-Year Courses, <i>Plus</i> the Below		
			<i>Professional Responsibility?</i>	<i>Evidence?</i>	<i>Other?</i>
Civil Advocacy Clinic	6	No	Pre OR Co	Pre	
Community Development Clinic	6	Yes	Pre	Not required	Pre: Bus Orgs
Criminal Defense and Advocacy Clinic	6	No	Pre	Pre	Pre: Constitutional Criminal Procedure I Recommended: Constitutional Criminal Procedure II, Trial Advocacy
Family Law Clinic	6	No	Pre	Pre	Recommended: Family Law
Immigrant Justice	3, offered some spring semesters	Yes	Pre	Not required	Pre OR Co: Immigration Law
Immigrant Rights	6	No	Pre OR Co	Not required	
Innocence Project Clinic (apply in spring only)	3 in Fall + 3 in Spring (both semesters required)	Yes	Not required	Pre OR Co	Pre OR Co: Constitutional Criminal Procedure I
Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic	6	Yes	Pre OR Co	Not required	Pre OR Co: Federal Income Tax Recommended: INC, Tax Practice & Procedure
Mediation Clinic for Families	3	No	Pre OR Co	Not required	Pre OR Co: One of the following - ADR Seminar, Mediation Skills, or Mediating Family Disputes
Mental Health Law Clinic	3 (spring only)	No	Pre	Pre	
Veterans Advocacy Clinic	6	Yes	Pre OR Co	Not required	
Externships	3	Yes; you must clear conflicts with employer and work in large time blocks	Not required	Not required	