

Instructions for the Practicum Application

To get approved, you need to provide enough information so the law school can ensure that this experience is something for which you can be awarded academic credit. Here are some tips on how to fill out key parts of the application.

Learning goals

Your learning goals should be specific and concrete, describing the lawyering skills that you are aiming to learn or grow through this placement. Do not just write “legal research and writing,” “client work,” or “document drafting.” Another pitfall is describing career goals that are not education goals, such as “to experience what [x] kind of attorneys do” or “develop connections.” If you find it helpful, please reference our law school’s [learning outcomes](#) to help you decide what your specific learning goals are.

Expected assignments

While it may be hard to predict exactly everything you will be doing over the course of your practicum, your expected assignments should be detailed and precise in terms of the substance of the work you will be performing. Do not just write “legal research and writing” or “client work” or “document drafting.” Instead, describe what the topics of legal research are, what kind of client work you will be performing, or what kinds of documents you will be drafting.

Attorney supervision structure

The law school wants to ensure that you have regular supervision and get regular feedback from your supervisor. You should describe what kind of commitment the placement has made in these respects, including how often you will get feedback and in what format. While there is no hard and fast rule on frequency, your practicum will not be approved if the supervision or feedback is sporadic.

How the placement will advance your learning goals

Having described precise learning goals and assignments, you should explain how the assignments will further your learning goals. The pitfall here is often to explain how the placement will further career goals more generally, which are not educational goals. Instead, refer to your learning goals and concretely describe how this placement, with the expected assignments, will advance your specific learning goals.

Repeat placement (if applicable)

Describe how this experience will be different educationally from your prior experience with the same placement. Please explain specifically how your work will be more challenging, more complex, and substantively different than prior work you have performed at this placement.