

Proposal Overview:

Journal members may elect to earn up to 1 academic credit per academic year for up to 2 years, during which they are an active member of any Northwestern Law journal. Each credit hour represents a minimum of 50.0 hours (or a minimum of 25.0 hours for 0.5 credits) of academic work for a journal. Credits are graded on a mandatory credit/no credit basis. No credits may be earned during the 1L year.

Eligibility:

Any journal member in good academic standing who spends at least 25.0 hours on Academic Work in a particular academic term is eligible to earn credit. A definition of Academic Work is attached.

Oversight:

Journal members seeking credit will log their hours in a standardized spreadsheet, to be approved by the Associate Dean of Curriculum. Immediate superiors on the journal will review and confirm the logs biweekly. For each academic term, each journal's Editor-in-Chief or Managing Editor will review the tracking documents and send a memorandum to the certifying faculty member, along with the tracking documents, certifying that each listed editor has completed the required number of hours of Academic Work. False certifications by the reporting student or the supervising student will be subject to investigation under the Honor Code. All logging of hours and journal editor review must be complete by the end of the exam period in the relevant term. A member of the faculty designated by the Associate Dean of Curriculum (e.g., the journal's administrative or faculty supervisor, or the Associate Dean), will approve the awarding of credit after reviewing the memo and, if needed, the tracking documents. The certifying faculty member may ask for clarification or additional information to make their final determinations. Additional deadlines and requirements for registration and certification may be set by the Registrar's Office.

Definition of Academic Work:

A definition of Academic Work is attached as Exhibit A. Any substantive changes to the definition will be subject to Curriculum Committee and full faculty review consistent with the treatment of a new class.

Miscellaneous:

Journal credit may count toward the requirements of the JD degree. Note that the ABA and some state bars also require 64 hours of credit in courses that require attendance in regularly scheduled classroom sessions or direct faculty instruction. Journal credit does not count toward this latter requirement. Students are responsible for monitoring their own credit hours. (For example, this requirement may be implicated for JD/MBA students who also intend to register in practicum courses.)

Exhibit A

Definition of Academic Work.

1. For the purpose of receiving academic credit for journal work, the time for which a student may receive credit must be spent doing work that is academic in nature. Academic work consists of work that facilitates development of legal skills including editing, research, writing, reasoning, written communication, or oral communication.
2. The types of work presumed to constitute academic work include:
 - a. Editing, copyediting, or proofing a piece of legal writing to be published in a journal publication (either in print or online), or used in the journal write-on competition, whether written by a student or academic practitioner;
 - b. Evaluating the merits of a write-on competition problem or submission, article, note, online forum submission, or similar academic work product submitted for consideration for publication, journal membership, or other legal activity, including seeking peer review of the same; and
 - c. Work performed in the course of developing an intellectual life program or symposia event, including determining event topics, substantive engagement with invited speakers or panelists to develop program content, and preparation of legal writing to be distributed in the course of such an event.
 - d. The following shall not constitute academic work:
 - i. Writing a note or comment for publication in the journal;
 - ii. Attending symposia;
 - iii. Planning or attending any activities that are primarily social in nature such as parties, happy hours;
 - iv. Ordering or picking up food or supplies for journal events; or
 - v. Office cleaning and maintenance.