

Northwestern

PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

Graduate Research Rules (LLM)

The Graduate Research Program allows LLM students to conduct supervised legal research leading to a final paper of approximately 20 pages (2 credit project) or 30 pages (3 credit project). Students work one-on-one with a supervising faculty member on developing the topic, researching the topic, and writing the paper.

To participate in the program, students must be eligible as noted in these rules, draft a proposal, and find a faculty member to supervise the project.

1. Eligibility

- a. A student must have successfully completed the CLR course before participating in Graduate Research.
- b. Graduate Research project must be a discrete, original research project and may not be work that is “double counted” toward any degree (LLM or other degree). If the Graduate Research project builds on prior work or becomes the basis for future work, the student is expected under the Honor Code to disclose and discuss those circumstances with each faculty member involved and to do appropriate “new work” for each credit-bearing (or graduation-requirement) enrollment.

2. Credit Hours

- a. The number of credits a student may receive for a project depends on the nature of the work and scope of the research/writing involved in the project. Thus, students should describe the nature of the project in detail when submitting a proposal.
- b. Graduate Research projects may be undertaken for either two or three credits.
- c. Projects may not span more than a single semester.

3. Limitations on Separate Graduate Research Projects

- a. No student may enroll for more than one Graduate Research project to be conducted in the same term or semester.

4. Supervising Faculty Members

- a. Graduate Research must be supervised by Law School faculty as noted below:
 - a. Residential faculty may supervise 2-credit and 3-credit projects.
 - b. Adjunct faculty may only supervise 2-credit projects (not 3-credit projects).

- b. The student is responsible for finding a supervising faculty member. We recommend students pursue faculty members with whom they already have a working relationship and/or who have expertise or interest in the proposed area of research. Students who need assistance choosing a supervising faculty member may make an appointment with the Director of International Programs.
- c. The supervising faculty member concerned necessarily has final discretion as to acceptance of a particular applicant, the research topic, and the procedures and methods to be followed, subject to these rules and to the rules of the Law School.

5. Proposal Submission Process, Deadline, and Review Process

- a. All Graduate Research projects must be approved by the supervising faculty member and the Director of International Programs.

6. Enrollment/Withdrawal

- a. After receiving approval from the supervising faculty member and the Director of International Programs, the Office of the Law Registrar will enroll you in the Graduate Research Program. Students will be charged 25 bidding points per credit hour of Graduate Research conducted in the Fall and/or Spring semester.
- b. In order to withdraw from Graduate Research, a student must submit a withdrawal form to the Registrar no later than the Friday of the fourth week of the semester or term in which the credit was to be earned. The withdrawal form must be signed by the supervising faculty member and will be recorded by a GPA-neutral grade of “W” on the student’s academic records and transcript. Any requests for withdrawal after this date must be approved by the Dean or Dean’s designate and, if approved, will be recorded by a GPA-neutral grade of “W” on the student’s academic records and transcript.

7. Conduct of the Work

The work must be conducted in accordance with the following requirements:

- a. Direct supervision of each participating student by a member of the Law School faculty (see rules in Part 4).
- b. The student must attend frequent, individual meetings of a substantial nature with the supervising faculty member to discuss the work. These meetings must include a regular, weekly one-on-one meeting between the student and the supervising professor. The weekly meeting is to be held in accordance with a pre-arranged schedule. These meetings may be conducted remotely (e.g., via teleconference or videoconference) if the supervising faculty member agrees in advance to this arrangement. A minimum of twelve (12) such weekly meetings should be held in each semester an Graduate Research project is in process. For projects that involve work when classes are not in session, there must be at least one meeting each week during that period.
- c. Completion of one of the following by the student:
 - 1. 2-credit project: a finished paper of approximately 5000 words (20 pages) in length.
 - 2. 3-credit project: a finished paper of approximately 7000 words (30 pages) in length.
- d. Review and approval of the final draft of the required paper or report by the supervising faculty member.

8. Due Date

Graduate Research project papers are due on the date established by the instructor, which may be any date prior to the last day of the scheduled examination period of the semester. For good cause, a student may request to submit the paper at a later date. Such a request must be in writing, addressed to the supervising faculty member, and must set forth the student's reasons for the request. The supervising faculty member may:

- a. Deny the request.
- b. Authorize a delay in the submission of the paper until any date prior to the grade due date of the semester in which the credit is earned; no deadline may extend beyond the grade due date established for that term.

Contacts

- Director of International Programs
- [Office of the Law Registrar](#), McCormick 127