

GETTING LEGAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE GRADUATION

Students are strongly encouraged to gain legal experience both during term time and the summers before graduation. This can be done through experiential learning opportunities through the law school as well as internships and paid legal internships or employment. More information on experiential opportunities at the School of Law can be found at <http://www1.wne.edu/law/experiential/index.cfm>.

EXTERNSHIPS

Externships allow students (who have completed a minimum of two semesters if full-time and four semesters if part-time) to gain both practical experience and academic credit by working 12-15 hours a week for a public interest agency, a judge, or another appropriate employer. Because academic credit is given for an externship, students are not paid a salary for their work. Students may participate in **three externships** during their time at Western New England University. The Clinic and Externship Office maintains listings of externships on Symplicity, along with information on application procedures and applicable deadlines.

CLINIC PROGRAMS

The School of Law offers a variety of clinic programs through which students can gain work experience while in law school. In addition to a classroom component, upper-class students in clinic courses work with organizations on current cases. An information session on clinic programs is presented each year.

SIMULATION COURSES

Students in simulation courses represent hypothetical clients with legal problems drawn from the experiences of practicing lawyers. Simulation course students perform research, prepare legal documents, and negotiate with and argue against role-playing students and faculty.

MOOT COURTS

Participation in moot court competitions allows students to refine legal writing and oral advocacy skills in a simulated court environment. The School of Law participates in numerous national competitions each year; students submit legal briefs, engage in the conduct of trials or negotiations, or present appellate argument. Students who represent the School of Law in these competitions are chosen on the basis of proficiency demonstrated in competitions within the School of Law.

PRO BONO WORK

Western New England University School of Law has a long tradition of service in Springfield and surrounding communities. In the spring of 2011, the faculty of Western New England Law acknowledged the importance of this service by adopting a pro bono graduation requirement. In order to graduate, students must complete 20 hours of pro bono service. The Pro Bono program allows students to provide legal services to underrepresented community members while honing their own legal skills.

PART-TIME JOBS

Part-time paid jobs and volunteer positions posted on Symplicity provide invaluable practical experience before graduation. Note: We strongly encourage full-time students to take a balanced approach when taking on outside work; school work should take priority.

SUMMER JOBS AND OPTIONS

Career Services receives postings from employers for summer positions and internships. These are posted in Symplicity and will be publicized in the Career Services' newsletter. The "Legal Job Search" section of the Career Services website provides links to summer possibilities. The "Post J.D. Programs and Study Abroad" section links you to summer programs abroad.