

**O. 2016-17 Standards & Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools,  
Program of Legal Education, Standard 303 – Curriculum**

**American Bar Association – Section of Legal Education & Admission to the Bar**

**2016-2017 STANDARDS & RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL  
OF LAW SCHOOLS**

**Chapter 3: PROGRAM OF LEGAL EDUCATION**

**Standard 303. CURRICULUM**

**(a) A law school shall offer a curriculum that requires each student to satisfactorily complete at least the following:**

**(1) one course of at least two credit hours in professional responsibility that includes substantial instruction in the history, goals, structure, values, and responsibilities of the legal profession and its members;**

**(2) one writing experience in the first year and at least one additional writing experience after the first year, both of which are faculty supervised; and**

**(3) one or more experiential course(s) totaling at least six credit hours. An experiential course must be a simulation course, a law clinic, or a field placement. To satisfy this requirement, a course must be primarily experiential in nature and must:**

**(i) integrate doctrine, theory, skills, and legal ethics, and engage students in performance of one or more of the professional skills identified in Standard 302;**

**(ii) develop the concepts underlying the professional skills being taught;**

**(iii) provide multiple opportunities for performance; and**

**(iv) provide opportunities for self-evaluation.**

**(b) A law school shall provide substantial opportunities to students for:**

**(1) law clinics or field placement(s); and**

**(2) student participation in pro bono legal services, including law-related public service activities.**

***Interpretation 303-1***

*A law school may not permit a student to use a course to satisfy more than one requirement under this Standard. For example, a course that includes a writing experience used to satisfy*

*the upper-class writing requirement [see 303(a)(2)] cannot be counted as one of the experiential courses required in Standard 303(a)(3).*

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***Interpretation 303-2***

*Factors to be considered in evaluating the rigor of a writing experience include the number and nature of writing projects assigned to students, the form and extent of individualized assessment of a student's written products, and the number of drafts that a student must produce for any writing experience.*

***Interpretation 303-3***

*Rule 6.1 of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct encourages lawyers to provide pro bono legal services primarily to persons of limited means or to organizations that serve such persons. In addition, lawyers are encouraged to provide pro bono law-related public service. In meeting the requirement of Standard 303(b)(2), law schools are encouraged to promote opportunities for law student pro bono service that incorporate the priorities established in Model Rule 6.1. In addition, law schools are encouraged to promote opportunities for law students to provide over their law school career at least 50 hours of pro bono service that complies with Standard 303(b)(2). Pro bono and public service opportunities need not be structured to accomplish any of the outcomes required by Standard 302. Standard 303(b)(2) does not preclude the inclusion of credit-granting activities within a law school's overall program of law-related pro bono opportunities so long as law-related non-credit bearing initiatives are also part of that program.*

***Interpretation 303-4***

*Law-related public service activities include (i) helping groups or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties, or public rights; (ii) helping charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, and educational organizations not able to afford legal representation; (iii) participating in activities providing information about justice, the law or the legal system to those who might not otherwise have such information; and (iv) engaging in activities to enhance the capacity of the law and legal institutions to do justice.*