



Office of the Registrar / Student Records • Room 2027
(919) 613-7027 • Registrar_Office@law.duke.edu

**SUBSTANTIAL RESEARCH AND WRITING
PROJECT REQUIREMENT**

REGISTRATION FORM

Student (print name): _____

Law ID #: _____ Semester (circle and complete): Fall / Spring 20_____

Supervising Faculty Member (print name): _____

The substantial research and writing project requirement can be satisfied by the student completing an original analytic paper of substantial length (approximately 30 pages). *Note that the minimum page expectations for some written products used to satisfy the substantial research and writing requirement are currently under review and may be increased. Students will be notified of any changes.* Papers satisfying this requirement may be seminar papers, independent study projects, law journal notes, or any other paper that possesses the necessary rigor.

A project proposed to fulfill the substantial research and writing requirement must involve significant and thorough independent research on the part of the student, and the paper is to be well written and properly documented, with appropriate attention to opposing arguments and perspectives.

The paper must be prepared under the supervision of a faculty member. As part of the supervision, the faculty member will review one or more drafts and subsequent revisions by the student. The supervising faculty member may augment the requirements of this rule with additional stated expectations for the project. **Where the writing is done in connection with a seminar, this form must be signed by the supervising faculty member and submitted to the Office of the Registrar before the end of the drop/add period for the semester in which the seminar is offered.** *For fairness in grading, the supervising faculty member may choose to base the student's final grade on the first draft of the paper unless all students are expected or permitted to submit an early draft of their paper and receive revisions as a matter of course. A faculty member may limit the number of students in a seminar or other course who may use the course paper to satisfy this requirement.*

When the paper is complete, the faculty member must certify that it meets the requirements of Rule 3-31, that any additional requirements established by the faculty member have been satisfied, and that the paper is of satisfactory quality.

A faculty member may certify that a series of papers or some combination of shorter papers satisfies the expected length requirement, as long as the faculty member concludes that, in the aggregate, the papers satisfy the intended purpose of the writing requirement.

Dual-degree students may satisfy the substantial research and writing project requirement through a substantial research paper on a law-related topic in a course taken in the school or department of the second degree, provided that the student obtains the necessary certification by a Law School governing faculty member.

Select one: Seminar Paper Independent Study Project Law Journal Note Other

Course Name / Topic of Project (circle one): _____

Signature of Supervising Faculty Member

Signature of Student

Date: _____

The student must submit this form to the Law School Office of the Registrar, Room 2027.