

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL LITIGATION

2009 Criminal Litigation Certificate Program Entrants

The Law School Faculty has approved a Certificate Program in Criminal Litigation for approximately 16 students per year. It is designed to give students a comprehensive and balanced professional education to prepare them adequately for the practice of criminal law. The program will enable students who earn the certificate to successfully compete for one of the limited number of defender or prosecutor jobs that are available in the Chicago area. In addition this proposed certificate program represents an opportunity to synthesize the goals of Chicago-Kent's academic program in Criminal Law with those of Trial Advocacy and the Law Offices.

Required courses-24 credits

Criminal Procedure: The Investigatory Process – 3 credits*

Criminal Defense Clinic I – 3 credits*

Evidence – 3 credits*

Criminal Procedure: The Adjudicatory Process – 3 credits**

Trial Advocacy I – 3 credits (Can be satisfied by Intensive Trial Ad)***

Criminal Litigation – 3 credits (Substitute for Legal Writing 4)***

Legal Writing 4 Equivalency Class— no credits****

Legal Externship – Criminal Prosecution or Defense – 4 credits*****

Criminal Law Seminar – 2 (Would satisfy the Seminar requirement)*****

* These courses must be completed in the fall semester of the second year, the student's 3rd semester, or in the summer semester preceding their third semester.

** This course may be completed in the spring semester of the second year or in either semester of the third year, the student's fourth, fifth or sixth semesters.

*** These courses must be completed in the spring semester of the second year, the student's fourth semester, or earlier in the case of Trial Ad I.

**** This non credit course must be completed in the same semester that the student completes Criminal Litigation, if the student wishes to use Criminal Litigation as a substitute for Legal Writing 4.

***** These courses may be completed in either semester of the third year, the student's fifth or sixth semesters. This could include seminars in criminal law, procedure, or ethics.

Elective courses Some would be offered every year, others when we have the available staff. One can obtain a certificate without taking any of these elective courses. Taking the courses recommended by the faculty as well as electing courses from other subject areas is necessary for a well-rounded legal education.

Advanced Criminal Law – 3 credits

Advanced Evidence – 3 credits

Ethical Issues in Criminal Litigation – 2 or 3 credits

Federal Criminal Law (or White-Collar Crime) – 2 or 3 credits

Forensic Sciences – 2 credits
Juvenile Law – 3 credits
Trial Advocacy II – 3 credits

A student must take 87 credits to graduate. Of these, 36 credits are required courses (30 credits in his/her first year plus Constitutional Law and Professional Responsibility. The remaining required courses – Legal Writing 4 and a seminar would be part of the certificate program. Legal Writing 4 would be satisfied by the Criminal Litigation course and the seminar requirement by a seminar focusing on a criminal law topic.) After meeting the requirement for the certificate program (24 credits), a student would be able to take 27 credits of elective courses to meet the 87 credits required for graduation.

SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

Fall semester of the second year (14 credits)

Constitution Law – 4 credits
Criminal Procedure: The Investigatory Process – 3 credits
Evidence – 3 credits
Criminal Defense Clinic – 3 credits
Legal Writing 3 – 1 credit

(In recent years, we have regularly offered Evidence and Criminal Procedure: The Investigatory Process in the summer session, so some students in the program could get a head start by taking one or both of those courses the summer after their first year.)

Spring semester of the second year (13-16 credits)

Criminal Procedure: The Adjudicatory Process – 3 credits
Trial Advocacy I – 3 credits (Can be satisfied by Intensive Trial Ad)
Criminal Litigation – 3 credits
Legal Writing 4 Equivalency Class—no credits
Electives – 4 to 6 credits

(Students could satisfy the Trial Advocacy I requirement by completing Intensive Trial Ad without having to enroll in Trial Advocacy II. Intensive Trial Ad is offered in the summer one week before the beginning of the fall semester and in January one week before the beginning of the spring semester. If certificate students in the program take intensive Trial Ad they would have 3 additional elective credits in the spring semester of second year.)

Fall semester of the third year (13-16 credits)

Legal Externship – Criminal Prosecution or Defense – 4 credits
Electives – 9 to 12 credits

Spring semester of the third year (13-16 credits)

Criminal law seminar – 2 credits
Professional Responsibility – credits
Electives 9 to 12 credits