

complaints

A student who believes there has been a violation of the provisions of FERPA may file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-5920. Complaints must contain specific allegations of fact, giving reasonable cause to believe that a violation of FERPA has occurred.

letters and interviews of reference

College personnel may write letters of reference or grant interviews of reference with specific signed, written consent by the student or alumnus/alumna concerned and only to the persons or organizations specified by student or alumnus/alumna. For these purposes, a student must provide college personnel from whom seeking a recommendation with a signed, written consent form which is available from the Registrar's Office or the Career Resource Center. The recommendation will become part of the student's education record. If the student waives the right to review a copy, the recommendation will not be provided during a review of the education record.

summer sessions

The composition of the summer session may vary from year to year, but will generally be an eight-week session. Summer course offerings are not as extensive as in the fall and spring semesters. With the exception of part-time students attending their first summer session of their first year, students are not required to attend the summer session, nor is there any minimum number of semester hours for which a student must enroll. The maximum number of semester hours for which a student may enroll is no more than one hour over the number of weeks for the program.

summer study abroad programs

South Texas College of Law co-sponsors a variety of study abroad programs, offering students the opportunity to enroll in comparative or international law courses in a foreign country and receive credit toward their Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. Given today's global economy and "international interdependence," American lawyers must be prepared for the many aspects of law practice that are touched by international considerations. Students must meet the requirements for Visiting Student Status as set forth in this handbook in order to be eligible to attend any of these programs.

All classes in the summer programs are taught in English and have an international or comparative law focus. Assessment of student performance

uses the same criteria employed in upper-division elective courses, including written final examinations, graded projects and presentations. Students should check any specific summer program to determine whether the grading will reflect South Texas College of Law's scale, which includes pluses and minuses (e.g., A+, A, A-) or reflects a co-sponsoring school's scale, which may not include pluses and minuses (e.g, A, B, C, D, F only). **EXCEPTION: Approval to take a study abroad course is given in the immediately preceding semester and is granted before grades for that semester are given. Any student whose grade point average is less than 2.800 as a result of grades from the semester immediately preceding the study abroad program shall have grades earned in the study abroad program recorded on a pass/fail basis, and the grades from the study abroad program will not be included in the student's cumulative grade point average.** The study abroad programs generally offered in summer are:

London, England: The Law in London program allows students to study law in historic London, England, birthplace of the American legal tradition. The program provides students an opportunity to study Scottish, English and European Union law and practice, and offers valuable exposure to British and European civil and criminal procedures.

Galway, Ireland: The Galway summer program takes place at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland. The six-week program focuses on courses related to international and comparative human rights law and accountability for human rights violations. Courses are taught by experts from Ireland and the United States.

Founded in the 13th century, Galway is the vibrant cultural center of one of Ireland's most beautiful regions, its western coast, and home to the National University of Ireland campus. Established in 1846, the National University of Ireland in Galway has a student body of about 14,500 students from more than 40 countries.

Students live in university student apartments and take classes in a state-of-the-art classroom building in the heart of the university. Visits to local Irish courts, social events, and sightseeing field trips are offered as part of the program.

Valletta, Malta: The Malta summer program is held at the University of Malta's Valletta campus in the capital city.

A member of the European Union, the island of Malta is rich in historical traditions combined with modern European sensibilities. South of Italy in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, Malta lies at the crossroads of Eastern and Western civilizations and sea routes.

Field trips to local courts and interaction with local jurists are included in the program, and optional excursions to historic places of interest and neighboring islands are offered, subject to student interest. Although course work is intensive, two long weekends during the program allow time for travel to nearby destinations.

Prague, Czech Republic: The Prague summer program is housed at the Charles University Faculty of Law building, located on the River Vltava and a short walk from the Old Town Square.

Prague, sometimes called the Magical City, the City of a Hundred Towers, and the Paris of the East, is a city of approximately 1.2 million people, offering a wealth of artistic and cultural treasures. Located in the heart of Europe, Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic, which is bordered by Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and Poland.

The program includes a court visit and enrichment lectures by members of the Charles University Faculty of Law on contemporary issues of concern to the Czech Republic's legal community, such as Czech legal history, environmental law, and membership in the European Union. An optional trip to the Terezin Concentration Camp is included in the program cost.

Santiago, Chile: Sponsored by the Consortium for Innovative Legal Education, Inc., the Chile program places students in the heart of Latin America's quest for justice and the struggle over globalization. Whether it is human rights litigation, legal reforms, or economic development, Chile has long been a leader in Latin America.

In Santiago, a city of more than six million people, students will experience the reform process first-hand with leaders from the legal sector, including human rights advocates, senior Carbineros officials, and Supreme Court judges.

Workshops and site visits will introduce students to new trends in social justice and the role that expanding hemispheric free trade has played in Latin America. Courses in international and comparative law, taught by U.S. law professors and leading Chilean scholars and practitioners, will provide frameworks for understanding the globalization of law and legal practice—in the laboratory that Santiago de Chile and its environs provide.

Cambridge, England: Co-sponsored with Cumberland School of Law and Chapman University School of Law, this program is held at Sidney Sussex College, founded in 1596 and built on the site of a Franciscan friary. The contemporary location is in the center of the beautiful and historic city of Cambridge and is within walking distance of museums and galleries.

The program generally includes a trip to the Royal Courts of Justice and a trip to Parliament in London.

Istanbul, Turkey: More than 5,000 years of history awaits students in one of the world's most exotic cities. Istanbul is the only city in the world located on two continents, and the influences of Europe and Asia permeate the city. Co-sponsored with the University of Kansas School of Law and William Mitchell College of Law, this program is held at the University of Bahcesehir, located on the European side of Istanbul.

full semester abroad — cooperative foreign exchange programs

In addition to the wide-ranging summer study abroad programs described above, the college has ABA approval for students at South Texas College of Law to spend a full semester abroad studying international or comparative law in two foreign countries. Students who have an interest in practicing international law or who have always wanted to immerse themselves in the culture of another country while earning course credit may find this the perfect opportunity to accomplish both objectives.

In order to participate, students must meet the requirements for Visiting Student Status as set forth in this handbook. Students will pre-select a schedule for their semester abroad program from the course offerings while still in the United States, subject to approval by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Grades earned in either of these full semester programs will transfer only as pass/fail credits.

Under the terms of our cooperative agreements, students are not required to pay tuition or fees to the university they are visiting, but continue to pay normal tuition and fees to South Texas College of Law during the period of study abroad, based on the number of hours being taken. Enrollment in full semester abroad programs may impact eligibility for certain residence-based financial aid. A maximum of five (5) students per semester from South Texas will have the opportunity to study law in each of the following locations.

University of Aarhus School of Law, Aarhus, Denmark: Students may spend a full semester studying at the University of Aarhus in Aarhus, Denmark. One of Europe's oldest kingdoms, Denmark is a country with a century-old tradition of peace, democracy and welfare. Aarhus is Denmark's second largest city with a population of 270,000. Located on the Jutland Peninsula, the city has an outstanding location; surrounded by woods and bordered by beaches, it offers a number of attractions. The University of

Aarhus is Denmark's second oldest and second largest university and offers several law courses taught in English each semester. The School of Law is one of the largest schools at Aarhus University with 2,200 students enrolled under its bachelor's and master's level programs.

University of Leiden School of Law, Leiden, The Netherlands: In conjunction with the four American law schools comprising the Consortium for Innovative Legal Education, Inc., the University of Leiden School of Law will host up to five South Texas students per semester. The University of Leiden was founded in 1575 and currently has enrollment exceeding 15,000 students. The Law Faculty is one of eight faculties that comprise the university and a sufficient number of courses are taught in English each semester to constitute a full-time load. The Leiden University School of Law is the largest in the Netherlands, with approximately 5,000 law students enrolled in the various undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate programs offered by the law school. Leiden is situated along the west coast of the Netherlands, very close to the North Sea shore and to beautiful national parks in the dune landscape. The Hague, the seat of the national government, is only 15 km away. According to a recent study by the European Commission, Leiden University ranks alongside Oxford and Cambridge at the academic top of the European Union.

If you are interested in studying law abroad for a full semester, see Assistant Dean Wanda Morrow in Room 101C for more information.

visiting student status

Students regularly enrolled at the college may receive credit toward graduation by taking courses as a visiting student at another ABA-approved law school by obtaining advance written approval on a form available in the Registrar's Office. The Registrar in conjunction with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs must approve the student's overall plan and each course to be taken prior to the student registering at the other law school. A Letter of Good Standing will be sent to the other law school only if a student has made satisfactory arrangements for settlement of his or her account and has a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.800. No student may become a visiting student at another ABA-approved law school at any time such student is on probation or under Special Academic Supervision.

Before attending another law school as a visitor for a long semester (fall or spring) or enrolling in a summer session, a student must have completed no fewer than thirty (30) semester hours at the college and be in good standing. A student is considered in good standing for visiting purposes if he/she has made satisfactory arrangements for settlement of his/her account and has a

cumulative grade point average of at least 2.800. Students may not receive credit from another school for courses which are required as part of the college's degree program. In addition to other requirements, students will be given permission to attend other Houston law schools only if the course the student takes is not taught at the college.

If permission is granted to attend another law school, credit will be given on a pass/fail basis only if the grade received for that course is no lower than the minimum grade average required for graduation at the school attended (i.e., a grade of C or better is generally required in each and every course). Students who are attending the South Texas co-sponsored study abroad programs may still receive a letter grade.

Students regularly enrolled at the college may receive credit toward graduation by taking courses as a visiting student in an ABA-approved law school summer study abroad program by obtaining advance written approval on a form available in the Registrar's Office. A Letter of Good Standing will be sent to the other ABA law school only if the student has made satisfactory arrangements for settlement of his or her account and has a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.800. If permission is granted to attend another ABA-approved summer abroad program, credit will be given on a pass/fail basis only if the grade received for that course is no lower than the minimum grade average required for graduation at the school attended (i.e., a grade of C or better is generally required for each and every course).

Students may apply toward graduation credits earned in summer study abroad programs, including programs co-sponsored by the college, amounting to no more than one hour credit in excess of the total number of weeks of study during the summer. Students may not receive credit for external placements offered in study abroad programs conducted by other law schools, or as visiting credit at other American law schools, except in extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Associate Dean having responsibility for clinical programs.

A student will be granted credit toward graduation for no more than a total of 30 semester hours earned as a student at other law schools.

(See also Accounting Services Office Approvals.)

grades from visiting or study abroad courses

All grades received from another law school as a visiting student or at a study abroad program not sponsored or co-sponsored by South Texas College of Law are recorded on a pass/fail basis and are not included in the student's cumulative grade point average.