



South Texas
COLLEGE OF LAW
— HOUSTON —

PRIVATE AND INDEPENDENT
SINCE 1923

Cocurricular Options





RANDALL O. SORRELS LEGAL CLINICS



PRO BONO HONORS



STUDY ABROAD

Randall O. Sorrels Legal Clinics

The law school offers 19 civil-practice and special-focus legal clinics in subjects ranging from basic family law to asylum and human trafficking representation. By participating in the clinics, you have the opportunity to apply what you learn in class to conduct fact investigations, draft documents, and even appear in court with clients.

PREREQUISITES

Enrollment in most clinics requires a minimum of 45 credit hours. Other prerequisites differ by course. Check course listings for more information.

TIME COMMITMENT

45 hours/credit; 7-10 hours per week for a 3-credit hour class; 6-8 hours/week for a 2-credit course

FIRST STEPS

Enroll through Registrar's office in the same process as any other course.

Co-curricular programs offer unique experiences that provide you with hands-on training and practical skills to take your classroom learning to the next level.

Pro Bono Honors

The Pro Bono Honors program pairs students with volunteer opportunities at community agencies and nonprofit organizations who provide services to indigent populations. Students who serve 50 hours or more of volunteer service during their 2L and 3L years earn a Pro Bono Honors certificate recognizing their commitment.

PREREQUISITES

Minimum 15 credit hours

TIME COMMITMENT

50 cumulative hours of pro bono service

FIRST STEPS

Log hours in STANLEY; volunteer hours must be recorded within one week of performing the work.

Study Abroad

STCL Houston sponsors study abroad programs in London, Malta, Chile, Ireland, and Prague. Courses are either 2 or 4 weeks long, and cover comparative law and cultural issues.

PREREQUISITES

Completion of first year of study (or equivalent for part-time study), Letter of Academic Good Standing

TIME COMMITMENT

2-4 weeks

FIRST STEPS

Applications and deadlines vary by program. Visit stcl.edu/academics/foreign-programs for more information.



ADVOCACY



ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION



TRANSACTIONAL SKILLS CERTIFICATE

Advocacy

The law school's nationally recognized advocacy program gives students a chance to try their hand at trial law, including research and evidence handling, brief writing, and presenting cases before a judge.

PREREQUISITES

Minimum 30 credit hours, including LRW I & II; completion of Mock Trial Litigation and/or Appellate Advocacy preferred

FIRST STEPS

For mock trial, participate in the Summer Trial Academy. For moot court, enroll in Appellate Advocacy. Contact Shaun Devine at sdevine@stcl.edu for information.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

A complete legal education includes learning how to represent clients outside the courtroom. The Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution trains students in meditation, arbitration, and other methods of alternative dispute resolution, or ADR. Students also have the option to complete specific training to become a certified mediator with the ability to practice in Justice of the Peace courts and handle small claims issues.

PREREQUISITES

Minimum 15 credit hours; some competition teams require the completion of a mediation class

TIME COMMITMENT

4-10 hours per week during a competition season

FIRST STEPS

Tryout during the annual ADR Intramural Tournament in September.

Contact Debra Berman at dberman@stcl.edu for more information.

Transactional Skills Certificate

The Transactional Skills Certificate program is a curricular pathway for students interested in pursuing legal careers representing clients in planning, negotiating, structuring, and documenting business transactions. Students develop a strong background in basic business law concepts, an opportunity for in-depth study of advanced business-related legal doctrine and practice, and intensive practice-oriented instruction focusing on the skills essential for transactional law practice.

PREREQUISITES

To receive the Certificate at graduation, students must satisfy the following requirements:

- Three core business law courses
- Three elective business-related courses
- One general transactional skills course
- One specialized transactional skills course
- Satisfaction of the Substantial Writing Requirement by writing on a business- or transactional practice-related topic
- A 3.333 cumulative grade point average across all Certificate related courses and a 3.000 overall cumulative law school grade point average."

FIRST STEPS

Apply after completing first 30 hours and before completing 45 hours



INTERNSHIPS



LAW JOURNALS



LAW REVIEW

Internships

Students may intern with state and federal courts, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Internships are guided by a full-time faculty member, but students are responsible for finding their own job placements.

PREREQUISITES

Minimum 45 credit hours

TIME COMMITMENT

50 hours per credit; avg. 6-12 hours/week

FIRST STEPS

Students are responsible for seeking and securing internships through courts, nonprofit organizations or government agencies, with guidance from internship faculty.

Contact Asst. Dean Elizabeth Dennis at edennis@stcl.edu.

Law Journals

Legal research and writing is a cornerstone of the curriculum at STCL Houston. Students can further hone writing and editing skills by participating in one of the law school's six legal journals. Students who are interested must meet the program's GPA requirements and successfully complete a writing test.

PREREQUISITES

Academic Good standing, at least two semesters remaining, minimum 20 credit hours completed; completion of LRW I & II

TIME COMMITMENT

4-10 hours per week

FIRST STEPS

Students must complete a writing sample and interview for consideration for participation on a law journal.

Law Review

South Texas Law Review is entirely student-run and publishes scholarly work in all facets of legal practice. *Law Review* members develop strong writing and editing skills, write comments and case notes, and earn marketable skills while interfacing with working attorneys.

PREREQUISITES

Minimum 30 credit hours completed, Completion of LRW I & II; at least 4 semesters remaining, 3.25 minimum GPA

TIME COMMITMENT

4-10 hours per week

FIRST STEPS

For consideration of candidacy, students must submit a writing sample in the Law Review Write-On Competition, which is held twice a year, over the summer and winter breaks. Students are admitted by invitation only.