

ABA Standard 305

(a) A law school may grant credit toward the J.D. degree for courses that involve student participation in studies or activities in a format that does not involve attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions, including courses approved as part of a field placement program, moot court, law review, and directed research.

(b) Credit granted for such a course shall be commensurate with the time and effort required and the anticipated quality of the educational experience of the student.

(c) Each student's educational achievement in such a course shall be evaluated by a faculty member. When appropriate a school may use faculty members from other law schools to supervise or assist in the supervision or review of a field placement program.

(d) The studies or activities shall be approved in advance and periodically reviewed following the school's established procedures for approval of the curriculum.

(e) A field placement program shall include:

(1) a clear statement of its **goals and methods**, and a demonstrated **relationship** between those goals and methods and the **program in operation**;

(2) adequate instructional resources, including **faculty teaching in and supervising** the program who devote the requisite time and attention to satisfy program goals and are **sufficiently available to students**;

(3) a clearly articulated method of **evaluating each student's academic performance involving both a faculty member and the site supervisor**;

(4) a method for **selecting, training, evaluating, and communicating with site supervisors**;

(5) for field placements that award **three or more credit** hours, **regular contact between the faculty supervisor or law school administrator and the site supervisor** to assure the quality of the student educational experience, including the appropriateness of the supervision and the student work;

(6) a requirement that each student has successfully **completed instruction equivalent to 28 credit** hours toward the J.D. degree before participation in the field placement program; and

(7) **opportunities for student reflection** on their field placement experience, through a seminar, regularly scheduled tutorials, or other means of guided reflection. Where a student may **earn three or more** credit hours in a field placement program, the opportunity for student reflection **must be provided contemporaneously**.

(f) A law school that has a field placement program shall **develop, publish, and communicate to students and site supervisors** a statement that describes the **educational objectives** of the program.

Interpretation 305-1

- Regular contact may be achieved through in-person visits or other methods of communication that will assure the quality of the student educational experience.

Interpretation 305-2

- A law school may not grant credit to a student for participation in a field placement program for which the student receives compensation. This Interpretation does not preclude reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses related to the field placement.