



Santa Clara
School of Law

NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLETE THE LL.M. WRITING REQUIREMENT

Please submit the form to: LawStudentServices@scu.edu no later than the end of the fourth week of the semester in which you intend to complete the writing requirement.

Name: _____ SCU ID: _____

Please select the appropriate program:

☐ LL.M. in US Law.

Specialization, if applicable: ☐ Intellectual Property, ☐ Human Rights, ☐ International and Comparative Law

☐ LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law

☐ LL.M. in International and Comparative Law

Course Title: _____

Course section: _____ Professor: _____

Term Enrolled: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Writing Requirement

General Goals and Objectives. As a condition of obtaining an LL.M. degree, each student must complete a substantial writing project. The writing requirement serves as a capstone experience that signifies that the student has achieved a level of scholarly and professional development commensurate with the standards of a graduate law degree, reinforcing the student's ability to contribute to legal academia, policy development, or advanced legal practice.

Means and process for satisfying the requirement. Students may satisfy the writing requirement through a written research paper in conjunction with a law school class or as an independent research paper. For independent research papers, the students may earn academic credit through enrollment in Law 298 or may write the paper as a directed study without earning academic credit. Regardless of how the student will satisfy the requirement, the student must complete the required form and submit it to the Student Services Office no later than the end of the fourth week of the semester in which the student intends to complete the writing requirement. This form reflects an agreement as to the means by which the student intends to fulfill the requirement, the stages towards completion (selection of topic and submission of annotated bibliography, outline,

initial draft, and final draft), and the dates by which each stage will be completed. The agreement must be signed by both the student and the supervising faculty member.

Form of written product. Students must satisfy the writing requirement by an individually-written academic paper in the style of an article for an academic journal. The following requirements must be met: (1) the paper must contain the author's original analysis; (2) a single faculty member must directly supervise the project so as to review and critique the student's work; and (3) the student must review, reflect on, and incorporate this feedback into the final paper. The paper will normally be at least 6,000 words, or 25 pages double-spaced, including footnotes. If the paper is written for academic credit, it is expected that the paper will require at least 50 hours of work per academic credit.

Evaluation Criteria

The student's final product should be of professional quality and demonstrate an ability to analyze complex legal issues and to communicate the analysis effectively. The faculty member will approve the writing if it demonstrates the following qualities:

- The choice of an original and challenging topic;
 - Succinct articulation and support of the thesis;
 - An appropriate level of research and analysis;
 - A proper introduction and conclusion;
 - Logical organization, with proper paragraphing and appropriate use of headings and subheadings;
 - Clarity and concision;
 - Proper paragraphing and appropriate use of headings, subheadings, and transitions;
 - Appropriate attribution to sources, with correct citation;
 - Adherence to the prohibition against plagiarism; and
 - A neat and professional appearance.
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By completing this form, the student agrees to enroll in the course specified above and complete the associated writing requirement under the rules outlined by the supervising professor. The writing requirement must be completed and reviewed by the supervising professor and students must successfully earn credit before the LL.M. degree can be awarded.

Students must notify the Law Student Services Office if they drop the class or wish to complete the paper with a different professor. Successful completion of the course will be verified at the end of each semester in which the student intends to complete the writing requirement. Students not meeting the requirement will be notified once grades are posted.

I confirm that I will be completing a written research paper in conjunction with the class specified above.

Student's signature _____ **Date:** _____