In August 2015, the American Bar Association (ABA) issued the 2015-2016 ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools. Among other revisions to existing policies, the ABA changed its policy regarding student eligibility to participate in “Field Placements and Other Study Outside the Classroom.” See Standard 305(e)(6).

The Field Placement Program is currently implementing this new standard which will be effective April 1, 2016. Thus, all J.D. candidates seeking credit for a Summer 2016 externship (or any semester thereafter) are subject to this revised standard.

In order to participate in the GW Law Field Placement Program, all students will be required to meet the following standard:

Students may participate in the Field Placement Program after they have successfully completed the law school’s full-time first year curriculum. Students who have not completed the entire full-time first-year curriculum may be eligible to participate in the Program if they can demonstrate that their placement will provide sufficient contemporaneous training to ensure the quality of the student educational experience in the Field Placement Program.

How does this impact J.D. Candidates?

- J.D. candidates who have completed the full-time first year curriculum are eligible to participate in the Program once they have obtained a qualifying placement and met all other Field Placement Program requirements (see the Field Placement Program Handbook on the Field Placement Program portal page).

- J.D. candidates who have not completed the full-time first year curriculum (i.e., part-time J.D. candidates) may be eligible to participate in the Field Placement Program before they have completed the entire first-year curriculum if they can demonstrate that their placement will provide sufficient contemporaneous training to ensure the quality of the student educational experience in the Field Placement Program. Part-time students are also required to comply with all other Field Placement Program requirements.

  - All part-time J.D. candidates seeking to participate in the Field Placement Program before they complete the entire first-year curriculum will be required to submit documentation from their prospective supervisor demonstrating that they meet this standard. Additional information regarding the documentation requirements will be posted on the Field Placement portal page in early 2016.

***J.D. candidates are not permitted to enroll in the Field Placement Program during the fall or spring semesters of their first year of law school.***

If you have any questions regarding this requirement or about the Field Placement Program, please contact Nikki Keeley, Assistant Director for Field Placement, at nkeeley@law.gwu.edu.