Standard 305. FIELD PLACEMENTS AND OTHER STUDY OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

(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 sufficient prerequisites or contemporaneously receives sufficient training to assure the quality of the student educational experience 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.

Interpretation 305-3
To qualify as an experiential course under Standard 303, a field placement must also comply with the requirements set out in Standard 303(a)(3).

Standard 306. DISTANCE EDUCATION
(a) A distance education course is one in which students are separated from the faculty member or each other for more than one-third of the instruction and the instruction involves the use of technology to support regular and substantive interaction among students and between the students and the faculty member, either synchronously or asynchronously.

(b) Credit for a distance education course shall be awarded only if the academic content, the method of course delivery, and the method of evaluating student performance are approved as part of the school’s regular curriculum approval process.

(c) A law school shall have the technological capacity, staff, information resources, and facilities necessary to assure the educational quality of distance education.

(d) A law school may award credit for distance education and may count that credit toward the 64 credit hours of regularly scheduled classroom sessions or direct faculty instruction required by Standard 311(b) if:
   (1) there is opportunity for regular and substantive interaction between faculty member and student and among students;
   (2) there is regular monitoring of student effort by the faculty member and opportunity for communication about that effort; and
   (3) the learning outcomes for the course are consistent with Standard 302.

(e) A law school shall not grant a student more than a total of 15 credit hours toward the J.D. degree for courses qualifying under this Standard.

(f) A law school shall not enroll a student in courses qualifying for credit under this Standard until that student has completed instruction equivalent to 28 credit hours toward the J.D. degree.

(g) A law school shall establish an effective process for verifying the identity of students taking distance education courses and that also protects student privacy. If any additional student charges are associated with verification of student identity, students must be notified at the time of registration or enrollment.