

University of Victoria, Faculty of Law

Policy on Law 399 Supervised Research and Writing

Law 399 Supervised Research and Writing provides law students an opportunity to undertake substantial research and writing on a legal subject approved by a Faculty member who agrees to supervise the paper. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to students on proposals to write a Law 399 research paper.

The calendar description for Law 399 is as follows:

Units: 1.0-4.0

During either of the second or third years of a student's program, a student may undertake a substantial research and writing project on a legal subject approved by a member of the Faculty of Law who agrees to supervise the project. With the approval of the Dean or the Dean's nominee: (1) a student may be awarded credit for two separate supervised research papers provided that the total credit does not exceed 4 units and each paper is started and completed in separate terms; (2) this course may be extended over two terms; or (3) if this course is to be taken for 1 unit only.

The following guidelines apply to Law 399 paper proposals.

- Students are generally expected to satisfy their Law 390 Major Paper Requirement in a regular course offering rather than applying for Law 399.
- A student proposing a Law 399 paper must demonstrate why he or she cannot write the proposed paper in a regular course offering.
- Students are strongly advised to seek Faculty Member approval for a Law 399 well in advance. Faculty Members may be approached by students about supervising a Law 399 two to three terms in advance.
- However, a student must seek Faculty Member approval of a Law 399 paper at least three weeks before the last day of classes prior to the term in which the student wishes to write the proposed paper (i.e. if a student wishes to write a Law 399 paper beginning in January, approval should be sought by early November).
- Faculty Members are generally not available to supervise Law 399 papers in their non-teaching term. In particular, there are limited opportunities to write Law 399 papers in the summer term.
- Proposals for a Law 399 paper must be in writing, identify with sufficient clarity the research question to be addressed, explain why the student is interested in writing a Law 399 on the proposed topic and outline what research or work, if any, that the student has already done on the topic, for example course work, Co-op term or summer work. The student must indicate whether he or she has already written a Law 399 paper. **Proposals should be between 400 – 800 words.**
- The availability of Law 399 for any particular proposal is subject to the agreement of a supervising Faculty Member. Whether, and under what circumstances, a Faculty member agrees to supervise a Law 399 is ultimately subject to the discretion of the supervising Faculty Member.
- Students should keep in mind that a Law 399 paper is a major undertaking. A Law 399 paper worth 1.5 units requires a great deal of work and time commitment analogous to that involved in taking a 1.5 unit course.

Registration in Law 399

- Students cannot use uSource to register for Law 399.
- In order to register for Law 399, you must have your instructor sign the Consent to Supervise Law 399 or a Major Paper Written within a Course form and you must file the completed form with the Associate Dean's office. The form is available at the Associate Dean's office.
- Registration must be completed no later than the add/drop deadline for the particular term in which the Law 399 paper is to be completed.
- The approval of the Associate Dean is needed if Law 399 is to be completed for only 1.0 unit. A Law 399 paper that is completed for only 1.0 unit of credit and that has fewer than 7,500 words does not meet the Faculty's major paper requirement.
- The course may be extended over two terms with prior written approval of the supervising professor and the Associate Dean.

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