



UPPER-YEAR WRITING REQUIREMENT

1. In order to graduate from the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary, all JD students must satisfactorily complete a writing requirement and obtain a grade of C– or better, during their second *or* third year. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that each student has demonstrated competency in legal research and writing by composing a product that evidences these qualities.
2. Students may meet this requirement:
 - (a) By individually writing a paper or case comment or similar component, required or optional, in an upper year course, worth at least 50% of the course grade and involving significant research, *or*
 - (b) by completion of Law 653: Directed Research, *or*
 - (c) by completion of the Jessup International Moot, the Canadian Corporate/ Securities Law Moot, *or* the Gale Cup Moot.
3. With respect to 2(a), above:
 - i. In the case of a paper or other work worth 100% of the course grade, the work should be approximately 10,000 words in length (including footnotes/endnotes but excluding bibliography). Similarly, papers or other work, worth 50% of the course grade should be approximately 5,000 words in length, and so on.
 - ii. The required research should involve both secondary material (texts, articles, etc.) and primary material (statutes, case law, etc.).
 - iii. The research must be supported by completion of an annotated bibliography, research checklist or other documentation demonstrating research competency.
 - iv. It is recommended that, to support their preparation of a document demonstrating research competency, students take Law 607 *Advanced Legal Research* OR attend research workshops and use other forms of student training on legal research provided through the Law Library.
 - v. While instructors are expected to review and discuss the research question(s) and outlines and revised outlines, they are not expected to review and comment on drafts of the paper, factum or other work, unless the work is part of a Directed Research project *or* unless the student is evaluated solely (or almost solely) through the piece of writing *and* the instructor is able to offer the same opportunity to all students enrolled in the course.

4. A student who seeks to fulfil the writing requirement, and who obtains less than a C– for the paper or documentation demonstrating research competency, may

(a) redo the same written work (remedial option), or

(b) nominate another course and piece of writing instead (replacement course option).

- Under either option, the student must obtain a satisfactory grade (C– or better) in order to graduate.
- A student who elects the remedial option must submit the rewritten work no later than 45 days after grades are published.
- Satisfactory completion of the remedial option shall not alter the initial grade recorded for the course.
- The remedial option shall not apply where other regulations of the Faculty of Law require a student to take a supplementary evaluation in that course in order to graduate or be promoted.

5. While mandatory for graduation, the upper-year writing requirement is not a course per se and has no special registration number. On the contrary, students must satisfy the requirement within the confines of a regularly listed course in which the student is otherwise registered. HOWEVER, Law 607 (Advanced Legal Research) is not such a course.

6. Upon completion of the upper year writing requirement, the student shall provide the a Written Declaration indicating that the Requirement has been met and setting out which course or option was used to meet the Requirement and the semester in which it was completed.

Failure to provide the Written Declaration in a timely manner may preclude the student from graduating. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the Written Declaration is submitted to the Assistant Dean, Student Services upon completion of the upper year writing requirement.