



Honors Program

For full-time J.D. students who have demonstrated exceptional ability and achievement in their first and second semesters in law school, and part-time students who have demonstrated exceptional ability and achievement in their first and second years in law school, Stetson University College of Law offers an Honors Program, in which these students may advance their learning and work closely with members of the College of Law faculty. The program is designed to provide talented and motivated students with a background in the historical and theoretical bases of the profession to prepare them for the practice of law.

Full-time students who are ranked in the top 15% of their entering class after either their first or second semester will be invited to interview for the Honors Program during the summer following their first full year. Part-time J.D. students who are ranked in the top 15% of their entering class after their second or fourth semesters will be invited to interview for the Honors Program after their second spring semester. In addition, any part-time student who (1) had a cumulative GPA after their second semester equal to or exceeding the lowest cumulative GPA of the top 15% of the equivalent cohort of full-time students after their first semester, or (2) had a cumulative GPA after their fourth semester equal to or exceeding the lowest cumulative GPA of the top 15% of the equivalent cohort of full-time students after their second semester will be invited to interview for the Honors Program after their second spring semester.

The Honors Program Director will determine which students will participate in the Program. Typically, the Program will include between 15 and 25 students.

Students who enter the Program may remain so long as they stay in the top 20% percent of their class.

The first fall, students will participate in a semester-long, one-credit colloquium that will meet at least twice a month. The credit for this colloquium accrues only upon successful completion of the Honors Program, including the spring semester seminar. During this colloquium, students will read and discuss works that will provide them with a background in the history and tradition that make up the Anglo-American Legal Tradition. Students will have the opportunity to meet and work closely with several members of the College of Law faculty. Students may be removed from the Program for lack of attendance or participation.

The next spring, students must take a two-credit Jurisprudence Honors Seminar that will be limited to those in the Program. This seminar will give Honors Program students the opportunity for in-depth discussion and creative thinking. Honors Program students also will be encouraged to apply for a federal judicial internship at the earliest possible time to increase the opportunities for a judicial clerkship following graduation. The credit for this seminar accrues only upon successful completion of the Honors Program, including the Fall semester colloquium.

In addition, Honors Program students will be eligible to take part in special programs, such as works-in-progress presentations by faculty, talks by prominent scholars from other schools, and

meetings with members of the bench and bar. Students who complete both the colloquium and honors seminar will receive a certificate at graduation signifying their participation in the Honors Program.

Originally adopted by faculty January 10, 2001; amended on October 15, 2008; amended on May 15, 2019.