



CENTER *for* LAW & SOCIAL JUSTICE

THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW

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Summary of Law and Social Justice Certificate Program Requirements

- **Program Enrollment** – Students interested in working toward the Certificate in Law & Social Justice typically enroll in the program after completing one year of law school. No student may enroll during his or her last two semesters. You can enroll online at <http://www.tjssl.edu/law-social-justice>.
- **Participation Requirement** – Students enrolled in the program and working toward a Certificate must show a reasonable, good faith level of participation in Center-related events and activities. Attendance logs to track your participation are available at <http://www.tjssl.edu/law-social-justice>.
- **Writing Requirement** – Students must fulfill a Substantial Writing Requirement. The same paper may fulfill both the Substantial Writing Requirement and the law school's Upper Level Writing Requirement.
- **The Units Requirement** – Students must earn a total of at least 12 elective units from Center-eligible graded classroom courses at TJSL, from eligible TJSL non-classroom units, or from eligible non-TJSL units.
- **The GPA Requirement** – Certificate candidates must graduate with at least a 2.5 overall GPA and at least a 2.7 Center GPA.
- **The Pro Bono Requirement** – Certificate candidates must render **10 hours** of pro bono service prior to graduating from the law school.
- **Certificate Application** – Candidates must complete an application during their last semester of law school so that their credentials can be reviewed.

***** The above is only a summary of each requirement. The full requirements follow. *****

THE CERTIFICATE IN LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Center for Law and Social Justice (CLSJ), like the other two Centers of Academic Excellence at Thomas Jefferson School of Law (TJSL), offers a Certificate to students who meet certain requirements. **Please note that any given student may earn only one Certificate from one of the Centers.** Please also note that the other two Centers may have different requirements in certain respects.

In order to receive the Certificate in Law and Social Justice, a student must meet the following **seven requirements**: (1) the program enrollment requirement (2) the participation requirement (3) the writing requirement (4) the units requirement (5) the GPA requirement (6) the Pro Bono service requirement (7) the certificate application requirement.

Below is a description of each of the seven requirements, along with a list of all courses eligible for the Certificate.

If you have any questions about the program or any of the requirements, please contact the Center Director, Professor Alex Kreit by e-mail at akreit@tjssl.edu.

1. The Program Enrollment Requirement:

Students interested in working toward the Certificate in Law and Social Justice must enroll in the CLSJ program. Students are encouraged to enroll soon after completing their first two semesters of law school. **Because regular attendance at and participation in CLSJ events is required, no student may enroll in the program during his or her last two semesters of law school.** You can leave completed enrollment forms and related materials for him with a faculty assistant.

Please enroll online at: <http://www.tjssl.edu/law-social-justice>.

2. The Participation Requirement:

CLSJ program enrollees and Certificate candidates are expected to show a reasonable, good-faith level of participation and attendance over time at CLSJ-related events or activities at the law school. Relevant activities outside the law school are also considered. Candidates must report and summarize their activities when applying for the Certificate. **Students should keep track of the events they attend on an ongoing basis in order to maintain a thorough and accurate record.**

Attendance logs to track your participation are available online at: <http://www.tjssl.edu/law-social-justice>

3. The Writing Requirement:

Students must fulfill a Substantial Writing Requirement. The guidelines for fulfilling this requirement are identical to those governing the Upper Level Writing Requirement, as detailed in the Student Handbook. Students may write the paper in conjunction with a CLSJ-eligible course or as a Directed Study, subject to the four-unit cap on all TJSL non-classroom units. The professor supervising the paper, either in conjunction with a CLSJ-eligible course or as a Directed Study, will determine whether the paper satisfies the criteria for the Upper Level Writing Requirement. **In addition, to receive credit for the Center Substantial Writing Requirement, all Directed Study projects must be pre-approved by Professor Kreit to ensure that the topic falls within the mission of the Center.** The same paper may fulfill both the Substantial Writing Requirement for the CLSJ and the general Upper Level Writing Requirement.

4. The Units Requirement:

Certificate candidates must earn a total of at least **12 elective units** from **CLSJ-eligible graded classroom courses at TJSL** (see the course list at the end of this document below), from **eligible TJSL non-classroom units**, or from **eligible non-TJSL units**. **The latter two categories of units must be relevant to the CLSJ, must involve an exam, paper, or some kind of written work-product, and must be individually approved**

for each candidate by the Center director. Units need not be approved in advance, but it is HIGHLY ADVISABLE to consult the Center director as soon as possible about the eligibility of any such units. An **overall 4-unit cap** applies to any **eligible TJSL non-classroom units** and **eligible non-TJSL units** earned anywhere other than the Hofstra-TJSL Summer Program in Nice, France and the TJSL program in Hangzhou, China (see below).

Eligible TJSL non-classroom units include **no more than 4 units** of clinical, judicial internship, law review, moot court, or comparable units, or Directed Study. For example, you could count toward the Certificate up to 4 units of Directed Study, or 2 units of Directed Study plus 2 clinical and moot court units, but in any event no more than 4 units total of those types. Note that moot court and all non-classroom units, to be eligible, must involve written work (for example, writing or co-writing a brief). For this reason, mock trial and mock negotiation units are generally NOT eligible. Trial Practice, Mediation, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and similar skills-oriented courses are also NOT eligible, since the skills taught have general applicability to legal practice going well beyond social justice issues.

Eligible non-TJSL units include **no more than 4 units** of relevant coursework at other law schools or law programs, such as courses at University of San Diego Law School, California Western Law School, or summer programs. These units must qualify to count toward your J.D. at TJSL.

Up to 4 units may be earned at the Hofstra-TJSL Summer Program in Nice, France and the TJSL Summer Program in Hangzhou, China. These units may count toward the Certificate without being subject to the overall 4-unit cap for TJSL non-classroom and non-TJSL units (see above). **However, non-TJSL units earned anywhere other than the Nice and Hangzhou programs are subject to the overall 4-unit cap for non-classroom and non-TJSL units.** That is, you could count toward the Certificate up to 4 units of Directed Study and other eligible non-classroom units, and also count toward the Certificate up to 4 eligible units at the Nice program, thus satisfying up to 8 of the 12 required units for the Certificate. But you could only satisfy up to 4 of the 12 required units from non-classroom work and from non-TJSL programs.

5. The GPA Requirement:

Certificate candidates must graduate with at least a **2.5 overall GPA** and at least a **2.7 CLSJ GPA** (that is, at least a 2.7 average in all CLSJ-eligible graded units that you have earned, including any graded non-TJSL units). All grades earned for CLSJ-eligible coursework are considered and averaged in calculating your CLSJ GPA, not just the 12 highest-graded units.

6. The Pro Bono Service Requirement:

Certificate candidates must fulfill a Pro Bono Service Requirement. In order to satisfy the Pro Bono Service Requirement, certificate candidates must render **10 hours of**

pro bono service before graduating from the law school. **This service should involve rendering meaningful assistance to persons or organizations of limited means.** While such assistance generally should involve law-related work, meaningful services that are not law-related may also be included. **Information about organizations interested in student assistance is available from the Center director Professor Alex Kreit.** Students may also seek out pro bono opportunities on their own though those who do so should first consult with Professor Kreit to ensure that the anticipated project meets the service requirement. Certificate candidates will self-certify that they have satisfied this requirement.

7. The Certificate Application Requirement:

Candidates for the Certificate in Law and Social Justice must complete a certificate application form at the start of their last semester of law school. Certificate application forms are available from, and completed forms must be submitted to, the Director of the CLSJ, Professor Kreit. Professor Kreit will pass along Certificate candidates' names to the Registrar, who will confirm whether a candidate is on track with regard to units earned, GPA, the writing requirement, and participation in CLSJ events (details provided below).

Graduating students who have applied to Professor Kreit as described above, and who have satisfied, or are on track to potentially satisfy, the Certificate requirements, are eligible to wear the green CLSJ tassel during Commencement. Professor Kreit will supply the names to Student Services, which distributes the tassels. The actual Certificate will be awarded and issued only if and when the Registrar certifies that all requirements were in fact satisfied upon graduation.

The Commencement Program will indicate a student as receiving the Certificate only if the requirements were in fact fully satisfied and the Certificate was awarded beforehand (e.g., a December graduate who received the Certificate well before the following May Commencement in which they will participate). Otherwise, the Commencement Program will indicate that eligible students are "Candidates for the Certificate in Law and Social Justice." To wear the green CLSJ tassel during Commencement, it must appear reasonably possible that the Certificate will be awarded based on coursework completed that Spring Semester, or for which a student is registered during the immediately following Summer Session.

NOTE: Waiver of Requirements

In *extraordinary* circumstances, the Center director may waive one or more of the above requirements for a student who can demonstrate good cause as to why he or she should be granted a waiver.