

University of Maine School of Law

Upper Level Writing Requirement Election Form

As a requirement of graduation, each student must fulfill the Upper Level Writing Requirement. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that every student develops analytical writing and research skills as well as skills in meaningful criticism. The Upper Level Writing Requirement may be satisfied through completion of a research paper in connection with any designated law school course or seminar or through membership on the Maine Law Review or Ocean and Coastal Law Journal. If the requirement is satisfied by writing a paper in connection with a designated paper or paper-option course or seminar, the student will receive an additional credit for that course or seminar. With the prior approval of the supervising faculty member, the requirement may be satisfied by taking Independent Writing for three (3) credit hours. When the paper advisor is an adjunct instructor, the Association Dean of Student Services must also sign the form. As used herein, the term "research paper" means a substantial research paper of publishable quality, of 25-40 pages in length, exclusive of footnotes. The Upper Level Writing Requirement can be completed in any semester after completion of the first year curriculum, although **students are strongly encouraged to complete the requirement before their last semester.**

I hereby elect to satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement by the following method:

- A. Law Review.** I have registered for Law Review (Law 680) (1,2,2,2 credits).
- B. OCLJ.** I have registered for Ocean & Coastal Law Journal (Law 696) (1,2,2,2 credits).
- C. Course or Seminar.** I have registered for the course or seminar in _____ (Law ____).
Professor _____ has signed this form below to indicate approval of the use of my paper as the basis of meeting the Upper Level Writing Requirement. I will receive one additional credit for the course/seminar [to be noted on my transcript as Law 631 Upper Level Writing.]
- D. Independent Writing.** I have registered for three graded credits of Independent Writing with Professor _____. The professor has signed this form below to indicate approval of this topic and willingness to serve as faculty advisor for it. My advisor agrees that we will meet as often as necessary (but not fewer than two times) to discuss matters of substance, form, and style.

Date

Student Signature

Print Name

Date

Faculty Advisor

Date

Associate Dean (with adjunct instructor advisors)

This form must be completed and submitted to the Registrar before you can register. Any changes in the terms of this Election Form must be approved by the Associate Dean, who is the Upper Level Writing Requirement Coordinator.