

**Supervised Externship - General and Capitol Hill
Spring 2025 Syllabus**

Course Numbers:* **320, 320R, 520 or 520R (for two credits)**
 321, 321R, 521 or 521R (for three credits)
 325, 325R, 525 and 525R (for three credits)

* Course numbers denoted with an “R” are remote externship sections that will have remote and asynchronous-only tutorials and are available only to students who are taking remote-only classes and live and work outside of the DC metro area.

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Learning Objective:

Under the externship program, students supplement their academic experiences by using their knowledge and skills in the legal or policy field under the supervision of an attorney or judge. By the end of an externship students will improve lawyering skills, including legal or policy research, analysis, and writing; oral communication skills, and assignment management; increase their knowledge of a particular area of the law or policy and exposure to ethical matters and rules of conduct; and develop stronger interpersonal and professional skills.

Course Details:

- 1. Information Packet:** Students and supervisors must review and agree to all externship requirements. Students should review and provide their Supervisors with the **Externship Information Packet**, found at <http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/clinics>. Please pay particular attention to the items that must be submitted in order to receive credit for your externship at the end of the semester. **All items must be completed by Monday, April 28, unless permission was given ahead of time for completion at a later date.**
- 2. Signed Service Agreement:** All approved externship students and their supervisors should sign the **Service Agreement found in the Externship Information Packet** no later than the second week of the semester, unless permission was given to submit the document at a later date. Please make sure your agreement includes the email and phone number of your actual onsite supervisor.

Signed Service Agreements should be scanned and added as an attachment to your Externship Information Form in the Symplicity Externship module. Department of Justice interns may use the DOJ agreement in lieu of the Scalia Law service agreement. Other federal government employers have separate government service agreement forms and may have concerns about signing the Scalia Law service agreement. If you find yourself in this position, please email one of us to discuss. As a reminder, you can find your Externship Information form by logging into Symplicity and selecting the Externship module.

3. Updated Supervisor Information: Current supervisor information must be included on your Externship Information Form on Symplicity (please be sure to list your supervisor's email address). If your actual supervisor turns out to be someone other than the person who signed the service agreement or your supervisor changes for some reason during the externship, **please update your Externship Information Form on Symplicity as the system will contact the person identified on the form for a final evaluation.** As a reminder, you can find your Externship Information form by logging into Symplicity and selecting the Externship module.

4. Tutorials: There will be four tutorials for the class spread out over the semester. Each student must **attend two tutorials**, even if the student has participated in an externship program previously. Students should ensure their attendance is recorded at tutorials. For students in a non-remote section: On-site tutorials will begin at 5:00 pm and must be attended in person. The tutorials will take place in February and March, and April. Sometimes the professors will identify additional tutorial opportunities hosted by external entities (court proceedings, bar seminars, etc.). Dates for the on-site tutorials or additional tutorial options will be announced in late January. For students in a remote section: You will receive instructions for completing your two tutorials in April.

5. Mid-Semester Meeting: Each student must schedule a mid-semester remote meeting with one of us to discuss how the externship is progressing. Meetings should last no longer than 10-15 minutes and typically take place in late February - March. You will be notified via your student email accounts of sign-up times and steps in February.

6. Mid-Semester Employer Evaluation: Each student must arrange for his or her supervisor to provide a written mid-semester evaluation by email. These mid-semester checks may be short – 4-6 sentences summarizing the student's performance to date. Mid-semester evaluations should be sent by email to vhuber@gmu.edu and cdinsmor@gmu.edu. **Mid-semester employer evaluations are due no later than Monday, March 3 unless alternative timing has been requested and approved.** The evaluation should briefly address:

1-2 sentences on the nature of the assignments given for the externship hours

1-2 sentences about the student's performance on the assignments

1-2 sentences about the student's overall professionalism. Please address any strengths or weaknesses related to timeliness of work product, communication with supervisors about work schedule, project updates or completion, and interaction with clients or other professionals in the workplace.

7. Tracking Hours: Students must keep track of their hours and duties. The hours must be entered/tracked in the Symplicity module ("Track Hours") and must include general descriptions of your tasks. Descriptions should include the general area of work and duties; simply listing "researched" or "drafted" is insufficient. Hours and tasks should be entered into Symplicity weekly if not more frequently. Hours should include sufficient descriptions of your duties or projects that we could provide such a write up to a client if we were billing out your work. Examples include: researched x and y for memorandum for x; attended strategy meetings on y matter; sat in on client meeting for x case; drafted white paper on y; looked up caselaw on x for y person; continued compiling research on y issues; attended staff meeting on x; etc.

8. Final Items: Self Evaluation, Externship Program Evaluation and Final Employer Evaluation: In order to receive credit for this course, students must meet the final requirements set out in the Externship Information Packet. **Students must complete the final Self Evaluation, Externship Program Evaluation, and track hours (i.e., the online timesheet form) on Symplicity in the Externship module.** The sample of your written work product should be added to your Self Evaluation as an attachment. The supervisor identified in the Externship Information Form will receive a system-generated email to complete the final Employer Evaluation online, which includes approving the time entered by the student into the Symplicity hours tracker. Students are responsible for ensuring supervisors submit timely final online evaluations.

The Symplicity system will generate reminder emails to students and supervisors for the final items as we approach the end of the semester. **In all cases, final items must be completed by Monday, April 28, unless permission was given ahead of time for submission at a later date.**

Attached for your convenience at the end of this syllabus is a helpful checklist of the steps you must complete to receive externship credit. Please email with any questions or concerns that arise before or during your externship. Email is the best way to reach us and don't hesitate to re-email if you don't hear from one of us within 48 hours.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: For up-to-date information about University policies and guidelines, please visit <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/responsible-office/environmental-health-and-safety/>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason Academic Standards. The Standards prohibit, for example, lying, cheating, or stealing and apply to your conduct in the externship. This includes a student obligation to never represent the work of another as their own and to never provide or accept unauthorized assistance on any school related assignment. The Academic Standards are available here:

https://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/academic_standards.

In accordance with Academic Regulation 4-3, students in the externship courses may NOT use Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in their research, writing, or other work generated for their employer *unless* the site supervisor expressly agrees to its usage on a project(s), and supervisor approval is shared with the externship professors. In these instances, supervisors must specify the parameters of the usage and disclosure obligations. Students are reminded that using GAI may expose client or employer confidences, and some employers are prohibiting the use of GAI in any writing samples submitted as part of an application process. Failure to abide by this policy and Academic Regulation 4-3 is a violation of the Academic Standards.

General Support: If you need support in any way during your externship, please reach out to one of us. Remember also that GMU provides a range of student support resources such as **Counseling and Psychological Services** (<https://caps.gmu.edu/>), **Student Health Services** (<https://shs.gmu.edu/>), and the **Student Support and Advocacy Center** (<https://ssac.gmu.edu/>). For more information about University Life and other resources on the Arlington Campus, please visit: <https://ularlington.gmu.edu/>

Externship Requirements Check List

Name: _____

Employer: _____

Course Number: _____

Externship Information Form (on Symplicity) _____

Signed Service Agreement sign, scan and upload to your Externship

Information Form on Symplicity): _____

Mid-Semester Meeting with Professor: _____

Mid-Semester Employer Evaluation (by email) _____

Tutorial Attendance

Fall/Spring Semester (two) _____

Summer Term (one) _____

Final Items – ON SYMPLICITY

Track Hours (on Symplicity; update weekly if not more frequently) _____

Self-Evaluation (on Symplicity) _____

Sample of your Written Work Product (attach to your Self Evaluation on Symplicity;
waivers granted with prior approval) _____

Student Externship Program Evaluation (on Symplicity) _____

Final Employer Evaluation (on Symplicity) _____