

## PUBLIC SERVICE CERTIFICATE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

### Purpose:

To encourage and help prepare students for public service careers by providing a foundation in the topics relevant to public interest/public service careers.

### Overall requirements:

- Declaration of intent returned to Registrar and Director of Experiential Learning (form available from the Office of the Registrar)
- A minimum of 16 credit hours in courses focused on public service, which may include experiential courses, skills courses, seminars, etc. (see list below)
- Of the total number of credits required for the Certificate, a minimum of 11 hours must be in an experiential course (clinic, externship, field placement) and/or a special public service project approved by the Director of Experiential Education
- In addition to the above credits, students must complete 30 number of hours of pro bono legal work before graduation
- Students must maintain a minimum 78 GPA or S for all courses counted towards their Public Service Certificate

### Minimum of 11 hours of experiential courses (listed below):

Domestic Violence Clinic	Civics Field Placement	Consumer Bankruptcy Externship
Public Defender Externship	Externship I, Externship II	Summer Externship
Habeas Project	Independent Research Project (approval required)	Judicial Externship
Low Income Tax Clinic		

**The remainder of the 16 credit hours required for the Certificate must come from either additional experiential courses (listed above) or from these electives:**

Administrative Law	Civil Rights Law	Client Counseling II
Criminal Procedure: Constitutional Dimensions	Criminal Procedure: The Litigation Process	Employment Law
Environmental Law	Environmental Law Seminar	Federal Courts
Federal Income Taxation	Georgia Criminal Practice & Procedure	Health Care Law
Immigration Law	International Law	International Human Rights
Juvenile Court Practice & Procedure	Labor Law	Legal Ethics Seminar
Medical Malpractice	Migration Problems & Policy Seminar	Oxford Human Rights Program
Poverty Law Seminar	Public Health Law	The Religion Clauses of the First Amendment Seminar
Scientific Evidence & Expert Witnesses	Selected Topics in Modern Family Law Seminar	Sexuality and the Law Seminar

Survey of the First Amendment	Trial Practice	Post-Conviction Practice and Remedies
Bankruptcy		

**Pro Bono Legal Work:**

Program candidates must complete a minimum of 30 hours of pro bono legal work in public interest organizations, government agencies, or courts. Coursework (including clinics, field placements, externships) may not be counted. Financial donations are not counted. Pro-bono work performed must be professional legal work, performed under the supervision of an attorney or a member of the Law School faculty.

**Indicating Interest:**

There is no application process and no selection criteria. The Registrar’s Office has Intent Forms for you to complete through your MyMercer page. After that, you are either able to complete and document requirements (or not), working with the Registrar and Director of Experiential Education. Courses and work previously completed may count toward the certificate.

**Tracking Progress and Requirements:**

The Registrar will help you track requirements through your degree audit. Here is an informal way to keep track of your own plans and progress:

Course name	Credit hours	Semester Taken	Grade Awarded

Non-profit/ governmental org	Volunteer hours (not for credit / pay)	Date(s)	Brief description of work

**Points of contact:**

Office of the Registrar: [Registrar@law.mercer.edu](mailto:Registrar@law.mercer.edu)

Prof. Sarah Gerwig, Director of Experiential Education: [gerwig\\_s@law.mercer.edu](mailto:gerwig_s@law.mercer.edu)