

CRIMINAL LAW AND ADVOCACY

Students who earn the certificate for this concentration encounter a variety of experiences to help develop an understanding of criminal law and procedure in both a theoretical and practical context. They explore both the substantive criminal law as well as the constitutional overlay of criminal procedure. In addition, they experience aspects of criminal trial and motion work. Development focuses on advocacy skills: litigation, negotiation and other alternate dispute resolution methods that apply in a criminal context.

You'll develop cutting-edge trial skills, such as the innovative use of visual persuasion techniques in the courtroom, and you'll examine ethical issues unique to criminal practice settings. You'll experience the criminal justice system in action in our clinics and externships, which will refine your ability to engage in both prosecution and defense work. You can advocate for real clients at the trial or appellate levels, represent the government, or help judges in criminal cases. You also can work on national criminal justice reform projects, such as advocating for more humane treatment of children charged with crimes, or challenging the death penalty.

Your negotiation and litigation skills will be honed through participation in mock trials and courtroom simulations, and every year we host the Northeast Regional Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition. Our active Criminal Law Society sponsors several networking events and activities focused on helping you connect with legal professionals.

For specific information on the program offerings, please contact:

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Criminal Law and Advocacy Concentration Prerequisite

To be eligible for the Criminal Law and Advocacy Concentration, you must take Evidence (LAWS 311) as one of your core electives. Credits for this course do not count toward the 21-credit concentration requirement, but the grade in this prerequisite does count toward the concentration GPA requirement in determining whether or not the certificate is awarded with honors. All students must also successfully complete the required course of Criminal Law (LAWS 113).

Requirements

1. Coursework

To receive the certificate for this concentration, you must earn 21 Criminal Law and Advocacy specialty credits, divided as follows (not all courses are offered every year):

Clinical Requirement:

You must earn at least 3 credits through participation in the following programs. No more than 6 clinical credits count toward the 21-credit requirement for the concentration, except with the permission of the

concentration director. The credit allotted to coursework in conjunction with a clinic counts as a course credit, not as a clinic credit.

Code	Title	Credits
	Defense Appellate Clinic (LAWS 299 & LAWS 300)	6
	Prosecution Appellate Clinic (LAWS 301, LAWS 302, & LAWS 303)	6
	An externship placement at a site dedicated to criminal defense or prosecution	3-6
	A judicial externship placement in a court at which the director can certify has a significant criminal docket	3-6

Required Coursework:

In addition to LAWS 311 (credits for which do not count toward the 21-credit requirement), you must take the following courses. Credits for these courses will count toward your 21-credit concentration requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
LAWS 315	Trial Practice Exp	2-3
LAWS 431	Criminal Procedure - Adj.	3
LAWS 432	Criminal Procedure Inv.	3
	Select one of the following courses:	2-3
	LAWS 428 Negotiation	
	LAWS 515 Alternative Dispute Resolution Exp.	

The remaining credits needed to satisfy the requirements for this concentration should come from the following designated courses:

Code	Title	Credits
LAWS 292	Independent Research Project W	2
LAWS 293	Independent Research Project W	3
LAWS 315	Trial Practice Exp	2-3
LAWS 316	Advanced Trial Practice	2
LAWS 318	Mock Trial ²	1-2
LAWS 338	Visual Persuasion in the Law Exp	3
LAWS 360	International Criminal Law	3
LAWS 367	Counterterrorism Law	2
LAWS 384	Juvenile Law	3
LAWS 386	Domestic Violence: Law, Practice and Pol	2
LAWS 387	Advanced Juvenile Law: Delinquency Proceedings	2
LAWS 410	Theories of Punishment S,W	2
LAWS 412	Habeas Corpus	2
LAWS 423	State Constitutional Law	2-3
LAWS 429	International Human Rights	2
LAWS 515	Alternative Dispute Resolution Exp. ¹	2-3
LAWS 525	Moot Court I ³	1
LAWS 551	Federal Criminal Law	2
LAWS 599	Interviewing & Counseling Clients	2
LAWS 602	Law and Forensic Science	2

LAWS 615	Conn. Adjudicative Criminal Procedure	2
LAWS 636	Sentencing, Prisons, and Reentry	2

1

Alternate Dispute Resolution interscholastic competitions (but not intramural) may count if the concentration director finds there is a substantial criminal law and/or criminal procedure component. The participation must be connected to the legal questions in roles such as advocate, problem drafter, etc. The efforts of organizers, coaches, and schedulers, while extremely important, are not eligible for credit. (1, 2, or 3 credits)

2

Mock trial interscholastic competitions (but not intramural) may count if the concentration director finds there is a substantial criminal law and/or criminal procedure component. The participation must be connected to the legal questions in roles such as litigator, problem drafter, etc. The efforts of organizers, coaches, and schedulers, while extremely important, are not eligible for credit. Participation in the legal aspects – i.e., litigator, problem drafter – of the Quinnipiac University School of Law Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition will count. (1, 2, or 3 credits)

3

Moot Court interscholastic competitions (but not intramural) may count if the concentration director finds there is a substantial criminal law and/or criminal procedure component. The participation must be connected to the legal questions in roles such as litigator, problem drafter, etc. The efforts of organizers, coaches, and schedulers, while extremely important, are not eligible for credit. (1, 2, or 3 credits)

2. Writing Requirement

You must write a substantial paper (or a series of shorter writings that, taken together, comprise a substantial amount of written work) on a topic or topics related to Criminal Law or Procedure. (If you write a substantial paper, you may use that paper to satisfy the law school's Advanced Writing Requirement, as set forth in the Academic Regulations (<http://catalog.qu.edu/school-of-law/academic-regulations/#text>), section I.E., as well as the Criminal Law and Advocacy certification program.) A paper written for a journal may qualify if the concentration director approves the topic. A brief written for a moot court competition or within an externship position may qualify if the student can attest that the work was their own. The concentration director must approve the topic and the format for the written work used to satisfy this requirement. Note: It is possible for completed work to count for more than one concentration if there is sufficient coverage of both subject matters.

3. Honors

Students who achieve a GPA of 3.20 or better in the coursework used for the concentration will receive the certificate for the concentration with honors.

4. Options

If you have excess credits, you may designate any course or paper as not counting toward the concentration, so long as it is not required for the concentration, and you meet the concentration requirements with another course. If you have more than 21 credits, the concentration director will count the courses with the highest grades in determining whether or not to bestow the honors designation. Note that the GPA calculation includes all courses required for the concentration, including LAWS 311 – Evidence.

5. Waiver

The concentration director and the associate dean for academic affairs may waive any requirement for the concentration (other than the GPA requirement), if both agree to do so. Any waiver requests must be submitted in writing with the application for the concentration.