

Guidelines to Apply for LAWS 4999 Directed Research

Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program

Students participating in the Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy LLM and MRLS programs may apply to take LAWS 4999 Directed Research. The application should be submitted in the semester preceding the semester in which the Directed Research course is to be credited. Registration for the course is not automatic and requires the pre-approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Not all applications for a directed reading are approved. The following guidelines are provided to facilitate your application.

Step 1. Meet with Prof. Otto, the Director of Graduate Studies, to discuss whether your research idea is sufficiently related to the field of natural resources and environmental law to be considered by the Associate Dean. Bring to this meeting a description of your proposed research. This proposal should be 1 to 2 pages in length and should be organized in the following sections:

Section 1. Objective of research

In a maximum of three sentences state either 1) a question (or questions) that you will seek to answer in your research paper, or 2) a hypothesis that you will attempt to prove or disprove. Note: a general objective such as “I intend to look into global warming” is not acceptable.

Section 2. Justification

Describe how the proposed research will prepare you for a career in, or is in some other way related to, natural resources and environmental law.

Section 3. Major topics and issues

List the major topics and issues that you think will be addressed in the paper.

Section 4. Methodology

Describe how you intend to go about your research effort. Is it to be based on interviews, on library research, etc. Be as specific as possible.

Section 5. Proposed dates and milestones

Specify key milestones to be completed in the research process and the dates on which you expect them to be achieved. For example: initial library search – Sept 25, initial outline of paper - Oct 20; initial draft of paper – Nov 5; completion of references – Nov. 15; completion of final paper Dec 2.

Section 6. Identification of Supervising Professor

If you have an idea of which Professor you want to supervise your research effort, state who. It may be useful to talk with that Professor before meeting with Prof. Otto. Note: only full-time members of the faculty (i.e. not Adjunct Professors) are eligible to supervise Directed Research projects.

Step 2. Acquire and complete a Directed Research application form. These may be obtained from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Step 3. Meet with the Professor that you intend to have direct your research and obtain his/her signature on the form. Bring your research proposal to this meeting.

Step 4. Meet with Prof. Otto and have him add his signature to the form.

Step 5. Submit your application to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Step 6. If your application is approved, register for the course.

Note: A copy of the completed project must be submitted to the supervising faculty member and the Associate Dean's office no later than the last day of exams of the semester in which the student registers for the directed research.