

PUBLIC GOOD DISTINCTION

DECEMBER 2026 / MAY 2027 GRADUATES INFORMATION

To earn the Distinction, students must:

1. Complete **16** credits of public good courses (4 experiential) before graduation.
 - a. Submit your credits via the [Course Submission Form](#). May 2027 graduates must submit courses by **January 22, 2027**. December 2026 graduates must submit courses by **September 25, 2026**.
 - b. No specific courses are required. Instead, you must explain how these courses connect to your goals, public good path, and public interest law more generally.
 - c. Core requirements cannot be used to satisfy the credits. Student Law Office (clinic) credits are limited to 5 and Externship credits are limited to 5 credits, i.e. no more than 10 credits can come from externships and clinics.
 - d. Students are encouraged to participate in academic advising in advance of the course submission deadline to aid with course selection and to ensure courses meet the requirement.
 - e. No minimum GPA required, but you must be in good standing to earn the Distinction.
2. Enroll and participate in the 0-Credit Public Interest Capstone during their graduating year. You cannot enroll via Banner. **Instead, you must [register](#) to be eligible for the Distinction by 12pm on September 8, 2026 if you are graduating in December 2026 or May 2027.** Please note enrollment in the capstone is required to receive the distinction.
 - a. **Students must attend at least two sessions (though students are welcome to attend all)**
The first two sessions will be Virtual. Dates/Times to be shared.
 - i. ***Surviving on a Public Good Salary: In Depth Financial Planning (fall, TBA)***
 - ii. ***Knowing your Rights as an Employee with lawyer Ariel DeFazio (spring, TBA)***
 - iii. ***Speed Career Planning:*** Students will meet with Prof. Freeman and/or CDO counselors. December grads interested in this session or students interested in meeting before January should email Prof. Freeman for individual scheduling.
3. Complete a **culminating reflection essay**. For May 2027 graduates, this essay should be submitted to alexi.freeman@du.edu no later than **April 12, 2027**. December 2026 graduates must submit by **November 9, 2026**. There is no set length requirement for the essay, but we imagine that most essays will be around 3 pages. The prompt for the reflection essay is:

This culminating essay provides you with an opportunity to reflect on your legal education and be mindful of your future professional path. Consider both your pre-law school ideals and the many new experiences presented as a law student, and share how and why you've landed where you are at this point. When you consider your "public good path," what stands out as the most formative experience during your time at Denver Law? What are your expectations for yourself in practice in terms of what you hope to be doing, but also how you intend to continue to pursue the public good and maintain a professional identity that will always resonate with those values that brought you to Denver Law in the first place?

Visit the [Public Good Distinction](#) website or contact alexi.freeman@du.edu for more info.

Remember to [register](#) by 12pm September 8, 2026 to be eligible to earn the Distinction!