

Civil and Human Rights Concentration

Guidelines, Procedures and Forms

————— *Center for* —————
CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS
————— *at Gonzaga Law* —————



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Introduction

The Civil and Human Rights Concentration program provides an opportunity for students to formally focus and curate their legal education on the study and analysis of civil and human rights and the legal, theoretical, and policy perspectives associated with these rights. It also offers the opportunity for direct action in civil and human rights advocacy work, and development of professional experience in this field.

This program builds on the social justice mission of the Law School and the University, emphasizing civil and human rights as an integral component of a student's legal education. It promotes the Law School's vision of "educating the whole person to serve the public good, engaging in a dialogue with all cultures and religious or ethical traditions, and to pursuing justice." It also promotes Gonzaga University's mission to "foster a mature commitment to dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, intercultural competence, global engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, and care for the planet."

The Concentration requirements include a minimum cumulative GPA, a minimum number of academic units in approved courses, a minimum number of hours of experiential learning, the completion of a substantial written work, and a minimum number of public service hours. These requirements are described in detail in the following sections.

1. Participation: Notice of Intent to Participate

Though not required, it is recommended that students submit a **Notice of Intent to Participate** in the Civil and Human Rights Concentration program. The Notice may be submitted at any time prior to the deadline for the Application for Award. However, students in the accelerated program are encouraged to submit the Notice by the end of their second semester, and students in the traditional program are encouraged to submit the Notice by the end of their third semester to facilitate course planning and communication about civil and human rights programming and professional opportunities with the Center for Civil and Human Rights (CCHR).

2. Deadlines: Application for Award

Students who will graduate in May must submit an **Application for Award** to the Center for Civil and Human Rights by **March 15** of the graduation year.

Students who will graduate in December must submit the application by **September 30** of the graduation year.



Concentration Requirements

1. Minimum GPA

Students interested in obtaining a Civil and Human Rights Concentration must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 in all courses. Students with a cumulative GPA between 2.400 and 2.699 may be permitted to participate in the Concentration program with the permission of the Director of the Center and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The purpose of the minimum GPA requirement is to ensure that students pursuing the Concentration have demonstrated sufficient competence in all areas of the law, including in the area of civil and human rights.

2. Course Work

The Center will both draw on the existing curriculum and develop future courses to further the Center's goals of protecting the rights of the underserved, promoting civil and human rights, and furthering social justice. To obtain a Civil and Human Rights Concentration, students will be required to take a minimum of 14 credit hours of advanced course work (classes other than those required for graduation) in approved courses.

Students will be required to take a minimum of two of the courses from List A. The remainder of the 14 credit minimum can be earned in courses from List A or List B.

LIST A

- Civil Rights
- Civil Rights Moot Court Competition
- Civil Rights Simulation
- Criminal Procedure
- Employment Discrimination
- Environmental Law
- First Amendment Law
- Immigration Law
- International Human Rights
- International Law
- Race and the Law
- Restorative Justice

LIST B

- Administrative Law
- Advanced Child Rights and Representation
- Advanced Civil Procedure
- Advanced Criminal Procedure
- Advanced Criminal Procedure: Process of Adjudication
- Advanced Environmental/Natural Resource Law & Policy Seminar
- Advanced Torts
- Child Rights and Representation
- Climate Change & International Environmental Law

- Comparative Women's Rights
- Consumer Law
- Corporate Social Responsibility Seminar
- Crimmigration
- Death Penalty Seminar
- Directed Research (approval of Director and Academic Dean required)
- Disability Law
- Education Law
- Elder Law
- Employment Discrimination Simulation
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Federal Indian Law
- Forced Migration Law and Policy
- Health Law
- Health, Race and the Law
- International Child Rights
- International Criminal Law
- International Environmental Law
- Juvenile Law
- Law and Colonialism
- Law and Sexuality
- Leadership and Diversity
- Mental Disability Law
- Poverty Law
- Privacy & Data Security Law
- Public Land Law
- Water Law
- Zoning and Land Use

Note: This list of courses is subject to change. Not every course is offered each year. Students seeking the Concentration are expected to plan their course of study accordingly. Additional courses may qualify for credit toward the Concentration upon review by CCHR faculty and staff.

3. Experiential Learning

A central mission of the Center for Civil and Human Rights is to protect the rights of individuals and communities that are marginalized, subordinated, discriminated against, targeted, or otherwise disadvantaged. As such, following the completion of 24 credit hours of law school course work, all students earning a Civil and Human Rights Concentration will be required to complete 240 hours of supervised legal work in a public interest/social justice organization.

The work can be paid, volunteer, or for unit credit. These hours may not overlap with the hours used to meet the Public Service Requirement for law school graduation; however these hours may overlap with the hours that are submitted for the Pro Bono Distinction program, and/or the hours that are necessary to meet the Carl Maxey Social Justice Scholarship program. Students may satisfy the experiential learning requirement in any of the following programs:

a. Gonzaga University School of Law Clinical Legal Programs

- Catholic Charities Immigration Clinic: Client
- Catholic Charities Immigration Clinic: Policy
- Elder Law Clinic
- Federal Tax Law Clinic
- Indian Law/General Public Practice Clinic
- Lincoln LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic

b. Existing Approved Externship Placements

- Center for Justice
- Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho
- Kalispel Tribe Legal Offices
- Kootenai County District Court
- Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney
- Northwest Justice Project
- Spokane City Attorney – DV Unit
- Spokane City Attorney – City Council
- Spokane County Municipal Court
- Spokane County Prosecutor’s Office
- Spokane County Public Defender’s Office
- Spokane County Superior Court
- Unemployment Law Project
- U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of Idaho
- U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court of Eastern Washington
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington
- Washington State Attorney General’s Office
- Washington State Court of Appeals, Division 3
- Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings
- World Relief Spokane

c. Other Placements:

Other experiential learning placements as approved by the Center staff or faculty directors.

4. Writing Project

To receive a Civil and Human Rights Concentration, students are required to complete a substantial written work on a topic related to civil and human rights. Examples of applicable topic areas include Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Social Justice, Criminal Justice, Public Interest Law, Native American Law, Immigration and Refugee Law, and International Human Rights. Papers, briefs, motions, or other written projects completed independently for this requirement or in conjunction with course work, an experiential learning placement, intern or externship, directed research, or a journal article may qualify as a substantial written work. Students seeking a Concentration may seek conditional approval for their chosen topic from the Center for Civil and Human Rights prior to initiating a project intended to meet this requirement. The Center will determine whether a completed project submitted to fulfill this requirement is adequate for the purposes of awarding the Concentration. To qualify, the written work must be a minimum of 20 pages in length (double-spaced and Times New Roman 12-point font) and must be authored solely by the student. Either the Staff Director of the Center, a full time faculty member, or supervising attorney who oversaw the writing project must verify the satisfactory completion of the writing project on the Application for Award for the Concentration.

One electronic copy and one hard copy of the work **must** be submitted with the Application for Award. Please note: A hard copy of the writing project **must** be printed out and submitted to the Center for Civil and Human Rights Staff Director or Program Coordinator. Student applications that only include an electronically submitted writing project will not be considered.

5. Public Service

All Gonzaga Law students are required to complete 30 hours of public service for graduation. Students obtaining a Civil and Human Rights Concentration are required to complete 20 additional hours of public service (for a total of 50 hours). These additional 20 hours must meet the criteria outlined for Graduation Public Service Hours in the Student Handbook. This requirement cannot be satisfied by hours for which the student also receives academic credit, compensation, or other monetary value. This requirement cannot be satisfied by hours used to meet the minimum hours for the experiential learning requirement for the Concentration. The hours used to meet this requirement may be hours submitted for the Carl Maxey Social Justice Scholarship programs and/or the Pro Bono Distinction program, provided they otherwise qualify to meet the public service requirement for the Concentration.



Forms

The following pages consist of the Civil and Human Rights Concentration forms:

1. Notice of Intent to Participate (optional)

2. Application for Award (required)

Deadlines:

March 15 of the graduation year (May graduation), **or**

September 30 of the graduation year (December graduation)

Civil and Human Rights Concentration

Notice of Intent to Participate

| | |
|---|---|
| Full name | Date |
| Mailing address | Expected law school graduation date |
| | Accelerated program? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Phone | Gonzaga e-mail address |
| What are your educational goals for the Civil and Human Rights Concentration program? | |
| What are the courses you are interested in taking? | |
| Please list any questions you have about participation in the Concentration program: | |

Civil and Human Rights Concentration

Application for Award

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Name as it should appear on your certificate | Student ID number |
| Mailing address | Expected law school graduation date |
| Gonzaga e-mail address | Phone |

Applicants must attach the following documents to this application:

1. **Most recent unofficial transcript** showing grades, class rank, and pending courses.

2. **Hard copy of final writing project**

(Additional electronic copy must be sent to Center for Civil and Human Rights)

Course Work Requirement

To obtain the Concentration, students must take a minimum of 14 credit hours of advanced course work in approved courses, including at least two List A courses. List the information for the approved courses you have taken below. If course is still pending, write "N/A" under "Grade Received."

| Course number | Course name | Number of credits | Grade received |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total number of credits | | | |

Writing Project Requirement

To obtain the Concentration, students must complete a substantial written work on a topic related to civil and human rights. Papers, briefs, motions, or other written projects completed independently for this requirement or in conjunction with course work, an experiential learning placement, intern or externship, directed research, or a journal article may qualify as a substantial written work. To qualify, the written work must be a minimum of 20 pages in length (double-spaced and Times New Roman 12-point font) and must be authored solely by the student. The Center for Civil and Human Rights will determine whether a completed project submitted to fulfill this requirement is adequate for the purposes of awarding the Concentration. Topics or thesis may be conditionally approved as relating to civil and human rights by the Center's staff or faculty directors, but the final determination whether the written work meets this requirement will be made based on the completed writing project.

Please list the complete title of the paper submitted to satisfy this requirement. One electronic copy and one hard copy of the work must be submitted with this Application for Award.

Either the Staff Director of the Center, a full time faculty member, or supervising attorney who oversaw the writing project must sign below verifying the satisfactory completion of the writing project meeting the above-listed guidelines.

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Supervisor | Title |
| Supervisor signature | Date |

Experiential Learning Requirement

To obtain the Concentration, students must complete 240 hours of supervised legal work in a public interest/social justice organization. The work can be paid, volunteer, or for unit credit. The Center may request follow-up information as necessary to determine fulfillment of the experiential learning requirement. Please list below the work completed to meet this requirement. Attach additional copies of this page if more space is necessary.

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Organization | Dates | Total number of hours |
| Supervisor | Title | Phone |
| Supervisor signature | | Date |
| Organization | Dates | Total number of hours |
| Supervisor | Title | Phone |
| Supervisor signature | | Date |

Public Service Requirement

To obtain the Concentration, students must complete 20 hours of public service in addition to the 30 hours of public service required for graduation. This requirement cannot be satisfied by hours used to meet the minimum hours for the experiential learning requirement for the Concentration. The hours used to meet this requirement may be hours submitted to the Pro Bono Distinction program, provided they otherwise qualify to meet the public service requirement for the Distinction. Please submit these hours to the Registrar as Graduation Public Service Requirement (GPSR) hours or list them below. Attach additional copies of this page if more space is necessary.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Organization | | Dates |
| Address | City | State and Zip code |
| Types of assignments completed | | Total number of hours |
| Supervisor | Title | Phone |
| Supervisor signature | | Date |
| Organization | | Dates |
| Dates | City | State and Zip code |
| Types of assignments completed | | Total number of hours |
| Supervisor | Title | Phone |
| Supervisor signature | | Date |

Check if hours have been submitted to the Registrar as GPSR hours.

Deadlines:

- **March 15** of the graduation year (May graduation), **or**
- **September 30** of the graduation year (December graduation)

Student signature:

- I hereby request to be awarded with the Civil and Human Rights Concentration.
- I declare that to the best of my knowledge, I have satisfied the requirements for the Concentration, and the statements contained in this Application for Award are true and accurate.
- I have submitted both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the writing project to the Center for Civil and Human Rights.
- If I have submitted my public service hours to the Registrar as GPSR, I give permission to the Center for Civil and Human Rights to verify these hours.
- I have attached the following documents to this application:
 - Most recent unofficial transcript** showing grades, class rank, and pending courses.
 - Hard copy of final writing project**

Additional explanation (optional for clarification of above items only):

Student signature

Date

Submit completed original Application for Award with attachments to:

Staff Director

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509-313-5791

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