Clinical and Externship Programs
This list is intended to provide a snapshot of the offerings and requirements for registration for the law school’s Clinic and Externship course offerings.

Note: enrollment for all clinics and externships are limited by Academic Regulation to the fourth, fifth and sixth semester (AR II.B.3) of law school, with the exception of summer enrollment. Students with a GPA of 2.4 or below cannot enroll in an externship.

Note that you are required to complete 6 clinic or externship credits prior to graduation. We encourage you to take more as part of deepening your understanding of the law and how it is applied, and developing your professional identity. ¹

South Royalton Legal Clinic (SRLC)

SRLC is a general civil practice clinic that serves Vermont residents who are unable to afford counsel and who need help with issues such as family law, children’s rights, domestic violence, immigration, welfare and unemployment, and housing. Students step into the role of counsel for the clinic clients, and the work they have done has made this office a leading provider of pro bono service in the state.

Registration: Students may register on-line, as they do for any other VLS course; the course is offered in the spring, fall and summer. Students who enroll in the Clinic for the spring or fall may not enroll in courses that conflict with the Clinic’s introductory class sessions; you should also realize that occasional conflicts may arise between court hearings (and similar commitments) and daytime classes, in which case client obligations prevail. You may take the course for 6 or 13 credits during the fall and spring; however, if you plan on taking the clinic in the summer you may enroll for 6-9 credits.

Prerequisites: there are no specific prerequisites, however, Evidence, Trial Practice and Legal Profession are recommended.

Credits:
Spring or fall, 6 or 13 credits; two of the credits are classroom credits that are graded separately. Summer enrollment is for 6-9 credits.

Enrollment limit: Approx. 24 students; no more than 8 in the summer
Grades: High Pass/Pass/Low Pass/Fail

¹ Effective for students entering after May 2014, all students are required to take at least six (6) experiential credits, as defined below. This requirement may be waived by the Committee on Standards for good cause shown. Experiential credits shall consist of credits in courses that are (i) clinics, both on and off campus, (ii) externships, including SiP offerings, and (iii) such other courses as may be expressly approved by the Curriculum Committee as appropriate for meeting this requirement. In helping students to meet this requirement, VLS cannot guarantee any particular placement. Section II.A.2(a) of the Student Handbook.
**Advanced SRLC**

Students who have taken SRLC and wish to do advanced work may return to do so, provided specific permission from the clinic director is granted.

In the Advanced course, you will further develop your understanding of relevant substantive law and the lawyering skills introduced in the initial clinic course. You will be expected to take greater responsibility in cases assigned. In pursuing these advanced competencies, you will develop your problem solving and decision-making skills and gain greater insight into the challenges and rewards of professional practice.

Registration: by permission of Clinic Director  
Prerequisites: Completion of SRLC, w/a grade of Pass or higher  
Credits: 6, 9 or 13.  
Enrollment Limit: subject to permission by Clinic Director (James May)  
Grades: High Pass/Pass/Low Pass/Fail

**Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC)**

Students work directly with leading conservation organizations and local neighborhood groups to address issues such as protecting Vermont’s surface waters, defending threatened wildlife species, and advancing healthy communities.

Registration: ENRLC conducts an application process for students in the spring for fall semester placement and in the fall for spring semester placement; the application deadlines for this clinic are Friday, October 16\textsuperscript{th}, 2015 as the fall deadline (for spring applications), and Friday, March 18\textsuperscript{th}, 2016 as the spring deadline (for fall applications). Students may also take the ENRLC for credit during the summer; the summer application process occurs with the fall process, and sometimes again in the spring. If a student is selected for ENRLC by clinical faculty, the ENRLC provides the Registrar’s Office with a list of all accepted applicants and the credit hours; those students are then registered for the course. Withdrawal from the course must be cleared with the Clinic Director.

Prerequisites: no specific prerequisites, however, Legal Profession is strongly recommended. In addition, during the selection process, priority may be given to students who have successfully completed Environmental Law (or another substantive environmental law course).

Credits: 6, 9, or 13 in fall or spring semesters; you may only enroll for 6 or 9 credits in the summer, or for no credits. Please note that the summer term is **full-time for 11 weeks** and is only offered for 9 credits.

Enrollment limit: Approx. 16 students  
Grades: High Pass/Pass/Low Pass/Fail
**Advanced ENRLC**

Students who have taken ENRLC and wish to do advanced work may return to do so if there is space in the upcoming semester, and with specific permission from the Clinic Director.

As with the Advanced SRLC, students in the Advanced ENRLC course will further develop an understanding of relevant substantive law and the lawyering skills introduced in the initial clinic course. Students will be expected to take greater responsibility in cases assigned. In pursuing these advanced competencies, students will further develop problem solving and decision-making skills and gain greater insight into the challenges and rewards of professional practice.

Registration: by permission of Clinic Director. The ENRLC will provide the Registrar's office with the names and credit hours of Advanced ENRLC students.

Prerequisites: Completion of ENRLC, w/ a grade of Pass or higher.
Credits: 6, 9, or 13 in fall or spring semesters; 6 or 9 credits only in the summer, or no credits. Please note that the summer term is **full-time for 11 weeks** regardless of credit status (6, 9, or none).
Enrollment Limit: subject to permission by Clinic Director.
Grades: High Pass/Pass/Low Pass/Fail

**Food and Agriculture Clinic (FAC)**

The FAC is part of the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems’ (CAFS). The purpose of the clinic is to train sustainable food and agriculture law and policy advocates and entrepreneurs. Student clinicians engage in inter-disciplinary collaboration with outside partners to create and publicly disseminate innovative law and policy tools that provide law and policy guidance and solutions to farmers, food entrepreneurs, consumers, legislators, administrators, advocates and other food system constituencies. The FAC's projects promote environmentally sustainable agriculture, public health, local food systems, food security and animal welfare.

Registration: By application and interview; no scheduled deadlines.
Credits: The practicum of the FAC is either 4 (part-time) or 11 (full-time) credits. The co-requisite seminar (for part or full-time students) is 2 credits.

Enrollment Limit: 6
Grades: Letter grade for the seminar; High Pass/Pass/Low Pass/Fail for the practicum

**Energy & the Environment Transactions Clinic (Energy Clinic)**

This course provides a hands-on study and understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements for implementing and evaluating real energy projects with a particular focus on community solar arrays. The course offers a practical understanding of issues facing organizations such as municipalities, schools and other community organizations, as well as local businesses, in both determining whether to participate in an energy project as well as the important legal policy issues that are instrumental to completing an energy project transaction.
Students will review and/or develop purchased power and other commercial agreements governing these projects. This clinic is offered in the fall, spring and summer.

Prerequisites/Registration: Co-requisite of Energy Policy in Carbon Constrained World and approval of instructor.

Credits: 4
Enrollment Limit: 12
Grades: Pass/Fail

Advanced Energy Clinic

Through this course students who have completed the Energy Clinic will be able explore at an advanced level, the practical aspects of real world energy projects from the state of conceptualization, development, contracting, financing regulatory approval and construction. Students will be further exposed to the state and federal statutes, rules, tax codes, and ordinances that apply to the development of energy projects particularly those that promote sustainability at the community level. This clinic is offered in the fall, spring and summer.

Prerequisites/Registration: Energy Clinic and approval of instructor
Credits: 4
Enrollment Limit: 12
Grades: Pass/Fail

Criminal Law Clinic

Registration: Students must apply, and in your application should state their practicum preference (prosecution; defense; appellate– with the understanding that you may not get your preference. Applicants must submit a statement of interest that includes how you meet the pre- and co- requisites, a resume and a writing sample. Applications must be submitted to Prof. Barry, Dean of Clinical and Experiential Programs, at SRLC, 190 Chelsea Street, 2nd Floor (SRLC). Application deadlines for spring semesters are October 24 (decision deadline of November 14) and for fall (and for summer) semesters, is March 10 (decision deadline of March 20). Once you confirm your acceptance of a registration offer from the clinic, your name is sent to the Registrar’s Office; at that point, withdrawal is only by permission of the Dean of Clinical and Experiential Programs in consultation with the CLC faculty.

Pre- or co-requisites: Criminal Law, Evidence and either Constitutional Criminal Procedure or Criminal Practice and Procedure. Preference will be given to students who have taken or are taking Trial Practice and who choose to enroll for 13 credits.

Credits – 6 or 13 credits; 2 credits are classroom and 4 or 11 credits are practicum.

Enrollment limit: 8 students; offered fall and spring
Grades: High Pass/ Pass/Low Pass/Fail for the class and for the practicum.
Land Use Clinic (LUC)

LUC focuses on developing practical skills and competencies associated with land use practice. Students are introduced to Vermont municipal planning, environmental and state land use, (Act 250) statutory requirements and processes, including district commission and environmental division court proceedings. Students participate in a classroom component that meets once a week and they intern for two days a week at the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). At ANR, students work on a variety of land use issues that arise as a result of the Agency’s regulatory and land management work and participate in a class that meets once a week.

This course is offered in the fall and spring semesters.

Registration: Students may register on-line, as you would do for any other VLS course.
Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.
Credits: 6 credits; 2 credits are classroom hours and 4 credits are practicum hours.
Enrollment Limit: 8
Grades: High Pass/ Pass/Low Pass/Fail

Legislative Clinic (spring semester only)

As part of the Office of Legislative Council, students work on bills, amendments, and related research projects; they observe floor debates, attend committee hearings and participate as needed by the committees. This intense course requires attendance at the General Assembly in Montpelier for at least two days each week, excluding Mondays.

Registration: Students must apply for this clinic by submitting a letter of interest and resume to Michele Childs who directs the clinic. The clinic is offered in the spring semester only, and applications are due by no later than October 24 (decision deadline of November 14). Once acceptance is confirmed, withdrawal is only by permission of Prof. Childs.

Prerequisites: Legislation (offered in the fall).
Credits: 6, all practicum hours.
Enrollment Limit: 6
Grades: High Pass/ Pass/Low Pass/Fail

Dispute Resolution Clinic (spring only)

Students study mediation and discuss their practicum experiences during the classroom component of the course, which includes an intensive, day-long skills session scheduled before the start of classes (attendance required). Students must have free time available to go to court on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. At court, you will have the opportunity to practice non-litigation dispute resolution skills and strategies through small claims mediation in New Hampshire and Vermont courts.

Registration: Students may register on-line, as they do for any other VLS course.
Prerequisites: None, but the course begins with an intensive skills session in the form of a day-long training session scheduled before the start of classes; attendance in this session is mandatory. There is also a mandatory Saturday training session. There are no exceptions made with regard to attendance at both of these sessions.

Credits: 4
Enrollment Limit: 8
Grades: High Pass/ Pass/Low Pass/Fail

Externships

Students have a range of opportunities to obtain practical experience in a wide variety of legal and judicial settings, part time or full time. The goal is to provide opportunities for you to develop lawyering skills, learn substantive law, and engage in critical reflection about the legal profession, your legal career, and your priorities and values as lawyers and individuals through supervised field experiences and a contemporaneous seminar.

Registration: Students may enroll in their 4th, 5th or 6th semester, provided you have a GPA of 2.4 or higher. There are specific deadlines for submitting a statement of interest: **February 1 for fall semester, and September 30 for spring semester.** You must then schedule meetings with the Externship faculty in order to register for this course. See [https://secure.vermontlaw.edu/experiential/](https://secure.vermontlaw.edu/experiential/)

This program is not available in the summer.

Credits: 4-13; part-time credits above 6 are by special permission; 13 credits are considered full-time -- often referred to as the “Semester in Practice” (SiP). Students may apply for a judicial externship or may arrange for placements that meet a wide range of interests. All placements are through consultation with Externship faculty.

Enrollment Limit: N/A
Grades: High Pass/ Pass/Low Pass/Fail

Certificate Requirements:

*Clinics and externships may meet the requirements for a number of certificate programs; see [http://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/certificates/certificate-declaration-forms](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/certificates/certificate-declaration-forms)*

*These are the certificates VLS offers:*

- Business Law
- Climate Law
- Criminal Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Energy Law
- Experiential Advocacy
- Food and Agriculture Law
- General Practice Program
- International and Comparative Law
- Land Use Law
- Water Law