



Public Service Graduation Requirement

All JD students are required to complete 30 hours of law-related public service (pro bono legal work) in order to graduate. This requirement cannot be waived.

To satisfy the public service requirement, placements must be:

1. A law-related activity;
2. Uncompensated and not for academic credit;
3. Adequately supervised or approved by an attorney;
4. Provided to clients free of charge or at a substantially reduced rate; and
5. Done on behalf of people with limited means.

There is a list of pre-approved placements on our website. If you know of another opportunity, please complete a Student-Initiated Placement Request to seek approval.

STEPS TO COMPLETE YOUR HOURS

1. Select a placement:
 - a. Review the pre-approved placement list;
 - b. Select a pre-approved placement or submit a Student-Initiated Placement Request to the Director of Public Service, and once approved;
 - c. Apply to volunteer at the placement. Tell the contact person that you are an SMU law student and would like to perform 30 hours of law-related public service with them.
2. Complete the 4 required forms:
 - a. Print them from the website (Confirmation Agreement, Student Log, Supervisory Report, and Student Questionnaire) and track your hours on the Student Log;
 - b. Have your supervisor sign the Supervisory Report at the end of your placement; and
 - c. Submit all 4 forms to the Public Service office at the conclusion of your placement by emailing Laura Burstein at lburstein@smu.edu or delivering to Carr Collins Jr. Hall, Suite 320.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. We realize you are excited to start helping, but students may not start working on public service hours until after your Spring 1L exams;
2. All 30 hours must be submitted at least 1 month before your last final exams; and
3. Students with over 200 hours of public service graduate on the Pro Bono Honor Roll!

RESOURCES

- Public Service website: www.law.smu.edu/public-service
- Director of Public Service: Laura G. Burstein, lburstein@smu.edu