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