



**Office of the Associate Dean  
Academic and Student Relations**

Phone: 250-721-8152

Fax: 250-721-6390

*lawada@uvic.ca*

## **Policy on Law 399 Supervised Research and Writing**

Law 399 Supervised Research and Writing provides law students an opportunity to undertake substantial research and writing on a legal subject approved by a Faculty member who agrees to supervise the paper. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to students on proposals to write a Law 399 research paper.

The calendar description for Law 399 is as follows:

Units: 1.0-4.0

During either of the second or third years of a student's program, a student may undertake a substantial research and writing project on a legal subject approved by a member of the Faculty of Law who agrees to supervise the project. With the approval of the Dean or the Dean's nominee: (1) a student may be awarded credit for two separate supervised research papers provided that the total credit does not exceed 4 units and each paper is started and completed in separate terms; (2) this course may be extended over two terms; or (3) if this course is to be taken for 1 unit only.

The following guidelines apply to Law 399 paper proposals.

- Students are generally expected to satisfy their Law 390 Major Paper Requirement in a regular course offering rather than applying for Law 399.
- An exception can be made where Law 399 offers a student an opportunity to complete an original research and writing project, of publishable quality, where the subject matter of the paper is such that there is not a course-based opportunity to complete this work.
- Students are strongly advised to seek Faculty Member approval for a Law 399 well in advance. Faculty Members may be approached by students about supervising a Law 399 one to two terms in advance.
- Faculty Members are generally not available to supervise Law 399 papers in their non-teaching term. In particular, there are limited opportunities to write Law 399 papers in the summer term.
- Sessional and adjunct instructors do not normally supervise Law 399 papers.
- The availability of Law 399 is subject to the agreement of a supervising Faculty Member. Whether, and under what circumstances, a Faculty member agrees to supervise a Law 399 is ultimately subject to the discretion of the supervising Faculty Member.
- Students should keep in mind that a Law 399 paper is a major undertaking. A Law 399 paper worth 1.5 units will be analogous to the time requirements of a 1.5 unit course.

## Registration in Law 399

- Students cannot register themselves for Law 399; this will be done by a member of the Associate Dean's office upon submission of the appropriate documentation.
- In order to register for Law 399, you must have your instructor sign the *Consent to Supervise Law 399 Supervised Research and Writing and/or Law 390 Major Paper Within a Course* form and you must file the completed form with the Associate Dean's office. The form is available at the Associate Dean's office and on the JD Course registration and timetables [webpage](#).
- Registration must be completed no later than the add/drop deadline for the particular term in which the Law 399 paper is to be completed.
- The approval of the Associate Dean is needed if Law 399 is to be completed for only 1.0 unit. A Law 399 paper that is completed for only 1.0 unit of credit and that has fewer than 7,500 words does not meet the Faculty's major paper requirement.
- Where a student is seeking to complete a Law 399 in a topic that could be addressed within course work, Faculty are encouraged to consult with the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations.
- In rare occasions due to exceptional circumstances, the course may be extended over two terms with prior written approval of the supervising professor and the Associate Dean.

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