

B710 INDEPENDENT CLINICAL PROJECT  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW – BLOOMINGTON  
SKILLS GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The Independent Clinical Project allows students to create their own clinical project, working under the supervision of individual members of the law school faculty. Students can earn up to three credit hours during the academic year, graded pass-fail. The typical project includes doing legal work under the supervision of a licensed attorney with, for example, the local district pro bono office or a state or local governmental agency. Students work approximately 50-60 hours at the internship site for one hour of academic credit; in addition students write and submit weekly reflective essays about the internship.

In 2006 the law school adopted a “skills” graduation requirement, requiring all students who started last school in summer/fall 2006 to complete one or more courses certified by the faculty as offering substantial instruction in professional skills generally regarded as necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession. [Academic Regulation 2.1(5)] To be substantial, instruction must engage each student in skills performances that are assessed by the instructor.

The very nature of B710 projects means that the experience, the skills, and the assessment of those skills will vary from project to project. This variation prompts us to set out the following steps for students, faculty members, and supervising attorneys who want the B710 project to satisfy the skills graduation requirement:

- First, the student will develop a personal plan that identifies the skills on which he or she wants to focus during the internship. A self-assessment, skills inventory form is attached to guide the student in developing this personal plan.
- Second, the student will reflect on his or her skills performances in the weekly reflective essays. For example, a student might focus on one particular skill during the internship and write about her performance in various settings.
- Third, the supervising attorney will assess the student’s skills performances, using the attached form, in the middle and at the end of the semester. In addition, we ask that the supervising attorney describe one specific example of the student’s professional skills performance in some detail, discussing it with the student and the supervising faculty member.

The faculty member should keep the reflective essays and the supervising attorney’s evaluations in the same manner that he or she keeps final examinations, research papers, or other written products from students.

Questions? Contact Julia Lamber, Associate Dean for Clinical Education, [lamber@indiana.edu](mailto:lamber@indiana.edu), 812-856-5536.