

Legislative Practice Center

OVERVIEW

The Legislative Practice Center combines classroom study and hands-on experience to prepare students for careers in public policy, government agencies, legislative drafting, and advocacy.

CERTIFICATE AND RECOGNITION

Credential
Graduates receive a Legislative Practice Certificate.

Transcript
The accomplishment is officially noted on students' transcripts to highlight their specialized preparation in legislation and rulemaking.

CURRICULUM

The program begins in the second year of law school and consists of 14 credit hours of required coursework:

- Administrative Law (3 credits, second or third year): Powers, principles, and remedies regarding federal and state agencies.

- State and Local Government (3 credits, second or third year): Sources and limitations of local government power.
- Legislation (2 credits, second year - fall): Legislative processes, constitutional requirements, statutory construction, and bill drafting.
- Legislative Internship (2 credits, second year - spring): Hands-on work with Iowa lawmakers during the legislative session.
- Legislative Practice (2 credits, third year - fall): Research and drafting for the Iowa General Assembly.
- Legislative Practice Internship (2 credits, third year - spring): Placement with public interest groups, associations, government agencies, or legislative caucuses.

Electives

Students are encouraged to specialize in elective courses in highly regulated areas such as agricultural, environmental, business, family, education, or health law.

INTERNSHIPS

Located just five minutes from the Iowa State Capitol, Drake provides direct access to state/federal offices, trade associations, unions, and public agencies.

Roles

Lobbying, bill drafting, policy analysis, budget preparation, and monitoring administrative rules.

Placements

Governor's Office, Department of Natural Resources, and Legislative Services Bureau.

Out-of-State

Internships in other settings (e.g., Washington, D.C.) are available with prior approval.

FACULTY

Sydney J. Gangestad

Director of the Legislative Practice Center; Instructor of Law; teaches Legislative Practice and oversees all 2L and 3L state capitol internships.

Attorney, lobbyist, and former special counsel/legislative liaison for the Iowa Judicial Branch.

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