

Call for Applications: Environmental Law Undergraduate Clinical Practicum

University of Chicago undergraduates who have declared the major in Environment, Geography and Urbanization (CEGU) and rising fourth year Environmental and Urban Studies majors (ENST) are invited to apply to participate in the Undergraduate Clinical Practicum in the Abrams Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School.

About the Clinic

The [Abrams Environmental Law Clinic](#) attempts to solve some of the most pressing environmental and energy challenges throughout the Chicago area, the Great Lakes region, and the country. On behalf of a range of different clients, the clinic takes on entities which pollute illegally, fights for stricter permits, advocates for changes to regulations and laws, holds environmental and energy agencies accountable, and develops innovative approaches for improving the environment, public health, and the energy system.

Through clinic participation, students learn substantive environmental law and procedures for addressing concerns through the courts, administrative agencies, and legislative bodies. Students develop core advocacy competencies, such as spotting issues, conducting factual investigations, performing practical legal research, advocating through written and oral communications, planning cases, managing time, and addressing ethical issues and dilemmas. In addition, students develop an appreciation for the range of strategic and tactical approaches that effective advocates use. The specific responsibilities for undergraduates are determined in consultation with Abrams clinical faculty. While projects vary from year to year, they are likely to be similar to those discussed in the Clinic's recent [Significant Achievements Summary](#) and [this article](#) from the Law School's alumni magazine.

About the Practicum and Requirements

The Environmental Law Clinic Practicum requires a two quarter commitment, either Fall 2024/Winter 2025 or Winter 2025/Spring 2025 Quarters. Students are expected to contribute 10-12 hours/week. Participation includes attending a weekly environmental law seminar (Tuesdays, 3:30pm-5:30pm), attending weekly clinic team meetings, and working on project-related tasks. Strong analytical and writing skills, demonstrated capacity for independent work, and experience with working in teams and meeting deadlines are essential qualifications for practicum participation. Students will be direct enrolled in CEGU 29700 during their first quarter and CEGU 29701 during their second; both courses are supervised by a CEGU program faculty sponsor and are taken for a letter grade. CEGU students can count both courses as CEGU electives, details can be found on the [CEGU approved courses list](#). Fourth year students also have the option to use the practicum to fulfill the Capstone requirement. At the end of each quarter, law clinic practicum participants will submit a portfolio documenting their activities and demonstrating their work product(s).

Application Information

Undergraduate Clinical Practicum applicants must complete a short google form (link below) and upload a resume, transcript, and sample of their written work at the University of Chicago in the form of a graded essay or research paper. The application form includes a statement of your interests in environmental law and/or clinical work, a statement describing your capacity for unsupervised work, ability to meet firm deadlines and collaborate in group projects, and

asks you to identify relevant previous experience and course work. [Applications should be submitted here.](#)

QUESTIONS? An information session will be held on Monday, May 13 from 5-6pm in the Urban Lounge, 1155 E. 60th Street. Students currently participating in the law clinic practicum will be present to speak directly about their experience. [Registration is required.](#)

Applications are due by Monday, May 20 at 5:00pm.

Further questions should be directed to:
Mary Beth Pudup (CEGU): mbp@uchicago.edu