



Northeastern University

School of Law

The NUSL Vision

Northeastern University School of Law is a national and international leader in melding experiential education with a theoretical and practical understanding of the role of law in society and the ways in which law advances the public good.

We advance this vision through rigorous classroom and experiential learning, innovative disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and scholarship, and real world connections in service, scholarship and teaching.



EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION IN LAW

THE TIME IS NOW

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

THE FUTURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION FOR THE PAST 45 YEARS



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THE ITERATIVE EXPERIENCE

The pedagogy of iterative experience is designed to develop:

- cognitive ability
- practice-based skills
- professionalism

The iterative experience consists of a progressive series of varied practical experiences, interspersed with faculty-led instruction.



THE I'S HAVE IT

ITERATIVE
INTERACTIVE
INDEPENDENT
INVENTIVE
INNOVATIVE
INTERESTING



LEGAL SKILLS IN SOCIAL CONTEXT (LSSC): 1L COURSE (12 Credits)

- Components of Program and Overarching Goals:
 - ☐ Research and Writing
 - Develop critical lawyering skills of research, analysis and writing
 - Prepare a range of legal documents
 - Prepare and deliver oral argument
 - ☐ Social Justice Projects for Non-profit Clients
 - Apply research, writing and lawyering skills to a problem presented by a community-based and/or advocacy organization
 - Analyze issues of diversity, law and social justice in a closely supervised clinical experience
 - Prepare and present written advocacy document to the client



PATHWAY TO PRACTICE

Northeastern supplements a traditional first-year curriculum to prepare students for co-op with:

- a co-op preparation course exposing students to the legal profession and co-op and career options; and
- an intensive one-week legal ethics and professionalism course designed to familiarize students with the rules of professional conduct and professionalism issues.



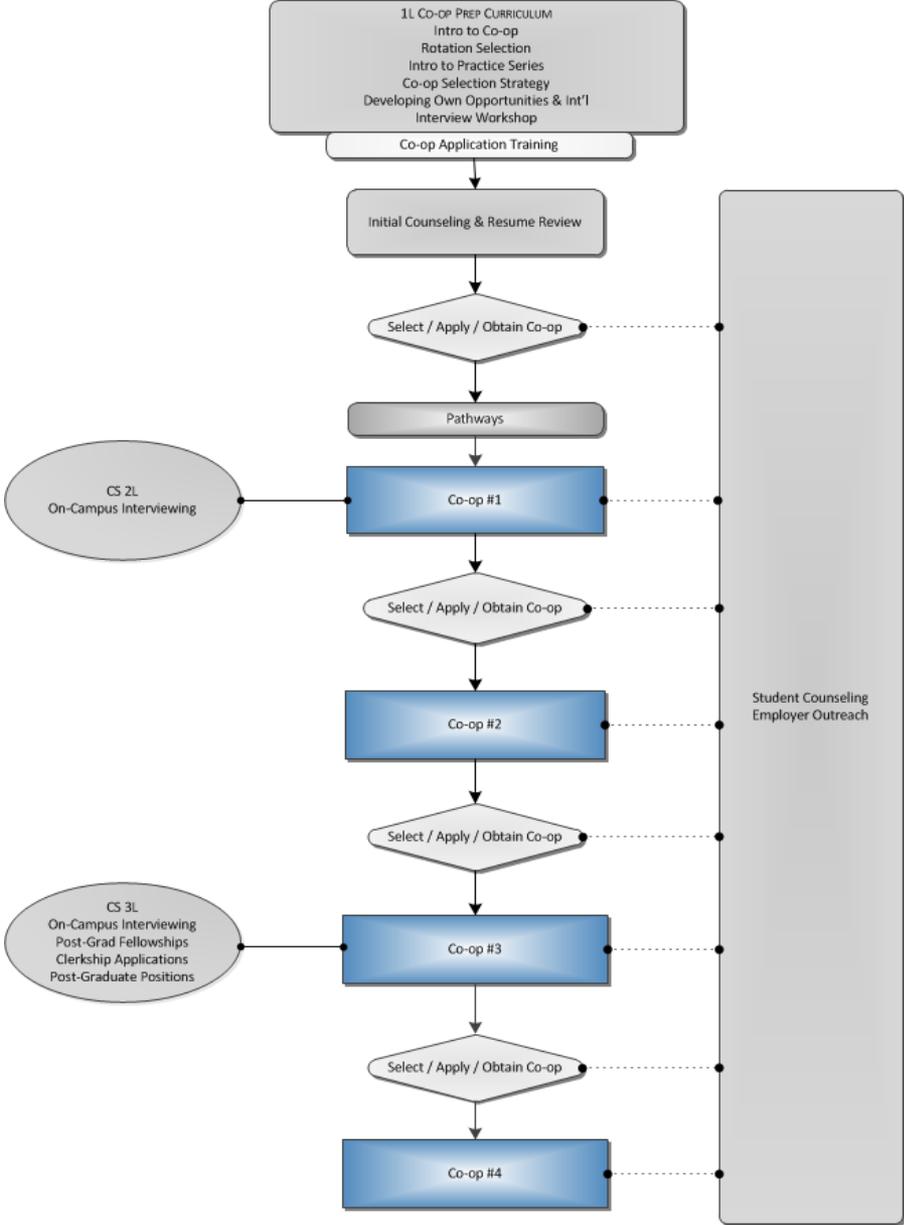
The Cooperative Legal Education Model

Northeastern integrates four quarters of full-time employment into its curriculum.

- ❑ All students are required to complete four full-time field placements or “co-ops” during their remaining two years of law school.
- ❑ Each upper level class goes to a quarter calendar system, and divides into two distinct rotations (Summer/Winter co-op or Fall/Spring co-op) alternating every three months (or quarters) between attending classes full-time and working full-time in a legal office.
- ❑ The first co-op begins with a two-credit intensive one-week preparation for co-op class, followed by 10 weeks at the placement site; the last three co-ops are 11 weeks long at the placement site. Other than the first co-op, students do not receive academic credit for their placements.
- ❑ While on co-op, students must work a minimum of 35 hours a week and perform substantive legal work under the supervision of a member of the bar.
- ❑ Students receive written evaluations of their work performance from their supervising attorneys. These evaluations become part of students’ official transcripts.
- ❑ Students complete evaluations of their co-op experience.



3-YEAR CO-OP PROCESS



ADDITIONAL EXPERIENTIAL OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

To amplify students' experiences, Northeastern provides additional experiential options during academic quarters, including:

- ❑ Traditional clinics
 - Civil Rights and Restorative Justice
 - Community Economic Development
 - Community Business
 - Domestic Violence
 - Poverty Law and Practice
 - Prisoners' Rights
 - Public Health

- ❑ Integrated curriculum programs
 - Criminal Advocacy
 - Family Law
 - Youth Justice

- ❑ Skills and simulation courses
 - Bankruptcy
 - Civil Trial Practice
 - Criminal Trial Practice
 - Legal Interviewing and Counseling
 - Negotiations

- ❑ Moot court and writing competitions



EACH YEAR MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CLINICS:

- ❑ Clinics offerings may vary by quarter and range from three to six credits per offering.
- ❑ Students work 20 hours each week for 11 weeks under close faculty supervision on real cases in substantive areas.
- ❑ Students contribute more than 20,000 annual hours of much needed legal assistance while gaining invaluable hands-on experience:
 - Brief and memoranda drafting
 - Case management
 - Civil procedure
 - Client interviewing and counseling
 - Detailed regulatory analysis
 - Developing remedies
 - Discovery and factual analysis
 - Group representation and education
 - In-court criminal defense
 - Interagency coordination of service
 - Legal research, analysis and writing
 - Negotiations and hearings
 - Simulations of range of criminal defense proceedings
 - Team lawyering
 - Transactional drafting
 - Trial preparation and presentation
 - Oral advocacy



INTEGRATED CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

- ❑ Combining classroom learning with an onsite placement and a co-op experience offers:
 - an approach for an intensive, integrated experience to the student
 - an extended period of assistance to the employer

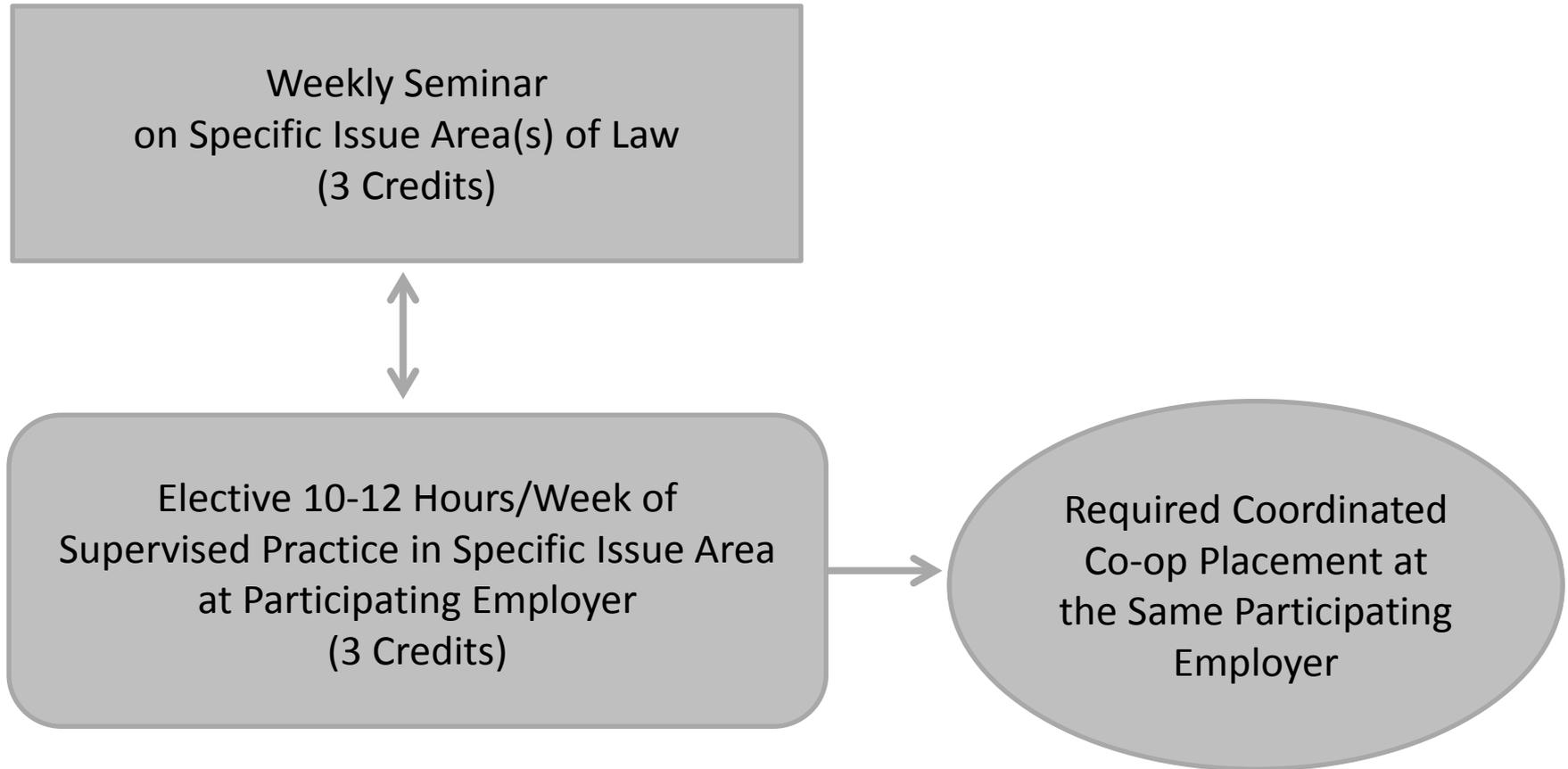
- ❑ As clinics are increasingly expensive in design and implementation, this approach also offers:
 - a comprehensive and diverse teaching opportunity to the faculty
 - a potentially cost effective experiential approach for the School



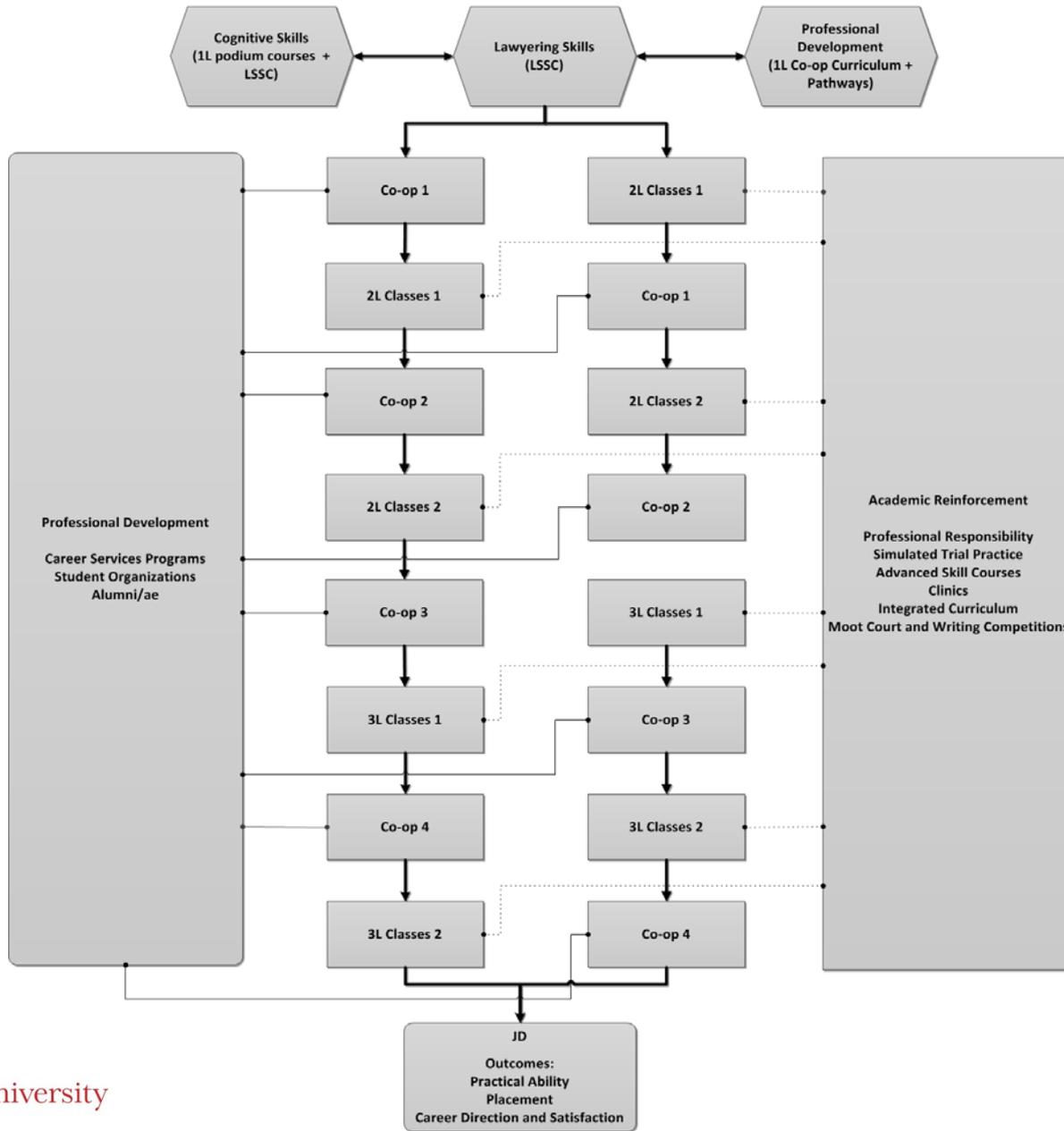
6-MONTH PRACTICUM

First 3 Months

Second 3 Months



NUSL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM



A FURTHER COMMITMENT TO EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



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ALLIANCE FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN LAW

Legal educators affiliated with over 30 law schools from around the country have joined together to develop a new approach to legal education to address the challenges of the 21st century and to ensure that law graduates are ready to join the legal profession with a full complement of skills and ethical and social values to serve clients and the public interest now and in the future.

- ❑ Develop a shared vision of “experiential education”; and offer best practices that can be utilized and adopted by law schools across the country;
- ❑ Create a framework for integrating experience-based educational components into the larger law-school curriculum, while leaving flexibility for individual institutions to adopt their own approaches and chart their own unique courses;
- ❑ Share perspectives and experiences in order to integrate our faculty and leadership and generate support for our overall initiative;
- ❑ Recognize the profound changes taking place in the legal profession and analyze the relationship between academia and the profession. This will include determining avenues for synergies between the two and encouraging interaction and integration; and
- ❑ Establish a new paradigm for legal education benefitting students and educators, and ultimately changes the legal profession itself.

