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Law Co-op Education: Overview

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Overview



In today's world, it is just not enough for students to leave law school knowing how to "think like a lawyer." That is necessary, as lawyers would say, but not sufficient. Today, graduating students need to have the skills and the knowledge of the profession that enable them to hit the ground running.

Drexel University is one of the nation's best co-operative education schools. Adapting Drexel University's successful co-op model for legal

education, Drexel Law has lined up two-quarter placements in non-profits and area corporations, law firms and judicial offices, public interest organizations and government agencies. With this model, our students will learn not only what it means to be a lawyer, but also obtain the "vertical knowledge" about the business and industry that their employer is in. They will integrate this learning when they are back in their classrooms.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has confirmed how important this unique approach to law school will be: *"A Drexel Law student will be able to do a 'deep dive' and learn substantive information in one of the concentration areas. This depth will provide students with the ability to be not only a productive member of the bar, but also of the business community in Philadelphia and the greater Commonwealth of Pennsylvania...On account of this deep dive feature of the JD Program, Drexel students will likely graduate with the most current knowledge in those areas of legal need and will be able to be productive sooner than their counterparts from other, more traditional, law schools."*

With co-operative education, a position in an employer's business is created and is assigned to Drexel and continuously filled by a Drexel law student. The co-op employer knows that there will always be a person in that position to do the work, and the work therefore becomes meaningful and valuable, for both the employer and the student. The employer specifies its requirements for the job – for example, classes that need to be taken before the externship can be accepted. The job supervisors will have the responsibility of providing a quality legal experience to the law students they supervise.

The first co-ops will not occur until the second year of the JD program, after our students have received the basic training they need to succeed in the workplace. The first co-op cycle will begin in September 2007, the second in March 2008.

- For a Discussion about Co-op with Professor Filler...Click [HERE](#)
- For a List of Current Co-op Employers...Click [HERE](#)

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