

INTERESTED IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COMPETITION?

Competition team participation offers students the opportunity to develop and refine writing and speaking skills for two (occasionally one) "pass" credits with the supervision of faculty members as well as members of the bench and bar. The Competitions Program at Hamline consists of a series of independent inter-mural events (courses) throughout the year in which teams of Hamline students compete against students from other law schools. Each competition functions as a separate HUSL course, with its own CRN registration number.

As with other academic courses, competition participation requires attendance at team meetings, cooperation with teammates, and on-time completion of assignments for receipt of credit. The timetable set by sponsors forces a semester's worth of work into a much shorter period, so frequent, mandatory meeting times will be scheduled by the team's faculty Instructor. Therefore prospective applicants must consider carefully their schedule flexibility and personal ability to undertake intensive, demanding work over this shortened preparation and competition period before applying.

The total number of students per team is significantly limited by each competition's sponsoring organization. For this reason, the limited enrollment for Competition credit is by Instructor permission only. However, other courses in Hamline's curriculum offer similar skills experiences without such enrollment limitation, so you may wish to consider those alternatives.

The specific selection requirements and will be set by the particular team's faculty Instructor. Selection for the appellate-type events will be based initially on an appellate brief submitted by each applicant; a limited number of those applicants will then be selected to present an oral argument of their case. The first-year Legal Writing appellate brief is typically used for a writing sample and for oral argument. Selection of team members for client counseling, dispute resolution, mock trial and other non-appellate competitions will be based upon a demonstration of those respective skills using an hypothetical problem provided by the team's faculty Instructor.

Students selected for teams must then add the Competition course for credit. Credits will either be awarded entirely for Fall, entirely for Spring, or split between the semesters, depending upon an event's schedule, which is set by the sponsoring organization. See the Description of Competitions link on the TWEN Competitions website (under link to Course Materials) for the number and allocation of credits for each competition and for the name of the faculty contact person for each event. Students may not choose to reallocate their credits to a different semester. According to the HUSL Academic Rules, a student may compete in only one appellate-type competition per academic year and may accumulate only five total Competition credits before graduation.

A Description of Competitions in which HUSL typically participates is posted on the TWEN Competitions website under the link to Course Materials, although HUSL does not necessarily enter each event every year. Some teams will be selected in the Spring; other teams will be selected in the Fall. Contact the specific advisor listed in the Description of Competitions for each event for details about selection procedures for that event.