

1.5. Mandatory Community Service Graduation Requirement

Each J.D. candidate at NSU Shepard Broad College of Law entering the College of Law in Fall 2018 and thereafter is required to perform a minimum of 30 hours of qualifying community service as a requirement for graduation with a J.D. degree. Eligible or qualified service options include both law and non-law related placements. The students receive neither pay nor academic credit for their service. Students are required to complete the minimum 30 hours of qualifying community service prior to their final semester before graduating.

1.5.1 Mandatory Community Service Graduation Requirement for December 2020 and May 2021 Intended Graduation Students

1.5.1.1 *Modification of Mandatory Service Hours Requirement:* The service graduation requirement is reduced for December 2020 and May 2021 intended graduation students from 30 hours to 15 hours.

1.5.1.2 *Fulfillment of Modified Mandatory Service Hours Requirement:* The requirement that December 2020 and May 2021 intended graduation students must fulfill this requirement by the end of the semester before they plan to graduate is suspended.

1.5.1.3 *Evaluation of Non-Fulfillment of Modified Mandatory Service Hours Requirement:* December 2020 and May 2021 intended graduation students who have not fulfilled this temporarily modified graduation requirement (a minimum of 15 hours of pro bono and/or community service hours) will have their situations evaluated individually by the Dean of Student Services and the Director of Public Interest Programs based only on a petition filed by the student. Petitions for intended graduation students must be filed no later than 2 months before the last day of classes in the term in which they plan to graduate, or no later than 1 week after the petitioning student's planned service activity is cancelled or suspended. December 2020 intended graduation students who have not completed their service hours must contact the Director of Public Interest Programs by the end of October 2020.

1.5.1.4 *Petition Requirements for Non-Fulfillment of Modified Mandatory Service Hours Requirement:* Petitions must set forth the following:

1.5.1.4.1 The number of hours the student still needs to meet the service graduation requirement.

1.5.1.4.2 Any plan the student may have had to complete the hours before the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic and a statement why that plan cannot be completed.

1.5.1.4.3 Any established relationship the student might have with a community partner, and the student's history of volunteering with that community partner.

1.5.1.4.4 The extent to which the student has been personally impacted by the Pandemic, including but not limited to:

1.5.1.4.4.1 Changes in work, family, and other obligations.

1.5.1.4.4.2 Food and/or housing insecurity caused or exacerbated by the Pandemic.

1.5.1.4.4.3 Physical and/or mental health challenges caused or exacerbated by the Pandemic, whether for the student or for an immediate family member for whom the student has responsibilities of care or support; and

1.5.1.4.4.4 Other changes in circumstances that are particular to the individual student, in recognition that it is not possible to anticipate every way the Pandemic has impacted, and is continuing to impact, students, particularly the December 2020 and May 2021 intended graduation students.

Decisions on a petition will be made approximately 2 weeks after their filing and completion date.

1.5.1.5 *Substantial Fulfillment of Modified Mandatory Service Hours Requirement After Petition:* If a student petitions timely, December 2020 and May 2021 intended graduation students who have not yet fulfilled the service graduation requirement may be designated by the Dean of Student Services and the Director of Public Interest Programs to have substantially fulfilled this responsibility if the students are within five hours of fulfilling their responsibility or if they have demonstrated, through the factors outlined in Section 1.5.1.4.4 of this policy, that fulfilling their responsibility was rendered impossible by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

1.5.1.6 *Written Plan to Fulfill Modified Mandatory Service Hours Requirement:* Students who are not determined to have substantially fulfilled their service responsibilities as described above or who are not granted relief

through the above petition process shall, with the Dean of Student Services and the Director of Public Interest Programs, enter into a written plan, detailed as specific as possible given the unknown duration of the Pandemic, as to both time and number of hours, to fulfill their responsibilities. The Associate Dean of Student Services may modify the original plan if a student is unable to fulfill it due to unforeseen circumstances. If such a student fails to meet the terms of the plan or modified plan, the student's degree will not be conferred until after the plan is completed.

1.5.1.7 *Extension of Modified Mandatory Service Hours Requirement*: This modification of the mandatory service hours requirement may be extended to subsequent academic semesters by faculty vote if circumstances warrant its continuation beyond the Winter 2021 semester.