

PRO BONO FAQ'S

1. Is Pro Bono a required course?

Yes, 310-A Pro Bono is required for graduation. Pro bono work may not be started until after the completion of the first year for full-time students or completion of 30 hours for part-time students. It must be completed before the last day of classes in the student's final semester of law school before graduation.

2. How many Pro Bono hours must I complete during my three years of law school?

Enrolled students must complete forty (40) hours of pro bono service under the supervision of an attorney.

3. May I complete more than the required number of Pro Bono hours?

Yes, students may receive a Pro Bono Commendation on their law school transcript if they complete 60 or more pro bono hours.

4. When I secure a pro bono position, how do I enroll for Pro Bono?

You must add 310-A Pro Bono to your class schedule in DataVU, preferably in the semester in which you plan to complete the pro bono hours.

5. How do I find a Pro Bono site at which to work?

Please check Strategy for current pro bono job postings.

6. What documentation is needed for verification that I have fulfilled my Pro Bono requirement?

A student's pro bono experience(s) will be documented through his or her Strategy account. (Strategy is the web-based career planning system used by Valpo students.) Students can confirm and seek approval for their pro bono positions, track their pro bono hours, and complete their evaluations on-line in their individual Strategy accounts.

7. May I complete my Pro Bono work with a private law firm/attorney?

Students may complete pro bono work with a private law firm or corporation. However, the work assigned by the private law firm or attorney will qualify only if the attorney is also working for the client on a pro bono basis or for a reduced fee.

8. Are Pro Bono sites only offered locally? If not, are sites available in other regions?

Pro Bono sites are available all over the country, although the majority of sites featured in Strategy are located in northern Indiana and the Chicago metropolitan area so students can participate in pro bono work during the semester while completing coursework at the law school.

9. May I propose a Pro Bono site of my own choosing?

Yes, students are allowed and encouraged to contact employers with whom they wish to complete their pro bono hours. This is a great opportunity to gain legal experience in your desired geographic region or practice area.

10. Can I receive payment or a stipend for my Pro Bono work? Are travel and accommodations reimbursed?

You may not be compensated in any fashion for your pro bono work. Your travel and parking costs are your responsibility and travel is not counted as part of your time logged.

11. May I receive Summer Public Interest Stipend money while I complete my pro bono hours?

NO, you must decide whether you wish to receive SPIS money for your work or pro bono service hours. You may not count the same hours for both programs.

12. Can I complete Pro Bono work in the summer?

Yes, many attorney supervisors are delighted to have students complete their pro bono work during the summer. Often, the summer offers more opportunities since some students prefer to work in a paid position during the summer. Also, paid positions may not be offered as often, therefore, completing your pro bono hours in the summer allows you to add legal experience to your resume when other opportunities are not available.

13. If I have completed my externship hours, may I stay to work additional hours and count those as Pro Bono hours?

Yes, often extern students will complete their required hours well in advance of the end of the semester. Be sure to complete your extern hours and required reports prior to starting and tracking your pro bono hours.

14. Must my work be supervised by an attorney to qualify for Pro Bono?

Yes, supervision by a licensed attorney is important to guard against the unauthorized practice of law.