

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON SCHOOL OF LAW

POLICY ON APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY AND EXPERIMENTAL COURSES

1. Except as specifically provided in this policy, the prior approval of the faculty is required for any change in the curriculum of the School of Law. Under ordinary circumstances, the faculty's authority is exercised through the consideration of curricular proposals that have first been reviewed and evaluated by the Academic Affairs Committee and that are presented to the faculty with a report of the Committee's evaluation.

2. The faculty recognizes that the ordinary processes for approval of curricular change, and in particular the processes for the approval of new or modified courses, may be unduly cumbersome in two circumstances.

First, there may be occasions in which it is appropriate to offer a course only as a temporary part of the curriculum, and not as a permanent addition. Courses of this character most frequently will involve a subject that is of interest to a faculty member or a group of students but that is not of sufficient breadth or long-term interest to warrant creation of a permanent addition to the School's approved course offerings.

In part, the curriculum accommodates these subjects of limited or transient interest through a number of approved courses that are described as "advanced" seminars in particular areas of the law, and that have course descriptions providing for intense study of particular specialized topics that vary from year to year. These "topics" courses, however, do not cover the entire range of possible subject matters.

Second, there are occasions in which it may be more appropriate to offer a new course on an experimental or trial basis. This is especially likely to be the case when a new course involves novel or non-traditional pedagogical approaches. In that situation, the experimental character of the course may involve a substantial element of trial-and-error in designing, re-designing, and refining the course's structure.

3. In order to accommodate situations such as those described above, the Academic Affairs Committee is authorized to approve the offering of experimental or temporary courses for credit without approval by the faculty. The committee may approve any such course only if, in the committee's judgment, the course falls within the descriptions of such courses set out in this policy. No course approved by the committee as an experimental or temporary course under this policy may be offered for credit without the approval of the faculty in more than two semesters or in any academic year beginning later than two years after the date that the course was approved. No approval of any such course may be renewed. Upon each approval of such a course, the committee shall notify each member of the faculty of the approval including full details of the course description and course proposal.