

## UPPER YEAR WRITING REQUIREMENT (as of July 2019)

[Note: This document is currently being corrected, revised, and updated.  
It is altered here only as necessary to reflect current practice. – SP Donlan]

1. In order to graduate from the Faculty of Law at Thompson Rivers University, all JD students must satisfactorily complete a writing requirement (C– or better) during their second *or* third year.
2. Students may meet this requirement:
  - (a) by writing a paper or case comment or similar piece of work, required or optional, in an upper year course, worth at least 50% of the course grade, involving significant research, and consisting of at least 7500 words *or*
  - (b) by completion of [LAWF 3760]: Directed Research.

The 7500 word limit is inclusive of footnotes or endnotes but exclusive of the bibliography.

3. Where the mode of evaluation in an upper year course includes a written paper worth at least 50% of the course grade, but this written paper requirement may be satisfied with less than 7500 words (or a word limit is set below 7500 words), a student may seek permission from the instructor to write a longer paper of at least 7500 in that course to allow them to fulfil their degree writing requirement. Permission to write a longer paper than required in the course will not alter the original weighting of that writing requirement (i.e., if a 5000 word essay was worth 50% of the course grade, a 7500 word essay will also be worth 50% of the course grade). A Directed Research paper shall be worth 100% of the course grade.
4. The required research expected under paragraph 2 should ordinarily involve secondary material (texts, articles, etc.) as well as primary material (statutes, case law, etc.).
5. While instructors are expected to review and discuss the research question(s) and outlines and revised outlines, they are not expected to review and comment on drafts of the paper, or other work, unless the professor offers the same opportunity to all students enrolled in the course.
6. A student may fulfil both the upper year writing requirement and the international requirement through the same course.
7. By Labour Day each year, the Associate Dean shall post a preliminary list of upper year courses that allow fulfilment of the writing requirement for that particular academic year. The Associate Dean may amend this list from time to time.
- 8.1 A student who seeks to fulfil the writing requirement, and who obtains less than a C– for the work done, may
  - (a) redo the same written work (remedial option), or
  - (b) nominate another course and piece of writing instead (replacement course option).

Under either option, the student must obtain a satisfactory grade (C– or better) in order to graduate.

- 8.2. A student who elects the remedial option must normally submit the rewritten work no later than 45 days after grades are published.
- 8.3 Satisfactory completion of the remedial option shall not alter the initial grade recorded for the course.
- 8.4 The remedial option shall not apply where other regulations of the Faculty of Law require a student to take a supplementary evaluation in that course in order to graduate or be promoted.
9. Before starting work that fulfils the upper year writing requirement a student shall complete [the form online [here](#)]. A copy of this form shall be returned to the Associate Dean's office.
10. While mandatory for graduation, the upper-year writing requirement is not a course per se and has no special registration number. On the contrary, you must satisfy the requirement within the confines of a regularly listed course in which you are otherwise duly registered. **HOWEVER**, Law 3950 ([Advanced] Legal Research) is not such a course. You cannot satisfy the writing requirement through Law 3950. That said, you are well advised to take Law 3950 in the same year (perhaps even the same semester) as you propose to satisfy the writing requirement, since pedagogically that maximizes your opportunity to tie research and writing together.
11. The requirements contained in this document shall apply to all students admitted into the 2012/2013 academic year and subsequent years.