

## STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY CLINIC APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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### BACKGROUND

The State and Local Government Policy Clinic aims to have a politically diverse group of students and a bipartisan group of clients. The Clinic also has the goal, as much as possible, of matching student policy interests with specific policy projects during the academic year, as well as providing learning and practice opportunities for law students who might see themselves involved with policy work after graduation. While we will take on projects from both the executive and legislative branches of state government, as well as from local governments, our hope is that our eventual legislative projects will have bipartisan appeal. While we will cover a range of topics in the upcoming year, we expect that public education will remain a priority area in which we work.

This being only the fourth year of the clinic, and the size of the class being limited to 12 students, these goals might be easier to state than meet, but it is certainly our intention to have diverse policy interest amongst students, and projects that align with student interests.

The primary purposes of the application, therefore, are for students to give us a sense of their interest in policy (as opposed to traditional legal) work, and an overview of their policy interests as they relate to likely areas of clinic work. While the application is certainly an opportunity for you to describe any prior experience that would be relevant for your clinic work, we also welcome students participating in the clinic with no prior policy making or policy advocacy experience, but who see the clinic as an opportunity to gain exposure to this kind of work.

If there are open spaces after the application process is complete, these will be made available during add/drop.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS, THE PROCESS, OR THE CLINIC ITSELF, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT PROFESSOR BLOCK AT [ablock@law.virginia.edu](mailto:ablock@law.virginia.edu) or 434-882-2667.**

### REQUIREMENTS

- **In addition to submitting an application, you must rank the clinic in the clinic lottery which opens on June 26<sup>th</sup> and closes on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.**
- Completed applications must be emailed to Professor Block **no later than noon on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.**
- Applications should include a resume and a letter of interest.
- Letters of interest should include the following:
  - Your full contact information and computing ID.
  - Description of why you want to join this clinic and how clinic participation might relate to your educational/career goals.
  - Description of which of the following policy areas most interest you and why:

- Criminal justice, public health, juvenile justice, behavioral health, court procedure, education, public benefits, environment, and/or housing.
- Description of any policy issues you find compelling that are not included in this list.

○ **The following signed certification:**

**Certification:** I hereby certify by my signature below that I have read the course description and understand that:

- If I am selected for the clinic in the clinic application/lottery process, I will be enrolled during the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters; and, most importantly, that **once enrolled in the clinic, I may not drop the course.**
- This is a yearlong course and space in the clinic is limited and that not all applicants are guaranteed acceptance to the clinic.
- I will receive 8 credits for the clinic—four for work in the fall semester graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis, and four for work in the spring for which there will be a grade of Honors, Pass, or Fail.

• **Not Counting the Certification section, letters of interest should not exceed two, single-spaced, pages.**