Before the COVID crisis began in March, 2020, UVA Law did not permit students to extern virtually. Working in-person in a professional office is a critical part of developing professionalism and makes for deeper and wider learning. Interacting with other professionals is crucial to the externship experience.

This prohibition was lifted for the pandemic.

As circumstances continue to improve and as the Law School returns entirely to in-person instruction, the Curriculum Committee voted to have the externship program begin to return to pre-pandemic practices, while recognizing that certain agencies and organizations continue to operate remotely and expect externs to do their work remotely.

Accordingly, the following rules apply for this academic year:

1. For the 2021-2022 academic year, if an employer requires virtual/remote work during any part of the semester, externs may complete their work remotely during that time period.
2. For the Fall 2021 semester, if an organization requires virtual/remote work at the beginning of the semester but permits in-person work subsequently, then the student may complete the externship remotely if the organization permits it.
3. For the Spring 2022 semester, if an organization requires virtual/remote work at the beginning of the semester but permits in-person work subsequently, then a full-time externship may be completed remotely with the permission of the organization.
4. For the Spring 2022 semester, part-time externships must be completed in person during any periods when the organization permits in-person work.