



Policy Title
Intervention Course Policy

Policy Number
1-040

Responsible Unit: Office of Academic Affairs	Effective Date: February 17, 2023
Responsible Official: Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs	Last Reviewed Date: February 17, 2023
Policy Classification: Academic Affairs	Origination Date: Before Spring 2016

I. POLICY PURPOSE

This policy describes the decision-making process used to assign students to appropriate intervention courses who do not perform at or above Accomplished on summative assessments for certain designated courses as part of the Institutional Course-Level Assessment process for the Southern University Law Center (SULC). This policy sets forth the circumstances in which and the process whereby the Office of Academic Affairs enrolls students in Intervention Courses. These Intervention Courses are designed to aid students enrolled with increasing their skill level with respect to their ability to comprehend, analyze, and communicate information in all required and elective courses offered within SULC’s program of legal education.

II. POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to all enrolled law students and to the faculty members who have been assigned to teach one or more of SULC’s Intervention Courses. This Policy will only be exercised during the fall and spring semesters, and it will continuously be evaluated to maximize the value given to students during their matriculation through law school.

III. POLICY COMPLIANCE

Failure to adhere to the Intervention Courses Policy could jeopardize the Law Center’s accreditation status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and with the American Bar Association (ABA). The law student who does not comply with this policy could negatively affect the trajectory of their matriculation through law school.

IV. POLICY DEFINITIONS

- A. **SULC ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE DOCUMENT** is the document that contains the applicable operating procedures for the development, staffing, administration, analysis results reporting, and utilization of assessments.
- B. **ASSESSMENT COURSES** are the courses SULC identifies to gauge its students' ability to comprehend, and express their understanding of the concepts, principles and doctrines commonly tested on state bar examinations. Each assessment course is a required course for every student at the Law Center regardless of whether the student is enrolled in the common law or civil law curriculum. Current assessed courses are defined in the **SULC ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE DOCUMENT**.
- C. **SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS** are the assessment questions that are administered at the conclusion of the assessment course. These questions are designed to measure the student's overall degree of learning from the assessment course. The summative assessment question tests the same concepts as the formative assessment question but utilizes a different fact pattern. See the **SULC ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE DOCUMENT** for details.
- D. **INTERVENTION COURSES** are courses that have been approved by the SULC faculty and enforced by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to assist students who have scored at a defined level in the assessment process. Each intervention course is designed to aid students with increasing their skill level, using the results from their assessment performance. See the **SULC ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE DOCUMENT** for details.

V. POLICY AND APPLICABLE PROCEDURES

- A. Students who score below Accomplished on their summative assessments conducted in the fall semester will be placed in: 1. Lawyering Process II (first-year students); 2. Legal Process (second-year students); or 3. Advanced Torts (third-year students).
- B. Students who score below Accomplished on their summative assessments conducted in spring semester will be placed in: 1. Legal Methods (first-year students moving into second year of study); or 2. Advanced Constitutional Law (second-year students moving into third year of study).
- C. In order to determine a student's score on the summative assessment, Law Center Analytics will extract, combine, perform additional calculations, and analyze student assessment data from LiveText and academic data from Banner to determine each student's eligibility for enrollment in an intervention course. Additional calculations may be conducted based on the student's matriculation level and overall academic performance before a final decision is made regarding enrollment in an intervention course.
- D. Students With First-Year Academic Classification

1. From the above data and analysis, a student with a first-year academic classification may be placed into an intervention course (i.e., Lawyering Process II) for the next term under the following circumstances. The student:
 - a. Fails Lawyering Process I;
 - b. Receives a below Accomplished rating from the summative LiveText assessment in a targeted course; or
 - c. Has a term GPA below 2.5.
 2. Such students assessed below Accomplished yet possessing a term GPA of at least 3.25 may be exempted from placement in an intervention course in the next academic term.
 3. Students who are placed in Lawyering Process II will be removed from one doctrinal course (Civil Law Property or Common Law Property). If the student who is placed in Lawyering Process II is on probation, the student will be removed from two doctrinal courses (Civil Law Property or Common Law Property as well as Criminal Law). Adjustments to the doctrinal courses from which a student is removed will be modified based upon a student's academic performance (i.e., if a student unsuccessfully completes Torts I, then the Torts II class will replace the doctrinal course in which a student who is placed into Lawyering Process II will be removed from).
- E. Students With Second-Year Academic Classification
1. From the above data and analysis, students with a second-year academic classification may be placed into an intervention course (i.e., Legal Methods and Legal Process) for the next term under the following circumstances. The student:
 - a. Fails Lawyering Process II or Legal Methods; or
 - b. Receives a below Accomplished rating from the summative LiveText assessment in a targeted course.
 2. Such students assessed below Accomplished yet possessing a term GPA of at least 3.25 may be exempted from placement in an intervention course in the next academic term.
 3. Students who are placed in Legal Methods or Legal Process will be removed from one course. Adjustments to the courses in which a student is removed will be modified based upon a student's academic performance.
- F. Students With Third-Year Academic Classification
1. From the above data and analysis, students with a third-year academic classification may be placed into an intervention course (i.e., Advanced Torts or Advanced Constitutional Law) for the next term under the following circumstances. The student:
 - a. Fails Legal Process or Advanced Torts; or
 - b. Receives a below Accomplished rating from the summative LiveText assessment in a targeted course.
 2. Such students assessed below Accomplished yet possessing a term GPA of at least 3.25 may be exempted from placement in an intervention course in the next academic term.

3. Students who are placed in Advanced Torts or Advanced Constitutional Law will be removed from one course. Adjustments to the courses in which a student is removed will be modified based upon a student's academic performance.

VI. POLICY RELATED INFORMATION

Information related to the Assessment Process will be used to determine whether and under what circumstances a student may need to be enrolled in an Intervention Course may be found in the Institutional Course-Level Assessment Policy, the SULC ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE DOCUMENT, and the Institutional Effectiveness Manual, which is published on the SULC website at <https://www.sulc.edu/assets/sulc/Policies/Institutional-Effectiveness-Manual-April-2019.pdf>, or such later versions as will be adopted.

VII. POLICY HISTORY AND REVIEW CYCLE

SULC started course-level assessments of its students in 2014. SULC started requiring that students take Intervention Courses in the 2016-2017 Academic Year. Specifically, all first-year students were enrolled in Lawyering Process I starting in Fall 2016. Starting in Spring 2017, students were enrolled in Lawyering Process II based on their performance on summative assessments in designated assessment courses. In 2021, the Faculty approved adding additional Intervention Courses at the second-year and third-year levels of the curriculum for students who, based on assessment scores and low GPA, are determined to need additional support and aid with increasing their skill level with respect to SULC's Institutional Learning Outcomes of Issue Spotting, Analysis, Quality of Writing, and Doctrinal Knowledge. On February 17, 2023, the policy was revised to codify the aforementioned practices into a coherent policy statement. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs shall be the responsible person for the implementation of the Intervention Courses Policy, and this Policy will continue to be developed, modified, and managed by SULC's Academic Affairs Unit, subject to approval by SULC faculty, which shall timely recommend any modifications or adjustments to this process to insure the efficiency of the process and the reliability of its results. This policy is subject to a three-year policy review cycle.

VIII. PUBLICATION OF POLICY

The policy is published on the SULC website at www.sulc.edu.

IX. POLICY APPROVAL

This policy was approved by the faculty on February 17, 2023.



John K. Pierre
Chancellor

February 17, 2023
Date