

Procedure for Obtaining Student Practice Certification

(For certification rules in jurisdictions other than North Carolina, go to:
<http://guides.ll.georgetown.edu/c.php?g=271042&p=1808947>)

Certification under the Student Practice Rules allows Elon Law students to gain practical experience, including appearing in court, under the supervision of a licensed North Carolina attorney. Students interested in this certification should read the following information carefully and follow the procedures outlined.

Who should be interested in student practice certification?

Students enrolled in the law school's clinic courses, residencies and externships (contact the clinic and externship directors for course details), as well as students engaged in internships with government agencies, Legal Aid, or other employers who provide pro bono or indigent legal services.

What rules govern the student practice certification process?

The North Carolina State Bar issues student practice certifications. The certification process is detailed in the North Carolina State Bar Rules Governing Practical Training of Law Students, Subchapter C, Sections .0200 through .0207. These rules are included in this packet, and students should familiarize themselves with these rules. Students may also want to provide these rules to their supervising attorney.

Who is eligible for student practice certification?

Elon Law students who have completed at least 43 academic credits, including Professional Responsibility and are in good standing.

What types of legal representation or services are covered under the student practice certification?

Certification allows students to represent indigent clients, the state in criminal prosecutions, a criminal defendant represented by the public defender, and government agencies, under the supervision of a licensed North Carolina attorney. Potential employers include government agencies and non-profits such as Legal Aid, the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and the Attorney General's Office. Students working with private law firms are also eligible for certification; however, their certification extends only to representation of non-paying indigent clients. If a student or supervising attorney has questions about the scope of the representation allowed under the certification, they should consult the attached rules and/or contact the North Carolina State Bar.

What is the process for obtaining certification?

1. Read the Rules Governing Practical Training of Law Students, Subchapter C, Sections .0200 through .0207 of the North Carolina State Bar Rules. (Attached.) Read and familiarize yourself with the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct of the North Carolina State Bar and the opinions interpretative thereof.
2. Complete the two (2) State Bar forms, attached, and submit them to the Registrar.
3. Have your supervising attorney prepare a letter to the North Carolina State Bar. (Sample letter attached.) While the attorney may send this letter directly to the State Bar, it is preferable for the attorney to send the letter to the law school, so it and the other forms can all be sent to the State Bar at one time. The letter can be sent to the law school Registrar, Jane Law, at jlaw@elon.edu, fax: 336-691-1059, or by mail: 201 N. Greene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401.
4. After the law school sends the forms and attorney letter to the State Bar, the student will receive a certification letter from the State Bar. **NOTE:** A student is not certified under the Rules until he or she receives notification from the State Bar.

The forms mentioned above are available on the Registrar's webpage or in the Registrar's Office. For assistance with the certification process, please contact the law school Registrar, Jane Law.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
PRACTICAL TRAINING OF LAW STUDENTS PROGRAM
LAW SCHOOL CERTIFICATION

Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students
27 N.C.A.C. IC, Rule .0200

Application of:

(Student's Name)

(Street Address)

(City, State & Zip)

The undersigned certifies as follows:

_____ is duly enrolled at Elon University

(Print Student's Name)

School of Law, is in good standing in said law school, and has satisfactorily completed the equivalent of three semesters of the requirements for a first professional degree in law (J.D. or its equivalent). The law student is also of good character with the requisite legal ability and training to perform as a legal intern pursuant to the Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students. I am authorized by the dean of said law school to provide this certification.

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print Name)

(Title)

(School)

(Address)

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE RULES OF
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students
27 N.C.A.C. IC, Rule .0203

I, _____, certify as follows:
(Print Name)

I am a student regularly enrolled and in good standing at Elon University School of Law. I have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of three semesters of the requirements for a first professional degree in law (J.D. or its equivalent). I have read and am familiar with the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct of the North Carolina State Bar and the opinions interpretative thereof.

(Signature) (Date)

Address: _____

Return form to:

Dottie Miani
N.C. State Bar
Post Office Box 25908
Raleigh, NC 27611

Sample Supervising Attorney Letter for Practice Certification

[AGENCY/FIRM LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

North Carolina State Bar
Attn: Ms. Dottie Miani
Post Office Box 25908
Raleigh, NC 27611-5908

RE: Application of ____ (name of student) _____ for Certification
Pursuant to the Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students

Dear Ms. Miani:

Please take notice that during the period commencing _____,
20 __, and ending _____, 20 __, I will provide adequate supervision of the
above applicant, _____, in accordance with the North Carolina Rules
Governing the Practical Training of Law Students. _____ is a
student at Elon University School of Law.

In the event that my supervision of _____ should cease prior to
_____, 20 __, I will promptly notify you of that fact.

Sincerely,

Supervising Attorney