**OVERVIEW**

The Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) serves partner organizations and communities in the U.S. and around the world by providing guidance on cutting-edge food system issues. FLPC offers students the opportunity to develop a robust law and policy skillset while engaging in a wide range of cross-cutting issues that address the health, environmental, economic, and social impacts of food and agriculture. FLPC’s work focuses on increasing access to healthy foods, supporting sustainable and equitable food production, reducing waste of healthy, wholesome food, and promoting community-led food system change.

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| **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED** | Fall and Spring |
| **CLINICAL COURSE COMPONENT** | Food Law and Policy Seminar (Fall and Spring)Policy Advocacy Workshop (Spring) |
| **COURSE CREDITS** | Courses are 2 credits each |
| **CLINICAL CREDITS** | Students may register for 3, 4, or 5 credits |
| **LOCATION** | On campus at the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation suite at 1607 Massachusetts Avenue, 4th floor; students may also work remotely |
| **REGISTRATION TYPE** | By Helios Preferences |

**TYPES OF CASES/CLIENTS/PROJECTS**

Students in the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) engage in action-based learning to gain a deeper understanding of the complex challenges facing our food system. Clinical students combine legal research and analysis as well as policy advocacy to assist community members, clients, partners, and government agencies to understand and improve laws impacting the food system. In doing so, students are asked to turn their academic training into creative, tangible legal and policy solutions to real-world food system challenges.

FLPC’s portfolio includes the following four focus areas:

* Food System Justice
* Food Access and Nutrition
* Food Waste and Recovery
* Climate and Sustainability

Students are typically assigned 1-2 projects over the course of the semester. Some of the projects are larger undertakings that will include multiple students and last beyond the end of the clinical experience. Others are small projects and might be a second project for a student working as part of a team on a larger project.

**SKILLS**

FLPC students practice a variety of transferable skills not otherwise gained in the classroom, including:

* Interviewing clients and/or stakeholders
* Writing formal legal or policy memos, explanatory guides, toolkits, or public-facing reports
* Drafting and reviewing legislation and regulatory comments
* Community organizing and coalition building
* Public speaking
* Writing communications/media material (e.g., blog posts and op-eds)

**TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE**

Students who enroll in the Food Law and Policy Clinic engage in a variety of topics and projects.  Work in the clinic is often a combination of independent tasks, partner and/or team-based projects, oral and written advocacy, in-depth legal research and writing, drafting a variety of documents including issue briefs and proposed legislation, and meeting with outside clients, partners, and other stakeholders.  Some students have the opportunity to travel domestically to places like Washington, D.C. to meet with clients and engage in advocacy, while others are able to travel internationally to meet with clients working to advocate for changes to food law and policy abroad.  Students meet with their project supervisors on a weekly basis and attend rounds presentations where they learn about other projects in the clinic.  Clinic work can be completed either in the clinic office or remotely.

Sample schedule

9:00am – 10:00am       Meet with project supervisor to discuss recent FDA regulations on healthy labels

10:00am – 10:15am    Chat with other clinic students (from both the Food Law and Health Law and Policy Clinics)

10:15am – 11:45am    Watch Senate hearing on pending legislation, take notes to incorporate into future advocacy

11:45am – 12:15pm    Meet with student partner to discuss project outline and split up work on issue brief

12:15pm – 1:15pm       Attend project rounds (lunch provided!), learn about other projects taking place in the clinic

1:30pm – 3:30pm         Attend Food Law and Policy Seminar

3:45pm – 5:00pm         Research innovative Food is Medicine interventions to present to community-based client