
Graduate Portfolio Program in Dispute Resolution

Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution

April 26, 2007

The University of Texas School of Law

Purpose

- To create an interdisciplinary approach to the study and research of conflict and dispute resolution
- To integrate already existing resources throughout the University of Texas at Austin into a single program

Implementation

- Started in 2000
- Open to students enrolled at the University who are pursuing a law, master's, or doctoral degree in any of the participating schools

Participating Schools

- School of Law
- LBJ School of Public Affairs
- College of Communication
- School of Social Work
- College of Engineering
- College of Liberal Arts, Departments of Government and Sociology
- School of Architecture, Community and Regional Planning Program
- College of Education, Departments of Kinesiology and Educational Administration
- School of Nursing
- McCombs School of Business

Student Enrollment

Academic Year	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
New Student Enrollment	16	20	14	8	11	26	9*

* Not setting an admission deadline may have led to lower enrollment for Spring 2007. Admission deadlines will be reinstated in Fall 2007.

Program Objectives

- To introduce students to critical and analytical tools that facilitate productive dispute resolution
- To instruct students in the application of theoretical and conceptual tools of analysis and research in dispute resolution
- To provide opportunities for participation in practical applications of dispute resolution processes and systems design

Administration of Program

- Faculty Steering Committee
 - Composed of 21 members from all 10 participating schools
 - Approves courses and applications
 - Reviews papers for symposium
- CPPDR and Faculty Steering Committee together
 - Promote the Portfolio Program across campus
 - Distribute information about dispute resolution lectures and other events of interest
 - Brainstorm on possible improvements to the program
- CPPDR
 - Coordinates meetings of the Faculty Steering Committee
 - Organizes the symposium
 - Answers student and faculty questions
 - Verifies student completion of program requirements

Application Process

- Students may apply at any time during their graduate study.
- Application includes:
 - One-page statement of interest
 - List of proposed courses
 - Proof of enrollment and good-standing
 - Statement of support from Graduate Advisor at sponsoring school
- The Faculty Steering Committee reviews and approves applications on an ongoing basis by email.

Course Requirements

- Students must complete 12 credit hours from a list of courses approved by the Faculty Steering Committee. Students may submit new courses to be approved by the committee.

- The courses selected must meet the following substantive requirements:
 - A course in basic conflict or dispute resolution theory
 - An advanced or skill-building course in mediation, arbitration, or negotiation
 - An internship or other practical application of dispute resolution processes
 - A course requiring a research paper in dispute resolution

Spring 2007 Portfolio Courses

- Business School:
 - The Art and Science of Negotiation
- College of Communication:
 - Conflict & Communication
 - Communication and Social Change
 - Family Communication
- College of Education:
 - Educational Politics & Policy
- School of Social Work
 - Social Work Leadership in Human Services

Spring 2007 Portfolio Courses

- Law School:
 - Alternative Dispute Resolution
 - Mediation Clinic
 - Arbitration
 - International Business Litigation
- Department of Government:
 - The Study of International Relations
- School of Public Affairs:
 - Cross Border Environmental Management
 - U.S. Diplomacy: Organization & Practice

Research Symposium Requirements

- Students must complete a research paper that contributes to the field of dispute resolution by making recommendations for improving:
 - Dispute resolution processes
 - The regulation of dispute resolution processes, or
 - The design of dispute resolution processes
- Students must present their research paper at a semi-annual symposium.
- Students must review the paper and attend the presentation of one of their peers.

Sample Research Topics

- Downtown Management Organizations and their Role in Collaborative Conflict Management
- Narrative Construction of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- The Use of Mediation and Other Alternative Dispute Resolution Processes on Superfund Projects
- A Case Study on the Use of Mediation for Land Development Disputes
- Adapting the North American Mediation Process Across Cultures
- Bringing Technology to the Table: Computer Modeling, Dispute Resolution and the Rio Grande

Symposium Keynote Speakers

- Thomas Shelling, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Maryland
- Roger Fisher, Professor of Law and Director of the Harvard Negotiation Project
- Deborah Kolb, Management Professor at Simmons Graduate School
- Joseph Folger, Professor of Adult and Organizational Development Psychological Studies in Education at Temple University
- Carrie Menkel-Meadow, Professor of Law at Georgetown University
- Len Riskin, Professor of Law and Director of the Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution and the Initiative on Mindfulness in Law and Dispute Resolution at the University of Missouri-Columbia
- Bernie Mayer, Professor of Conflict Resolution at the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution, Creighton University, and partner at CDR Associates

Other UT Portfolio Programs

- African & African American Studies
- Cellular & Molecular Imaging
- Communication, Information, & Cultural Policy
- Cultural Studies
- Gerontology
- Imaging Science
- Integrated Watershed Science
- Interdisciplinary European Studies
- Mexican American Studies
- Museum Studies
- Nanoscience & Nanotechnology
- Nonprofit Studies
- Societal Impacts of Science & Technology
- Study of Religion
- Sustainability
- Women's and Gender Studies

Contact Information

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