

Minnesota Law Learning Outcomes



1 Legal Thinking & Analysis

- Locate, interpret, and synthesize relevant legal authorities
- Gather and assess relevant facts
- Identify, and provide critical analysis of, competing positions and options
- Understand the interaction between law and public policy
- Recognize when consultation, collaboration, or referral is advisable or required

2 Communication

- Present analysis and engage in legal dialogue, negotiation, and argument
- Communicate with the appropriate tone and sophistication for the relevant audience
- Communicate directly, with organization, focus, purpose, and clarity
- Tailor communication and advocacy to applicable format restrictions and comply with procedural requirements

3 Client Service

- Demonstrate broad knowledge of the law and the legal system of the United States
- Listen to and engage with clients to identify client objectives and interests
- Advocate for clients
- Counsel clients by assessing, developing, evaluating creative options to meet client goals
- Manage complex workflow diligently, reliably, and within deadlines

4 Collaboration

- Work in a team
- Respect diverse views and perspectives and work effectively across difference
- Understand issues relating to equity and inclusion

5 Ethics & Professionalism

- Know and comply with rules of professional conduct
- Be honest and candid with clients, lawyers, institutions, and others
- Respond effectively to criticism and other feedback
- Identify and minimize biases
- Understand the importance of pro bono and other forms of law-related public service
- Seek and use resources where necessary to address personal challenges



Legal Thinking & Analysis

Skill	Law School Considerations	Where are skills developed?
Locate, interpret, and synthesize relevant legal authorities	<i>What law(s) and/or prior court decisions apply to a problem?</i>	❖ All 1L and upper division coursework
Gather and assess relevant facts	<i>What facts are known vs. disputed? Which facts matter under the applicable rule(s)?</i>	❖ 1L Legal Research and Writing
Identify, and provide critical analysis of, competing positions and options	<i>What is the other side's best argument? How would you counter it?</i>	❖ Structured Study Group (SSG) & Law Student Writing Center ❖ Practice exams
Understand the interaction between law and public policy	<i>What policy interest(s) do the rules promote? How would your client's preferred result promote public policy?</i>	❖ Experiential learning (clinics, internships, field placements) & legal volunteering
Recognize when consultation, collaboration, or referral is advisable or required	<i>What if I've read a case twice, consulted a hornbook, and STILL don't understand? (spoiler alert...ask your instructor!)</i>	❖ 1L Foundations

Communication



Skill	Law School Considerations	Where are skills developed?
<p>Present analysis and engage in legal dialogue, negotiation, and argument</p>	<p><i>Communicating your legal thinking and analysis <u>in writing</u> (in memoranda, briefs, or emails) and <u>verbally</u> (in class, oral arguments, conversations with classmates)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All 1L courses ❖ 1L Legal Research and Writing
<p>Communicate with the appropriate tone and sophistication for the relevant audience</p>	<p><i>Is your communication with a professor? Peer? Staff member? Supervisor? Client? How does that impact your delivery? What if your communication reaches an unintended audience?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Structured Study Group (SSG) & Law Student Writing Center ❖ Moot Courts and Journals
<p>Communicate directly, with organization, focus, purpose, and clarity</p>	<p><i>Is there a prize for the longest sentence with the most legalese? (spoiler alert...Nope!)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Experiential learning (clinics, internships, field placements) & legal volunteering
<p>Tailor communication and advocacy to applicable format restrictions and comply with procedural requirements</p>	<p><i>What are the format, word-count, and other submission requirements for your legal writing assignments? What about a court brief? Why does it matter?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 1L Foundations ❖ Professional Essentials & Career Center Programming



Client Service

Skill	Law School Considerations	Where are skills developed?
Demonstrate broad knowledge of the law and the legal system of the United States	<i>What will I need to know to address future clients' needs? What if their needs aren't related to my preferred classes?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ All 1L courses❖ Law in Practice (Spring semester)❖ Experiential learning (clinics, internships, field placements) & legal volunteering❖ Student organizations and leadership❖ Professional Essentials
Listen to and engage with clients to identify client objectives and interests	<i>What are my clients most essential goals and objectives? How might they differ from available legal options?</i>	
Advocate for clients	<i>What kind(s) of advocacy will further client's essential goals?</i>	
Counsel clients by assessing, developing, evaluating creative options to meet client goals	<i>What if a client's core goals can't be addressed by law? What if their proposed action is illegal or unethical?</i>	
Manage complex workflow diligently, reliably, and within deadlines	<i>What methods should I use to manage short- and long-term assignments? What habits will I need to change or adjust?</i>	

Collaboration



Skill	Law School Considerations	Where are skills developed?
Work in a team	<p><i>Should I study individually, in a study group, or both? What roles are challenging for me in a group setting?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 1L Legal Research and Writing ❖ Structured Study Group (SSG) & Law Student Writing Center
Respect diverse views and perspectives and work effectively across difference	<p><i>Is the Law School student body more diverse or less diverse than my prior educational experiences? How can I develop genuine relationships with those whose views I do not share? How can I develop skills in cultural competency and communication?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Moot Courts and Journals ❖ Experiential learning (clinics, internships, field placements) & legal volunteering
Understand issues relating to equity and inclusion	<p><i>What does research in history, sociology, economics, and neuroscience tell us about today's U.S. legal system? Why is the legal profession less diverse than state or national demographics? How can I contribute to a welcoming, inclusive Law School learning environment?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Diversity and Belonging Committee programs ❖ Student organizations, leadership, and events ❖ Bar association involvement (local, national, & affinity) ❖ Professional Essentials



Ethics & Professionalism

Skill	Law School Considerations	Where are skills developed?
Know and comply with rules of professional conduct	<i>What are the conduct requirements for law students? What if I violate them, or see someone else do so?</i>	❖ All 1L and upper division coursework
Be honest and candid with clients, lawyers, institutions, and others	<i>What do I need to disclose to the Law School? What if I had a prior criminal matter that was expunged?</i>	❖ Law in Practice
Respond effectively to criticism and other feedback	<i>How can I use feedback as a tool? How can I navigate/channel my emotional reaction?</i>	❖ Professional Responsibility (upper division requirement)
Identify and minimize biases	<i>What are my own biases and blind spots? The legal system's? How can they be addressed?</i>	❖ Experiential learning (clinics, internships, field placements) & legal volunteering
Understand the importance of pro bono and other forms of law-related public service	<i>How can I participate in legal volunteering as a 1L? What kinds of legal positions would allow me to incorporate pro bono practice into my professional work?</i>	❖ 1L Foundations ❖ Professional Essentials & Career Center Programming
Seek and use resources where necessary to address personal challenges	<i>Where can I go for help if I'm struggling with school, stress, relationships, addiction, mental health, bias? How can I help a peer experiencing challenges?</i>	❖ Well Being Initiative (WBI) ❖ z.umn.edu/law_student_resources

Key Programs & Resources for 1Ls

1L Foundations: Occasional required 1L program to highlight key Learning Outcomes and equip students to navigate administrative processes in the 1L year. Thursdays from

Professional Essentials Milestone & other Career

Center Programming: Workshop series & events on core concepts surrounding development and interpersonal skills critical for career success. Students learn from and connect with staff, faculty, alumni, and professionals who are experts in career development and the legal field. See the [Career Center's Google page](#) for more.

Structured Study Group (SSG): Weekly sessions for each 1L section group where experienced student instructors facilitate development of core law school academic skills AND provide opportunities to apply learning in exercises that prepare students for final exams.

Law Student Writing Center: 1L group designed to assist students with their legal writing work. Focuses on things that make legal writing different from academic, creative, or informal writing students have done before law school. There is no homework or additional reading required for this group; exercises are based on reading and writing assignments already required for the legal writing program, and on an additional case excerpt that will be handed out and read during the first session.

Let's Talk: Weekly drop-in counseling support in partnership with [Student Counseling Services](#). Private sessions held in the N160 Student Affairs suite. Wednesdays, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Minnesota Justice Foundation: In partnership MJF, students are matched with non-profit and government agencies seeking legal volunteers, giving them the opportunity to serve clients while gaining valuable skills under attorney supervision.