

# **Part I: Assessment Plan**

## **Mid-Year Report**

College of Law

Juris Doctor

March 2, 2023

Submitted to the College of Law Faculty by:

The College of Law Assessment Committee

## 1. Introduction

In 2019 the College of Law updated the Student Learning Outcomes. In response to the 2017 American Bar Association (ABA) accreditation site visit, the SLOs were updated with commentary to better guide the College of Law Assessment process in the leadup to the 2024 ABA accreditation site visit. The Assessment planning was underway in the Fall of 2019, but was delayed substantially by the COVID-19 global pandemic, that refocused faculty and administrative efforts from assessment planning to complete restructuring of course delivery. Beginning again in spring 2021, the College of Law Assessment Committee, with the help of the Northern Illinois University Office of Institutional Effectiveness, began collecting data to assess how well the SLOs were being achieved.

## 2. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Student Learning Outcomes for the College of Law (approved May 6, 2019).

- a. **Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law;**
- b. **Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication in the legal context;**
- c. **Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system.**

Competencies for (c):

1. *Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the law governing lawyers, ethical rules, and values of the legal profession by applying that knowledge in real-world and hypothetical situations.*
  2. *Students will demonstrate a commitment to the legal profession's value of service to others.*
  3. *Students will demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to the legal profession's values of honesty and integrity, including by following the College of Law's Rule of Professional Conduct.*
  4. *Students will demonstrate an awareness of clients' needs and goals, including a sensitivity to clients' backgrounds and circumstances, by practicing client-centered lawyering.*
- d. **Other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession, which include interviewing, counseling, fact development and analysis, document drafting, conflict resolution, organization and management of legal work, collaboration, cultural competency and self-evaluation.**

Competencies [for the underlined parts]:

1. *Students will strive to exhibit professionalism, courtesy, and civility, including by communicating in a timely and appropriate manner.*
2. *Students will develop leadership, collaboration, and teamwork skills by, for example, taking initiative, developing a vision, building an effective team, communicating effectively and project planning.*
3. *Students will demonstrate the diligence required of professionals by ensuring the proper allocation of time, effort, and resources to effectively manage their work.*
4. *Students will identify and demonstrate respect for diverse backgrounds and perspectives that may affect their professional work, including by recognizing the consequences of explicit and implicit bias and unexamined assumptions.*

5. *Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in ongoing reflective practices, self-assessment, and the incorporation of feedback from others, including by developing a living professional development plan.*
6. *Students will understand the importance of wellness by learning about the challenges of being a lawyer and developing strategies for long-term wellness.*

#### 4. Curriculum Map

This curriculum map outlines the scope and sequence of courses students will take and aligns them with the J.D. program student learning outcomes. The curriculum map is an effective tool for not only sequencing the curriculum and instruction, but also for strategically identifying places for formative and summative assessments of student learning outcomes.

All courses are listed along the vertical axis of the matrix in chronological order. J.D. program student learning outcomes are listed on the horizontal axis. For each course, the Assessment Committee determined: (1) which outcomes are the *primary* (not the sole) focus of the course, and (2) the level at which the course supports the outcome (i.e., at a beginning (B), developing (D), or proficient (P) level of comprehension and competency).

It is *unusual* to find all courses supporting all student learning outcomes—instead, the Assessment Committee concentrated on the primary focus of each course; this does not indicate that these are the sole focus of the course. This will map out the level to which each course support the development of the program’s student learning outcomes.

The larger and longer-term purpose for this map is to identify strengths and gaps in the curriculum. Ideally, all outcomes should be supported with coursework through the proficient level.

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes			
	1. Knowledge of Law	2. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	3. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
500.1		B		
500.2		B		
500.3		B		
500.4		B		
502.1	B			
502.2	B			
503.1	B			
503.2	B			
505.1	B			
505.2	B			
506.1	B			

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes			
	1. Knowledge of Law	2. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	3. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
506.2	B			
507.1	B			
507.2	B			
508.1	B			
508.1	B			
508.2	B			
508.2	B			
508.3	B			
508.4	B			
510.1	B			
510.2	B			
510.3	B			
510.4	B			
511.1		B		
511.2		B		
511.3		B		
511.4		B		
512.1		B		
512.1		B		
512.2			B	B
512.2			B	B
512.3			B	B
512.3			B	B
512.4			B	B

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes			
	1. Knowledge of Law	2. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	3. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
512.4			B	B
513.1	B			
513.2	B			
513.3	B			
513.4	B			
515	B			
516.1	B			
550.1	D			
550.2	D			
600.1	D			
600.2	D			
601.1	D			
602.1	D			
603.1	D			
607.1	D			
610	D			
613.1	D			
620.1	D			
623.1	D			
625.1	D			
631.1	D			
631.1	D			
632.1			D	
633.1	D			

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes			
	1. Knowledge of Law	2. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	3. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
633.1	D			
635.1	D			
635.1	D			
636.1	D			
636.1	D			
640.1	D			
640.1	B			
641.1				B
641.1	D			
642	D			
642	B			
643.1	B			
643.1	D			
645.1	D			
646.1	P	P		
647.1	P	P		
649.1	D			
650.1	B			
653.1	D			
654.1	D			
655.1	D			
655.1	D			
657.1	D			
660.1	D			

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes			
	1. Knowledge of Law	2. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	3. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
662.1	B			
662.1	B			
667.1	D			
667.1	B			
670.1	D			
674.1		D		
675.1		D		
676.1		D		
676.2		D		
678.1				
679.1				
679.1		D		D
681.1		D		D
683.1		B		B
684.1		B		B
686.1		B		B
687.1		B		B
687.1	D			
689.1		D	D	D
690.1		D	D	D
691.1		D	D	D
692.1		D		D
694.1		D		
697.1		D		

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes			
	1. Knowledge of Law	2. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	3. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
701.1		D		
701.2		D		
701.3				D
701.4		D		D
708.1		D		D
709.1		D		D
710.1		D		D
710.1		D		D
710.2		D		D
712.1		D		D
712.1		D		D
720.1		D		D
720.1		D		D
720.2		D		D
720.2		D		D
720.3		D		D
720.3		D		D
720.4		D		
723.1		P		
725.1		P		
725.1		P		
725.2		D		
725.2		D		
725.3		P	P	P

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes			
	1. Knowledge of Law	2. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	3. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
725.3		P	P	P
729.1		P	P	P
730.1		D	D	D
732.1		P	P	P
733.1		D	D	D
734.1		D	D	D
734.1		D	D	D
735.1		D	D	D
750.1		D	D	D
750.2		D	D	D
751.1		D	D	D
752		D	D	D
753		D		
754.1		D		
755.1		D		
756.1		P		
756.2		D		
757		P		
758.1		D		
758.2		D		
759.1		D		
760.1		D		
781.1		D		
782		D		

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes			
	1. Knowledge of Law	2. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	3. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
783.1		D		
784.1		D		
794		D		
794		D		
795		D		
795		D		
805.1		D		
805.1		D		
810.1		B		
810.1		B		
815.1		B		
815.1		B		
820.1	B			
820.1	B			
825.1	B			
825.1	B			
850.1	B			
850.1	B			
851.1	B			
851.1	B			
852.1	B			
852.1	B			
853.1	B			
853.1	B			

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes			
	1. Knowledge of Law	2. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	3. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
854.1	B			
859.1	B			
880.1	B			
881.1	B			
900.1	B			
905.1	B			
913.1	B			
914.1	B			
916.1		B		
917.1		B		
918.1		B		
918.2		B		
919.1		B		
920.1		B		
921.1			B	B
922.1			B	B
923.1			B	B
924.1			B	B
925.1			B	B
926.1			B	B
927.1	B			
928.1	B			
929.1	B			
980.1	B			

## 5. Assessment Methods

This final section of the assessment plan describes the assessment methods the J.D. program will be using to measure how well students are meeting program student learning outcomes for the coming year.

### EXPLANATION OF ASSESSMENT METHODS TABLE

Assessment Method	Explanation					
	Description	Student-Level Achievement <sup>a</sup>	Program-Level Target <sup>b</sup>	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs Covered
Baby Bar (Summative)	TBA	TBA	70% of students meet the Student Level Achievement	May (end of Spring Semester)	Hunter, Stange, Kupelian, Streit	a. Knowledge of Law b. demonstrate legal knowledge (writing) skills d. demonstrate professional skills (organization)
Criminal Law Summative Assessment	Students answer multiple choice questions testing whether they understand the principles for ten (10) criminal law topics.	75% of students correctly identify the principles for each criminal law topic	70% of students meet the Student Level Achievement	January 2023 (end of Fall)	Falkoff	a. Knowledge of Law
Torts Summative Assessment	Students will answer a majority of the Multiple Choice Questions on the element correctly.	Multiple Choice Quiz Question on Contract Formation	70% of students meet the Student Level Achievement	January 2023 (end of Fall)	Rigertas	a. Knowledge of Law
Contracts Formative Assessment	Multiple Choice Quiz results on Contract Formation	TBA	70% of students meet the Student Level Achievement	January 2023 (end of Fall)	Mamo	a. Knowledge of Law

Assessment Method	Explanation					
	Description	Student-Level Achievement <sup>a</sup>	Program-Level Target <sup>b</sup>	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs Covered
Civil Procedure Formative Assessment	Midterm Exam Questions	TBA	70% of students meet the Student Level Achievement	January 2023 (end of Fall)	Elinson	a. Knowledge of Law
Civil Procedure Formative Discussion	Summary Judgment Exercise and Discussion	TBA	70% of students meet the Student Level Achievement	January 2023 (end of Fall)	Elinson	a. Knowledge of Law
BLR Citations (Summative)	Every year in Basic Legal Research II, students are taught legal citations: how to read and articulate. Students must demonstrate the ability to cite to a resource (case, statute, secondary sources).	Students should achieve Proficient or Advanced rating on final Assessment	70% of students meet the Student Level Achievement	May (end of spring semester)	Arado, Timko	b. demonstrate legal (research and writing) knowledge skills
Alternative Dispute Resolution Formative Assessment	Multiple Choice Quiz results on [Topic TBD]	TBA	70% of students meet the Student Level Achievement	January 2023 (end of Fall)	Mamo	b. Problem Solving d. Other Professional Skills (negotiation)

### ASSESSMENT METHODS-BY-OUTCOMES MATRIX

The assessment methods section concludes with an assessment methods-by-outcomes matrix that maps which assessments will measure a given student learning outcome. Using the curriculum map, the Assessment Committee identified key places in the curriculum where existing assessment data might be used as a measure of program student learning outcomes (e.g., major projects/performances, capstone experiences, etc.). Outcomes are listed in the first row, and each assessment method is listed in the first column.

For each assessment method the Assessment Committee determined: (1) which outcome(s) the method **primarily and intentionally** measures, (2) if the method is being used for formative (F) or summative (S) purposes, and (3) whether the method is an indirect (I) or direct (D) measure of the student learning outcome.

**Formative assessments** occur earlier in the curriculum and are used to see if students are on track and progressing sufficiently; **summative assessments** occur at or near the end of the curriculum and are used to see if students have successfully met the program student learning outcomes.

**Direct assessments** are those that compellingly and clearly measure student performance (e.g., exam score, performance assessment, direct observation). **Indirect assessments** are rough estimates and proxies of student performance (e.g., self-reports of learning, alumni perceptions, etc.).

This map identifies where the J.D. program is planning to conduct formative and summative assessments using direct and/or indirect methods; it will further assist the Assessment Committee to identify opportunities and gaps.

The goal of this plan is to capitalize on what the program faculty/staff are already doing and to identify how the outcomes align (or not) with the curriculum map.

Assessment Method	Program Student Learning Outcome			
	a. Knowledge of Law	b. Demonstrate Legal knowledge skills (research, writing, etc.)	c. Ethical and Professional conduct	d. Demonstrate Professional skills (drafting, counseling, organization, etc.)
Baby Bar	S/D	S/D		S/D*
CrimLaw	S/D			S/D*
Torts	S/D			S/D*
Contracts Quiz	F/D			
Contracts Final	S/D			
CivPro Midterm	F/D			
CivPro Discussion	F/I			
BLR Citations		S/D		
ADR Quiz		F/D		F/D
<p><i>Note.</i> F=formative assessment, S=summative assessment, D=direct assessment, and I=indirect assessment. See the paragraph above for an explanation of each type of assessment.            * Potentially other SLOs beyond <b>a.</b> and <b>d.</b></p>				