



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

## Washington College of Law

Department Website: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/>

### 1. Learning Outcomes

*Juris Doctor* Graduates of the Washington College of Law will be able to:

- A. Successfully complete the bar examination required by the profession
- B. Perform complex and in-depth legal analysis and legal reasoning
- C. Communicate the results of legal reasoning and analysis in a clear, concise and convincing manner both orally and in writing
- D. Identify legal issues relevant to a particular set of facts and perform successful and comprehensive legal research to find the applicable law
- E. Apply the practical skills necessary to effectively represent clients in all relevant settings
- F. Demonstrate a working knowledge and understanding of the core substantive legal concepts necessary for effective professional conduct and performance
- G. Successfully complete a self-generated legal writing project requiring sophisticated analysis and extensive legal research

## 2. Assessment Plan

**Means for assessing the achievement of these outcomes by all student is a rigorous faculty-designed and implemented curriculum with exacting standards of assessment both in the classroom, in clinical settings and of written work that include the following specific features:**

- A. All students required to complete Legal Rhetoric course in the First Year; course teaches legal research and writing skills; students are evaluated in small class settings by legal writing professionals who provide extensive feedback on several individual and group assignments; course included mandatory “Moot Court” assignment **(Outcomes: A, B, C, D and E)**
- B. All students are required to complete required course of study (in addition to Legal Rhetoric) including: Civil Procedure, Torts, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, Constitutional Law, Legal Ethics and Criminal Procedure **(Outcomes A, B, C and F)**
- C. All students are required to take a First Year Elective course, chosen from a set of courses specifically designed for the First Year curriculum to expose students to substantive subject matter areas, and methods of legal analysis not primarily addressed in the traditional law school required curriculum **(Outcomes: A, B, D, E and F)**
- D. All students are required to obtain instruction in skills necessary for the effective and responsible participation in the legal profession; requirement can be met by enrollment in one of our ten clinical programs, enrollment in our Externship Program or in one of more than 50 courses that provide training in practical legal skills **(Outcomes: E and F)**
- E. All students are required to fulfill the Upper Level Writing requirement that involves the completion of major piece of self-generated legal scholarship either through one of our student run and faculty supervised law reviews or as part of a seminar or independent student taught or supervised by a faculty member **(Outcomes: B, C, D and G)**
- F. In addition to the bar examination that each graduate must take, the law school is subject once every seven years to “Sabbatical” accreditation review of by the American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Schools.

This review process provides in depth analysis of both the objectives and means for assessment of our academic program. **(Outcomes: A, B, C, D, E, F and G)**