Introduction

The first year of law school is both exciting and frightening. Law school is a unique experience, one unlike anything most first-year law students have ever experienced. This research guide contains a partial list of resources available within the library’s collection that attempts to address issues many law students encounter, such as the legal system, study groups, stress reduction, study skills and law school exams. This guide is only a selection of the resources available in the collection. The library’s online catalog will assist in locating additional resources on any topic. The majority of the library’s collection on the first-year experience is located on the second floor in and around the KF 285–287 call numbers. Call numbers for the resources detailed below are provided in brackets following the title of each resource.

Please contact the reference librarians for additional help.

The Law School Experience


Attempt to provide frank answers to questions that many first-year law students face


Tips on legal analysis, study skills, the litigation process and beyond the first year

Advice on financial aid, study habits, and admission to the school of choice


Comprehensive discussion of the law school experience and tips for surviving the three years

Gary A. Munneke, How to Succeed in Law School, 4th ed.[KF283 .M86 2008]

Discusses topics such as taking good notes, study habits, exam performance and preparation

John F. Dobbyn, So You Want to Go To Law School [KF273 .D6 1976]

Discusses the differences between college and law school, the shock of first year, and the shock of first semester grades


A guide for success in law school, with a special focus on the first year

Women and Minorities and Law School


Thought-provoking discussion of women’s experiences in negotiating the maze of law school


Law school experience with chapters on financing law school and tips for minorities and for women


Presentation and discussion of the results of a 1991 survey of the experiences and differences of women and men in law school


Report issued by the Law School Admission Council on minorities in law school
Study Habits and Law School Exams


*A classic study aid for law school exams because of the practical advice contained within it for improving scores on exams*


*Part of the Nutshell series, this work discusses basic concepts such as what is a hornbook, study groups and law school exams*


*Discusses the law school exam and how to write successful essay answers*


*Topics such as the legal process, case law and law school exams addressed in detail*


*Tips on maximizing your performance on the law school exam*

The University of Richmond School of Law Exam File

Students may also find the prior exams of professors a valuable resource. The library maintains old exams contributed by professors at their discretion. Please inquire at the Circulation Desk; students with a valid University of Richmond Internet connection may access some exams electronically at [http://lobo.richmond.edu/examfile](http://lobo.richmond.edu/examfile).