



ACADEMIC SKILLS CLASSES

Thursdays 12:00-12:45 p.m.
Moot Court Room

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This is an open-attendance program dedicated to helping first-year law students adjust to law school. Through weekly/biweekly Academic Skills classes, 1L students receive ongoing instruction on the skills necessary for success in the law classroom. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend.

First-year students also receive support through individual conferences throughout the fall and spring semesters. Although I am available on campus during regular office hours, students may also schedule appointments via Zoom. Regular office hours for the upcoming semester will be Tuesdays 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Academic Success Program also offers Quick Question Hour every Tuesday, 12-1pm.

CLASS POLICIES

- Students will check in via Qwickly for attendance tracking. Again, while the Academic Skills classes are voluntary, Professor Walker tracks attendance to assess students' interest level in the topics presented.
- Students may feel free to grab your lunch and eat during our session.
- Students may feel free to join us at any time during the session.

REQUIREMENTS

- Review class announcements to see if the topic discussed will be helpful.
- Ask any and all questions.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

NOTE: Topics may change as the need arises to address specific concerns of the first-year class.

Learning IN the Classroom

Week 1- 8/25

The law classroom can be challenging for note-takers under the Socratic method of teaching. This session tackles the secrets of note-taking by helping you understand WHAT to write down.

Week 2 – 9/1

Briefing cases and preparing for class can be daunting. This session acknowledges the frustration some students experience with slow reading in the beginning of the first year. This session will walk you through extracting information from your assignments to craft useful case briefs.

Learning OUTSIDE the Classroom

Week 3 – 9/8

There are many study aids, supplements and digital resources. This session helps students: 1) know what is available, 2) know how to access it, and 3) know how to choose between resources.

Week 4 – 9/15

Second-year students were in your shoes one short year ago. We get together with them at our annual Q & A panel so that 1L students can ask them looking back what their law school survival secrets were/are. ***Lunch will be provided!**

Preparation: Outlining

Week 5 – 9/22

It can be difficult to remember what your professor said weeks ago in the semester. This session shows you how to create an outline for your courses, using Torts as the framework. For many students, the process of creating an outline produces an ah-hah moment for understanding the course.

Demonstrating What You Know*

Week 6 – 9/29

This workshop teaches you how to get the most possible points out of a mid-term or exam essay answer. We also discuss testing patterns and pitfalls typically found in Torts mid-terms.

Learning New Skills

Week 7 – 10/6

Why do we have the *BlueBook* and what is its relevance to me? This session details basic citation forms step-by-step, including full citations, short forms, pin cites, string cites, parallel citations, signals, and explanatory parentheticals.

Fall Break 10/7-10/12

Week 8 – 10/13

Wellness Week! **Stay tuned for special programming TBA**

Assessment and Re-grouping CHECK-IN WEEKS

Week 9 – 10/20

These two weeks are dedicated to individual conferences with 1Ls. Let's discuss the feedback you are getting from your professors on mid-terms and legal writing assignments.

Week 10 – 10/27

Managing Time

Week 11 – 11/3

Trying to get everything done can be stressful... outlines, editing, and studying...whew! This session will deliver effective Time and Stress Management from week 11 through the end of the exam period.

Exams

Week 12 – 11/10

Sponsored by the McNeill Law Society, first-year students meet with panel members to discuss their exam strategy successes and failures – lessons learned! **Lunch will be provided!**

Week 13 – 11/17: You are Ready

This final session focuses on exam preparation, practice resources, and crafting the perfect answer.

** In this time frame you can expect to see changes in the schedule to reflect mid-term preparation workshops as professors schedule their exams*

