

ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM



1L ACADEMIC SKILLS CLASSES – FALL 2023

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Academic Success Program at the University of Richmond School of Law is designed to empower students to maximize their potential for success in law school and beyond. Our goal is to help students make the transition to law school easier by providing guidance about how to properly prepare for, engage in, and reflect upon their law school classes. Through weekly/biweekly open attendance Academic Skills classes, first-year students will receive instruction on the skills necessary for success in the law classroom. Fall semester program topics include Case Reading, Case Briefing, Time Management, Outlining, Study Strategies, and Exam Preparation.

Course Professor: Krishnee Coley, Associate Professor of Law, Legal Practice, Director of Academic Success Program. email – Krishnee.coley@richmond.edu, office – Room 204, phone – (804) 289-8950.

Class Meets: Mondays from 12 – 12:50 pm (location will vary/check full schedule below for specific dates and topics)

Student Learning Objectives: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to critically read and brief cases.
2. Demonstrate the ability to synthesize substantial material in preparation for exam study.
3. Demonstrate the ability to analyze and write essay answers.
4. Demonstrate the ability to critique multiple-choice questions.
5. Recognize their learning styles.
6. Demonstrate the ability to manage their time by creating and following a schedule; and
7. Demonstrate the ability to self-assess and make appropriate corrections in their study strategies

Class Policies:

- Students will check in via Qwickly for attendance tracking. The Academic Skills classes are voluntary, but Prof. Coley tracks attendance to assess students' interest level in the topics presented.
- Lunch will be provided, unless otherwise indicated. Students may grab your lunch and eat during the session.
- Students may join us at any time during the session.
- Students should add the Academic Success Program Blackboard page to review course materials before and/or after a session.
- No photographs or recording: Students may not take screenshots, photos, make audio or video recordings of material presented in class or the Zoom screen without the express permission of the professor. Slides will be posted on Blackboard after each session. Moreover, the photography or recording of examinations and other non-distributed class materials for personal use provided during class, review sessions, office hours or otherwise is strictly prohibited.

SCHEDULE – FALL 2023

NOTE: Topics may change depending on specific needs/concerns of the first-year class or concerns identified by 1L faculty. Please frequently check the Academic Success Program Blackboard page for course announcements, including classroom location updates, course resources, and handouts. *LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AT ALL THE LARGE-GROUP SESSIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.*

PREPARING FOR CLASS

Orientation Week

○ **Session 1 - Mon. 8/21/23**

Location: See Orientation Schedule/session times and rooms vary based on section

Topic: Critical Reading & Understanding Court Opinions, Case Briefing Introduction

○ **Session 2 -Thurs. 8/24/23**

Location: See Orientation Schedule/session times and rooms vary based on section

Topic: Effective Note-Taking Strategies & Class participation via Socratic Dialogue

○ **Session 3 – Fri. 8/25/23**

Location: See Orientation Schedule/session times and rooms vary based on section

Topic: Consolidating After Class - the importance of post-class review & an overview of case synthesis

Week 1 – Thurs. 8/31/23

Location: Tabling in the Commons - 12 – 12:50 pm

- Topic: Drop in/Quick Questions

Week 2 – Mon. 9/4/23: *Collaboration with Civil Procedure professors*

Location: multiple (students will report to their civil procedure classrooms after grabbing lunch)

- Topic: Case briefing review with specific strategies for briefing civil procedure cases. Each civil procedure professor will lead their students in a discussion of how to implement this skill, using materials from their course.

PREPARING FOR EXAMS

Week 3 – Wed. 9/13/23: *Collaboration with Civil Procedure professors*

Location: multiple (students will report to their civil procedure classrooms after grabbing lunch)

- Topic: Outlining overview & strategies. During this session, students will learn how an outline differs from case briefing, how outlining cements their learning, and tips on creating their own outlines.

Week 4 – Week of 9/18/23 – 9/22/23: *Collaboration with PIF & Professor Craft*

Location: PIF classes

- Topic: Effective Study Strategies & Using Study Aids; Guest Speaker, Prof. Hutchings

Week 5 – Mon. 9/25/23

Location: Room 102

- Topic: Midterm preparation with a focus on multiple-choice test-taking strategies and an overview of using IRAC/CRAC for essay answers.

Week 6 – Mon. 10/2/23: *Collaboration with Civil Procedure professors*

Location: multiple (students will report to their civil procedure classrooms after grabbing lunch)

- Topic: This session focuses on writing exam answers. The session will provide students with a foundation for understanding the various types of exam questions, with a particular emphasis on ways to approach, organize, analyze, and write the answer.

ASSESSMENT AND REFLECTION

Week 7 – Mon. 10/9/23 – Fri. 10/13/23: Individual appointments week/Sign up if you would like a one-on-one appointment with Prof. Coley

Location: Room 204 (Prof. Coley's office)

- Topic: Discuss the feedback you are receiving from your professors on midterms. Review various self-assessment tools to monitor and reflect on your performance.

Week 8 – Fall break (10/16 & 10/17): *No AS programs this week*

Week 9 – Mon. 10/23/23 – Fri. 10/27/23: Individual appointments week/Sign up if you would like a one-on-one appointment with Prof. Coley

Location: Room 204 (Prof. Coley's office)

- Topic: Discuss the feedback you are receiving from your professors on midterms. Review various self-assessment tools to monitor and reflect on your performance.

Week 10 – Mon. 10/30/23

Location: Room 102

- Topic: Forensic IRAC – using your midterm feedback to diagnose concerns, and strategies improve your exam performance.

Week 11- Mon. 11/6/23

Location: Room 102

- Topic: Putting Everything Together with a focus on time and task management from now through the end of the exam period, updating/editing your study guides, and studying.

EXAMS

Week 12 – Mon. 11/13/23

Location: Room 102

- Topic: – Final Exam Preparation with a focus on study resources, exam study plans, and exam practice.

Weeks 13 & 14 – (11/20/23 – 12/1/23) – Individual appointments/ Sign up if you would like a one-on-one appointment with Prof. Coley

Location: Room 204 (Prof. Coley's office)

- Topic: Discuss your final exam study plan.