

Adopted by the faculty on December 10, 2019

RULE 520.18 SKILLS COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT

1. ABA STANDARDS FOR JD DEGREES

The American Bar Association (ABA) requires that law schools require students to complete at least 6 credit hours of experiential learning that includes, clinics, simulation courses, and field placements/externships (see ABA Standard 303). The New York State Court of Appeals requires a separate requirement showing skills competency and professional values that must be completed before applying for admission to the New York bar. To accommodate both rules, the faculty adopted the following:

A. Experiential Learning

- i. All JD degree-bearing programs, 3-year and Executive 2-year J.D., require students fulfill 6 and 8 credits of experiential learning credits, respectively. Experiential learning credits include clinics, field placements/externships, and simulation courses that satisfy ABA Standard 304.
- ii. Adopted the plan (listed below) as Pathway I for purposes of certifying Gonzaga Law graduates' skills and values competence, in accordance with the New York Bar's admission standards set forth in 22 NYCRR 520.18.

2. PATHWAY 1

A. Pathway 1 is a certification of competence in skills and professional values.

B. Gonzaga Law graduates who seek admission to the New York Bar can submit a certificate confirming that:

- i. Gonzaga Law developed a plan to identify and adopt skills and professional values in its curriculum. The faculty and administration determined that the curriculum provides students the opportunity to attain basic competence and professional values for the ethical practice of law, and
- ii. The graduate seeking admission attained basic competence in those skills and professional values.

3. PATHWAY 2

- A. Gonzaga Law may certify experiential credits attained by graduates seeking admission to the New York Bar.
 - i. Gonzaga Law graduates that have completed 15 credits of experiential course work, as defined by ABA Standard 304, can satisfy Pathway 2.

4. GONZAGA LAW’S PATHWAY 1 PLAN

- A. 8-credit Legal Research and Writing curriculum. Students must pass each 2-credit course in the 8-credit series of required Legal Research and Writing courses. Legal Research and Writing includes 2 semesters of client-centered simulations and assignments. The courses introduce students to foundational lawyering skills such as critical reading, legal analysis, objective and persuasive writing, legal research, client interviewing, counseling, and other related skills.
- B. 4-credit Lab Skills courses. Students must pass each 2-credit course in the 2-course lab skills courses required of all 1L students. In the first semester, students are required to take Litigation Skills Lab. In the second semester, students are required to take Transactional Skills Lab. The students engage in client-centered assignments, and basic litigation and transactional skills.
- C. 3-credit Professional Responsibility course. Students must pass this 3-credit course. The course includes critical reading skills, simulations, and complex problem-solving skills in the context of professional ethics.
- D. 6-credit or 8-credit Experiential Learning requirement. Three-year J.D. students are required to take at least 6 credits and two-year J.D. students are required to take at least 8 credits of experiential learning courses. The courses must be simulation, clinic, or field placement/externship courses to qualify for experiential learning credit. For purposes of the New York Bar’s Pathway 1, Gonzaga Law certifies that its graduates who fulfill these requirements and the requirements set by the faculty for graduation are sufficiently competent in the skills and professional values for basic competence necessary for the ethical practice of law.

5. CHART OF COMPETENCIES AND CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Skills and Professional Values (NY Bar competency)	Curricular Requirements
Critical reading, comprehension, analysis and application of legal authority	Legal Research and Writing III & IV Adv. Legal Research All first year required doctrinal courses All first year required skills labs Clinics

	<p>Externship</p> <p>Simulation courses: Business Planning, Trial Advocacy, and ADR</p>
Identify specific legal issues within fact patterns	<p>Legal Research and Writing III & IV</p> <p>Adv. Legal Research</p> <p>All first year required doctrinal courses</p> <p>All first year required skills labs</p> <p>Prof. Responsibility</p> <p>Clinics</p> <p>Externship</p> <p>Simulation courses: Business Planning, Trial Advocacy, and ADR</p>
Demonstrate an ability to design and complete legal research projects	<p>Legal Research and Writing III & IV</p>
Competently write clearly, precisely, and effectively	<p>Legal Research and Writing III & IV</p> <p>Adv. Legal Research</p> <p>All first year required doctrinal courses</p> <p>All first year required skills labs</p>
Demonstrate the ability to speak clearly, logically and in a convincing manner about legal concepts	<p>All first year required skills labs</p> <p>Clinics</p> <p>Externship</p> <p>Simulation courses: Business Planning, Trial Advocacy, and ADR</p>
Effectively use law and policy tools when solving problems	<p>All first year required skills labs</p> <p>Clinics</p> <p>Externship</p> <p>Simulation courses: Business Planning, Trial Advocacy, and ADR</p>
Work collaboratively in a team, including leading and/or being part of a team, and utilizing supervision effectively	<p>All first year required skills labs</p> <p>Clinics</p> <p>Externship</p> <p>Simulation courses: Business Planning, Trial Advocacy, and ADR</p>
Understand foundational, basic lawyering skills, such as client interviewing, fact development, critical reading and analysis, client counseling, advocacy, negotiation, mediation, drafting, cultural competency, organization, and the use of technology	<p>All first year required skills labs</p> <p>Clinics</p> <p>Externship</p> <p>Simulation courses: Business Planning, Trial Advocacy, and ADR</p>
Understand the variety of law practice settings, such as transactional, litigation, policy work, legislation, etc.	<p>All first year required skills labs</p> <p>Clinics</p> <p>Externship</p> <p>Simulation courses: Business Planning, Trial Advocacy, and ADR</p> <p>Professional Responsibility</p>

	Advanced Legal Research
Understand how to develop professional expertise and maintain competence when representing clients	Clinics Externship Simulation courses: Business Planning, Trial Advocacy, and ADR Professional Responsibility
Demonstrate professionalism and abides by the ethical standards required of lawyers	Clinics Externship Simulation courses: Business Planning, Trial Advocacy, and ADR Professional Responsibility
Understand the unique responsibilities of lawyers to improve the legal profession and promote justice	Professional Responsibility