

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

A STUDENT'S ROAD TO SELF-CONCEPT AS LAWYER: CREATING INTENTIONAL PATHWAYS

FROM ORIENTATION TO GRADUATION

Building on over 45 years of its mandatory clinic, the University of New Mexico School of Law is committed to providing enhanced experiential learning opportunities across the curriculum, beginning at Orientation. Our learning environment provides platforms and continued opportunities that allow students to map their curricular paths with deeper engagement and understanding of critical lawyering skills and values.

BACKWARD DESIGN

"The best designs are derived backward from the learning sought."¹

The principles of backward design direct planners to articulate the learning goals of the institution and work backward to determine how to most effectively work towards those goals. This enhances student learning by strengthening opportunities to transfer learning across the curriculum beginning in the first year.

¹GRANT WIGGINS & JAY MCTIGHE, UNDERSTANDING BY DESIGN 14 (expanded 2d ed. 2006).

TRANSFER OF LEARNING: CREATING NEW MENTAL STRUCTURES

Students should be able to see why and how each aspect of their learning connects, builds and should transfer from one context or course to another.²

Designing for transfer presents opportunities and creates an environment for students to develop a conceptual framework, and then scaffold their learning so that they are able to apply that framework to new problems with a higher degree of insight and skill.

²Daniel T. Hickey & James & Pellegrino, *Theory, Level and Functions*, in TRANSFER OF LEARNING FROM A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE 251 (Jose P. Mestre ed., 2005).

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Experiential learning at UNMSOL ensures that students have the opportunity to "act" in the role of the lawyer as early as possible in law school, beginning in Orientation and continuing into the first, second and third year.

Created and Presented by Associate Dean of Experiential Learning, Professor Aliza Organick, and Professor April Land



**PIONEERING.
INCLUSIVE.
REQUIRED.**

1L YEAR

ORIENTATION

Introduce the concept of Role of Attorney
Meet with Clinic Faculty and Students
Provide Overview of Experiential Learning Opportunities Throughout the Curriculum
Experience a Virtual Tour of the Clinic

PROPOSED

PRACTICUM: THE ANATOMY OF LAW PRACTICE

Case Development and Theory
Client-Centered Lawyering
Simulated Client Interviewing
Reflective Lawyering
Mindfulness

Cultural Competency in Practice
Introduction to Fact Investigation
Introduction to Oral Advocacy
Writing Skills for Law Practice
Client Counseling
Professionalism
Ethics in a Real World Context

PROPOSED

ELEMENTS OF LEGAL ARGUMENTATION-I

Problem Solving
Argument Development
Identify Legal Issues
Legal Analysis
Introduction to Legal Research
Information Gathering
Legal Writing
Introduction to Client Communications

DOCTRINAL COURSES (e.g., Civ Pro, Crim, Contracts)

Identify Legal Issues
Substantive Law
Understanding the Appellate Case
Deciphering Various Types of Legal Texts
Legal Analysis

1 HOUR LAB

Problem Solving
Legal Research
Legal Drafting
Oral Communication
Ethical Considerations

PROPOSED

2L YEAR

MANDATORY PRE-CLINIC LAWYERING SEMINAR

Case Development
Client Interviewing
Cultural Competency in Practice
Fact Investigation
Legal Drafting
Written Communication
Oral Advocacy
Client Counseling
Ethics
Professionalism

PROPOSED

ADVANCED LEGAL WRITING ADVOCACY

Problem Solving
Professional Skills Needed for Competent Participation as a Member of the Legal Profession
Knowledge and Understanding of Substantive and Procedural Law
Legal Analysis and Reasoning
Legal Research
Written and Oral Communication in the Legal Context
Professionalism and Ethics

FAMILY LAW

Identifying Legal Issues
Simulated Negotiation of Marital Settlement Agreement
Basic Principles of Family Law
Legal Analysis of State and Federal Codes

1 HOUR LAB

Create a Divorce Checklist
Simulate Client Intake
Analyze New Mexico Statutes
Draft Case Intake Memo
Draft Acceptance Letter
Draft Petition for Divorce
Draft Client Advice Letter
Draft Office Memorandum

IMPLEMENTED SPRING 2017

3L YEAR

MANDATORY 6 CREDIT CLINIC PROGRAM

Client-Centered Problem Solving
Case Evaluation, Development, and Planning
Motion Practice
Professionalism
Civil and/or Criminal Procedure
Legal Research
Fact Investigation
Discovery
Drafting Legal Documents
Written Correspondence
Client Interviewing and Counseling
Negotiation & ADR
Case and Law Office Management
Use of Computer Technology and E-Filing
Professional and Ethical Decision-Making

SEMINAR COURSES

Substantive Law
Understanding the Appellate Case
Deciphering Various Types of Legal Texts
Identifying Legal Issues
Legal Analysis

1 HOUR LAB

Problem Solving
Legal Research
Legal Drafting
Oral Communication
Ethical Considerations

PROPOSED

JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP

Assessment of the Quality of the Representation
Judicial Decision-Making Process
Legal Research
Document Drafting
Summarizing Case Files

FIRST YEAR IN PRACTICE

THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Problem Solving
Professional Identity Formation
Culturally Reflective Lawyering
Legal Analysis
Legal Research
Fact Investigation
Written and Oral Communication
Counseling
Negotiation
Organization and Management of Legal Work
Recognizing and Resolving Ethical Dilemmas

This framework is a modified version of the skills and values articulated in "MacCrate Report," ROBERT MACCRATE, ABA TASK FORCE REPORT ON LAW SCHOOLS AND THE PROFESSION: NARROWING THE GAP (American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar 1992).