

As approved by the faculty August 17, 2016

Quinnipiac University School of Law Institutional Learning Outcomes

I. Introduction

The School of Law has organized its institutional learning outcomes into two general categories: “first tier” learning outcomes and “second tier” learning outcomes.

- **First Tier Learning Outcomes** are outcomes that *all* students should achieve by graduation, regardless of the practice area(s) in which they expect to focus in post-law school employment.
- **Second Tier Learning Outcomes** are tailored to particular areas of the law in which students plan to focus in post-law school employment. For that reason, the law school does not expect that *all* students will achieve *all* of these second tier outcomes.

Students who have not yet settled upon a particular focus for post-law school employment should achieve *at least* the first tier learning outcomes, and they should also aspire to achieve those second tier learning outcomes that relate to their likely future practice focuses.

II. First Tier Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1: Graduates are expected to demonstrate competency in legal analysis and reasoning and legal problem solving.

Specific Criteria

Graduates are expected to demonstrate competency in the following:

1. Reading cases, statutes and regulations effectively to glean rules and—if in play—the developmental history and policies underlying the rules.
2. Recognizing issues and possible rules implicated in new and unfamiliar factual situations.
3. Applying applicable rules effectively to understand potential arguments and counter-arguments in new and unfamiliar factual situations.
4. Assessing what additional facts may need to be gathered for appropriate analysis of a legal issue.
5. Assessing the relative strength of arguments and predicting likely outcomes effectively for legal issues.
6. Analyzing applicable rules and facts to formulate and evaluate potential solutions to legal problems.

Outcome 2: Graduates are expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal theory, systems and doctrine, including core areas of substantive and procedural law and alternative methods for resolving disputes.

Specific Criteria

Graduates are expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following:

1. The American federal and state legal systems, including their structures of rulemaking and governance and their historical background.
2. Core doctrine and theory in “foundation” areas, including those that will be tested on the bar examination.
3. The range of dispute resolution processes and the ability to advise clients and others on choices of process/forum.
4. Appellate review standards and practices.
5. The impact of law and legal rules on society and its various sub-groups.

Outcome 3: Graduates are expected to demonstrate competency in oral and written communication in the legal context.

Specific Criteria

Graduates are expected to demonstrate the following:

1. Competency in cogently communicating analysis and advice orally in a range of settings and contexts.
2. Competency in listening effectively to clients and others.
3. Competency in cogently communicating analysis and advice in writing across a range of types of writings (e.g., memos, briefs and client letters).
4. At least a basic understanding of principles of logic and rhetoric.
5. At least novice-level understanding of and competency in a spectrum of advocacy skills.

Outcome 4: Graduates are expected to demonstrate competency in legal research and understanding of the factual research needed to solve legal problems.

Specific Criteria

Graduates are expected to demonstrate the following:

1. Competency in legal research, including effective use of technology for that research.
2. Understanding of factual investigation, including an understanding of effective strategies and practices for gathering the facts needed to evaluate legal issues or problems.

Outcome 5: Graduates are expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the attorney's professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system.

Specific Criteria

Graduates are expected to demonstrate the following:

1. Knowledge and understanding of the professional rules and the ability to recognize and resolve ethical dilemmas in a range of practice settings.
2. Knowledge and understanding of the attorney's ethical obligation to represent clients diligently and competently.
3. Knowledge and understanding of the attorney's ethical obligation to behave professionally and civilly.
4. Knowledge and understanding of the attorney's ethical obligation to behave in accordance with the rules governing confidentiality and conflicts of interest.
5. Knowledge and understanding of the attorney's ethical obligation to strive to promote justice (including access to justice) and fairness and to assist the profession in providing legal services to those who cannot afford to pay for them.

Outcome 6: Graduates are expected to demonstrate at least novice-level competency in other professional skills needed for competent, effective and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.

Specific Criteria

Graduates are expected to demonstrate the following:

1. At least novice-level understanding of and competency in approaches for managing conflict for effective problem solving.
2. At least novice-level competency in collaborative work approaches.
3. At least novice-level understanding of and competency in effective approaches for client interviewing and counseling.
4. At least novice-level understanding of and competency in effective negotiation practices.
5. At least novice-level understanding of and competency in "learning how to learn" (techniques for finding guidance for unfamiliar tasks).
6. Competency in interviewing for employment and planning for long-term career development.

III. Second Tier Learning Outcomes (UNDER DEVELOPMENT)