

# Plan for Assessing Student Learning

*University of Wyoming College of Law*

## **I. Student Learning Outcomes**

Graduates of the University of Wyoming College of Law, upon successful completion of their course of legal study, should be able to do the following:

1. Understand and explain the basic principles of foundational legal subjects well enough to apply them to real-world scenarios.
2. Demonstrate the ability to think like a lawyer by identifying all the relevant facts and legal issues in a problem and interpreting and applying the law to them to support a persuasive conclusion.
3. Write a wide variety of professional quality materials, such as research papers, memoranda, legal opinions, contracts, and litigation documents, as well as documents intended for a lay audience (e.g., clients and policy makers).
4. Speak effectively in a variety of settings, including public presentations, legal and non-legal, and one-on-one or small group meetings.
5. Apply a broad understanding of legal processes and forums, and of alternative means of dispute resolution, to the solution of legal problems.
6. Research legal questions in a thorough manner.
7. Show the good judgment and practice skills necessary to comply with ethical rules and demonstrate professionalism, civility, integrity, cross-cultural competency, and compassion.

ABA Standard 302 requires a law school to “establish learning outcomes that shall, at a minimum, include competency in the following:

- (a) Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law;
- (b) Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication in the legal context;
- (c) Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system; and
- (d) Other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.”

Our stated learning outcomes are intended to include competency in these four minimum areas.

## **II. Measures**

The College of Law will measure achievement of these learning outcomes by reviewing the following:

1. Grades in law courses

2. Satisfaction of the advanced writing requirement
3. Satisfaction of the experiential learning requirement
4. Bar exam passage rates
5. Placement rates
6. Student surveys evaluating the sufficiency of their education

### **III. Evaluation and Planning**

The Curriculum and Assessment Committee will annually collect and evaluate the results of the measures described above to determine the degree of student achievement of the learning outcomes and to identify appropriate changes to improve student achievement. The Committee will present its evaluation and recommendations to the Dean and faculty for discussion and consideration. The faculty plans to identify at least one action for improvement each year. The Committee will evaluate the results of such actions and report its evaluation to the Dean and faculty.