



# Juris Doctorate

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Course Catalog and Graduation  
Requirements

[www.MontereyLaw.edu](http://www.MontereyLaw.edu)



## Juris Doctorate Degree (JD)

The JD program at Monterey College of Law is tailored for community-focused, working professionals seeking a legal education while balancing their work, family, and personal commitments. Designed with flexibility in mind, the program offers on-site or online evening classes, allowing students to attend law school after their regular workday.

### Flexibility to Accommodate Professional & Personal Obligations

Students in the JD program will complete a comprehensive curriculum totaling 90 units, including doctrinal, elective, and experiential courses, over the course of four years. The program emphasizes practical legal skills development, providing opportunities for students to engage in moot court, legal clinics, and internships. These hands-on experiences help students develop the real-world legal skills essential for successful legal practice, while also contributing to the community.

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The JD program is designed to be completed in **4 years, with a 3.5 year graduation path available for those who academically qualify.**

90

JD students will complete a 90-unit program which **includes doctrinal, elective, and experiential courses**

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**JD students will complete a minimum of 4 clinical units,** providing valuable opportunities to enhance their resumes while gaining practical legal experience during law school.

# Juris Doctorate Degree Requirements



## First Year

### Required 1L Courses

Two 3-Unit One-Semester Classes	Must Complete Fall and Spring Semesters Sequentially	6 Units Total
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#### 1 Contracts I & II

These classes cover enforceable agreements including requirements for the formation of a contract; problems of interpretation, consideration and its equivalent; damages for breach; the statute of frauds; illegality, and rights and liabilities of third parties arising from the contract itself or from assignment of contractual rights or delegation of duties.

Two 3-Unit One-Semester Classes	Must Complete Fall and Spring Semesters Sequentially	6 Units Total
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#### 2 Criminal Law & Procedure

Topics include substantive criminal law and elements of criminal responsibility; law of crimes against persons; property; and habitation; the theory of criminal responsibility, parties and defenses to crimes. Also covered are the procedures for indictments, arrest, bail, trial sentencing, and appeals.

Two 3-Unit One-Semester Classes	Must Complete Fall and Spring Semesters Sequentially	6 Units Total
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#### 3 Torts I & II

The historical development and nature of non-contractual civil law, which allocates the economic burden of various injuries. A study of the principles of liability for harm.



# First Year

## Required 1L Courses cont.

Two 1-Unit One-Semester Classes	Must Complete Fall and Spring Semesters Sequentially	2 Units Total
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*Must pass LWI A to move to LWI B*

### 4 Legal Writing I A & B

Students learn to read cases and statutes, extract rules and elements, synthesize rules and elements, analyze legal problems in IRAC format, and write **objective** legal analysis in a cogent style using proper prescriptive grammar and punctuation.

One Semester Course	Offered in Fall	1 Unit Course
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### 5 Legal Skills

This class addresses key skills needed for law school, the bar exam, and the practice of law. Students review key facts, rule synthesis, analogies and comparisons, analysis and essay writing. This course meets five times in the fall.

One Semester Course	Offered in Summer	2 Unit Course
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### 6 Professional Responsibility

An examination of the lawyer's obligation to the client and the public. The class examines the professional rules contained in the American Bar Association Model Code and the California Rules of Professional Conduct.



## First Year

### Required 1L Courses cont.

One Semester  
Course

Offered in  
Summer

2 Unit  
Course

#### 7 Legal Research

Students learn how to use Lexis-Nexis as a repository of legal authority and analyze both primary and secondary sources to support objective analysis.



## Second Year

### Required 2L Courses

Two 3-Unit One-Semester Classes	Must Complete Fall and Spring Semesters Sequentially	6 Units Total
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#### 1 Civil Procedure I & II

This course covers the rules of preparing and bringing a civil case to trial. The concepts of formation of a claim (pleadings), pretrial preparation (discovery) and the law and cases governing personal and subject matter jurisdiction and venue are introduced along with summary judgment, interpleader and res judicata.

Two 3-Unit One-Semester Classes	Must Complete Fall and Spring Semesters Sequentially	6 Units Total
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*Prerequisite- Contracts*

#### 2 Real Property I & II

The historical development and current application of real property law, including the nature of estates, landlord/tenant rights and obligations, life estates, rules against perpetuities, vesting, restraints on alienation, easements, servitudes, nuisances, lateral support, regulation of land use, transfer of interest in land, and financing of real estate.

Two 3-Unit One-Semester Classes	Must Complete Fall and Spring Semesters Sequentially	6 Units Total
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*Prerequisite- Criminal Law & Procedure*

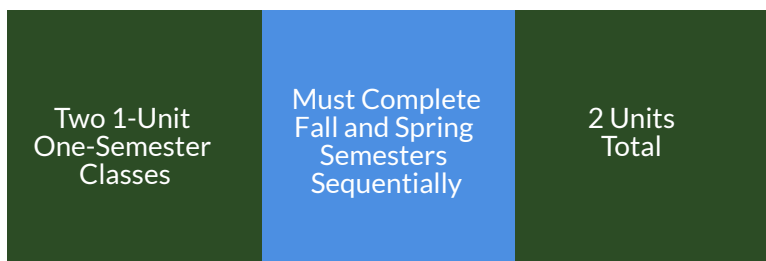
#### 3 Evidence I & II

Both the Federal Rules of Evidence and California Statutes are used to explore the concepts of relevance, hearsay, witness competency, privileges, presumptions, burdens of proof and judicial notice.



# Second Year

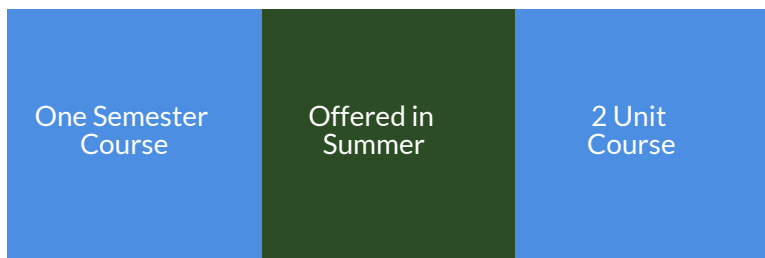
## Required 2L Courses cont.



Prerequisite- Legal Writing I, Must pass LWII A to move to LWII B

### 4 Advanced Legal Writing (LWII) A & B

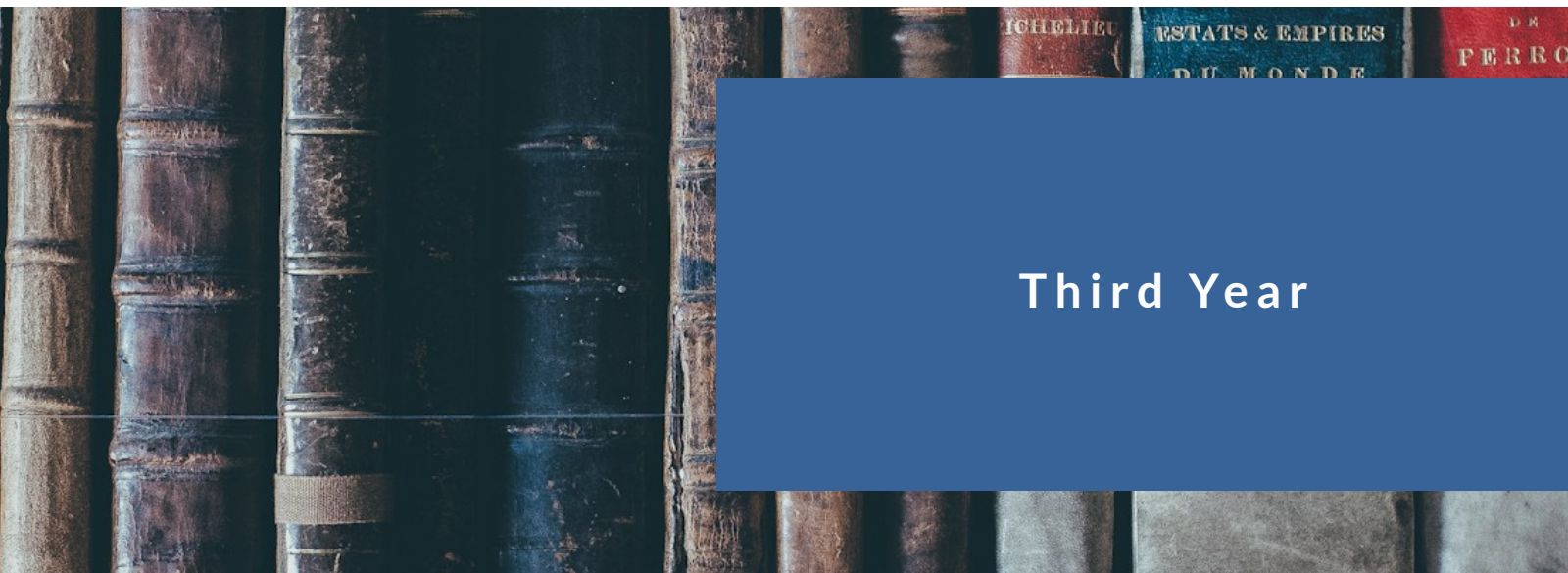
Students learn to extract and synthesize more complex rules from statutes and cases, use the elements of classic persuasion and storytelling, implement motion practice, and write persuasive legal documents using proper prescriptive grammar and punctuation.



Prerequisites- Legal Writing I, Legal Writing II

### 5 Appellate Writing (LWIII)

Students learn about appellate practice, implement more complex classic persuasion and storytelling, and engage in oral presentations both in the form of classroom presentations to classmates and oral arguments before judges.



## Third Year

### Required 3L Courses

Two 3-Unit One-Semester Classes	Must Complete Fall and Spring Semesters Sequentially	6 Units Total
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*Prerequisites-Crim Law & Procedure, Evidence*

#### 1 Constitutional Law I & II

A study of the United States Constitution with an emphasis on the theory and practice of judicial interpretation and review. Topics include the separation of federal powers, the relation of the federal government to the states and specific government powers (tax, treaty, war, and commercial). The course also covers limitations placed on the exercise of governmental power, emphasizing the Bill of Rights, due process and equal protection clauses.

Two 3-Unit One-Semester Classes	Must Complete Fall and Spring Semesters Sequentially	6 Units Total
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#### 2 Business Law I & II

The law related to the formation and operation of California corporations. Detailed consideration is given to exemption provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, the proxy, anti-fraud and insider trading provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and pertinent SEC regulations. Included is an in-depth examination of the practical skills and application of the law.

One Semester Course	Offered in Fall	3 Unit Course
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*Prerequisite- Real Property*

#### 3 Community Property

The nature of property interests of married California residents including identifying and tracing community and separate property, management and control of marital property, liability for debts, of dissolution of marriage, annulment or legal separation are viewed and property rights of non-marital partners are covered.





# Third Year

## Required 3L Courses Cont.

One Semester Course	Offered in Summer	2 unit course
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*Prerequisite-Constitutional Law*

### 4 Moot Court

Moot Court Competition gives students an opportunity to study advanced constitutional issues. The semester culminates in a series of hearings, where local judges hear the students' oral arguments on each side of a current civil liberties issue. The public is invited to witness the final round of arguments by four students in front of an appellate judges.

## Fourth Year

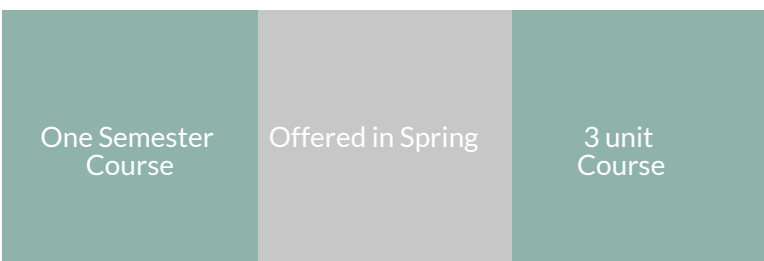
### Required 4L Courses



*Prerequisites-Real Property, Community Property*

#### 1 Wills & Trusts

A study of California law regarding the succession of property, wills, and trusts.



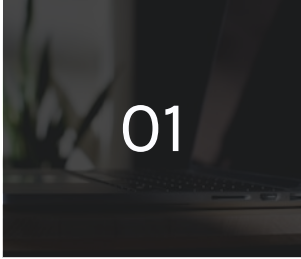
*Prerequisites-1L & 2L*

#### 2 Remedies

A general survey of equity including the adequacy of legal remedies, injunctions, specific performance, declaratory relief and the jurisdiction and powers of courts of equity. The course also covers the measure of damages in contracts, torts and property, and enforcement of money judgments.

# Clinical Units, Electives, & Other Requirements

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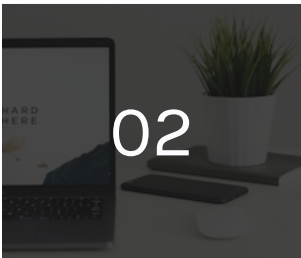


## Required Clinical Units

- Core Mediation (two-unit course)
- Two clinical studies units

Students can fulfill the clinical studies requirement by participating in the law school's advisory clinics. Eligible third and fourth-year students may also complete approved legal internships.

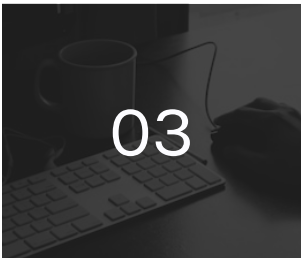
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## General Elective units

JD Students must complete 16 units of electives.

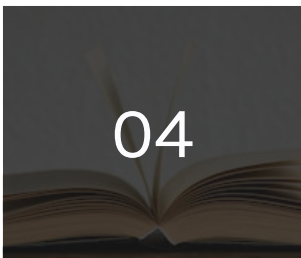
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## Joint JD/MLS Degree

To earn the Joint JD/MLS Degree, students must successfully complete Gibson Appellate Writing or the MLS Thesis in addition to the JD degree requirements.

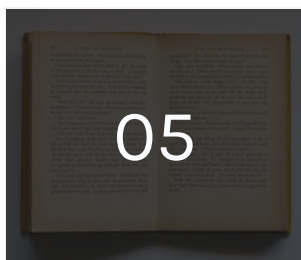
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## Hybrid Online JD

Students completing their degree online must attend an on-site symposium once per year.

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## Required Bar Preparation Class

The graduating class of 2028 and beyond must complete a required bar preparation class in their last year of study.

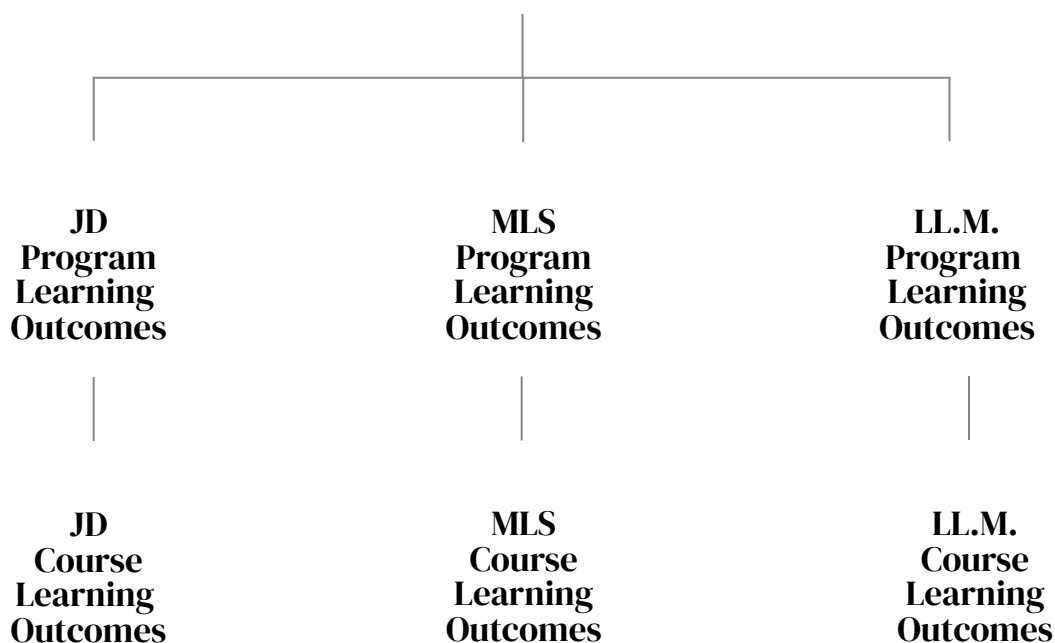
# Institutional to Program to Course Learning Outcomes

At Monterey College of Law, our institutional learning outcomes serve as the foundation for all academic programs, providing a cohesive framework that guides the development of program-specific learning outcomes. These institutional outcomes reflect our core mission to cultivate knowledge, skills, and ethical values that prepare students for meaningful contributions to the legal profession and society.

The program learning outcomes, whether for the Juris Doctor (JD), Master of Legal Studies (MLS), or Master of Laws (LL.M.) programs, are directly aligned with these overarching goals, translating them into specific competencies tailored to each program.

At the course level, Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) are designed to reflect and support the PLOs of the respective programs. CLOs are aligned with PLOs through detailed curriculum mapping, ensuring that each course contributes to the development of skills and competencies outlined in the program-level outcomes. The alignment between ILOs, PLOs, and CLOs ensures a coherent and integrated learning experience across all programs. This systematic approach allows MCL to assess and enhance student achievement at every level, fostering continuous improvement and maintaining alignment with accreditation standards.

## Institutional Learning Outcomes



At Monterey College of Law, our institutional learning outcomes are designed to cultivate the knowledge, skills, and professional values necessary for success in the legal field. These outcomes reflect our commitment to academic excellence, ethical responsibility, and the pursuit of justice, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to meet the diverse challenges of legal practice and leadership in an evolving global society. Through rigorous coursework, experiential learning opportunities, and a focus on critical thinking and effective communication, we aim to produce competent, ethical, and reflective practitioners equipped to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the legal profession.

## **INSTITUTIONAL Learning Outcomes**

### **1 Legal Knowledge**

Graduates will acquire a comprehensive understanding of fundamental legal principles and theories relevant to their specific legal degree program.

### **2 Legal Application**

Graduates will develop critical reading, thinking, and communication skills important in all work related to the law, including the ability to competently apply principles of law to fact situations to inform resolution and counseling strategies, and the ability to communicate those strategies persuasively and professionally in both written and oral form.

### **3 Ethics, Values, and Professionalism**

Graduates will demonstrate good judgment consistent with the legal profession's ethics, values, and duties to clients, the legal system, and society.

### **4 Service to Justice and the Rule of Law**

Graduates will attain skills for furthering the goal of impartial justice and protecting the rule of law. Through experience with diverse individuals, cultures, ideas, and perspectives, they will be encouraged to enhance justice through service to their communities and the public.

### **5 Reflection and Self-Fulfillment**

Graduates will be able to reflect on their values, learning, and performance as these relate to their responsibilities as professionals to continuously learn, evolve, and achieve self-fulfillment.

# JD PROGRAM Learning Outcomes

The Juris Doctor (JD) program is designed to prepare students for the challenges and responsibilities of legal practice in a dynamic and diverse society. Our program learning outcomes emphasize the development of foundational legal knowledge, advanced analytical and problem-solving skills, and a deep commitment to ethical and professional responsibility.

The JD program equips students to think critically, advocate effectively, and engage meaningfully with complex legal issues through academic study, practical training, and opportunities for specialized focus. These outcomes reflect our dedication to producing competent, compassionate, and socially responsible legal professionals prepared to excel in a wide range of career paths and serve the broader interests of justice.

## JD Program Learning Outcomes

### Doctrinal Knowledge

Students will master knowledge and understanding of pertinent principles and theories of the law, their relationships, and their limitations

### Professional Analytics

Students will analyze the legal rules and principles applicable to a problem and formulate legal theories. Students will apply problem solving skills to diagnose a legal problem, generate alternative solutions, and develop a plan of action.

### Communication Skills

Students will communicate effectively, whether advocating, advising a client, eliciting information, or effectuating a legal transaction.

### Professional Responsibility

Students will have knowledge and understanding of established standards related to a lawyer's professional conduct including the ability to recognize and solve ethical issues and multicultural issues arising in practical situations.



# JD PROGRAM Learning Outcome Assessment

The JD program learning outcomes are assessed through both direct and indirect methods designed to measure students' mastery of core competencies, legal knowledge, and professional skills. Direct assessments include final examinations, multiple choice question tests, written assignments, moot court exercises, clinical evaluations, and capstones tied to the learning outcomes. Indirect assessments include bar passage rates, student surveys, and overall career placement data. Faculty and academic leadership review these various data sources to pinpoint strengths and areas for improvement, guiding curriculum and teaching refinements to ensure the JD program remains aligned with both institutional goals and professional standards.

JD Program Learning Outcome	PLO 1: Doctrinal Knowledge	PLO 2: Professional Analytics (Critical Thinking)	PLO 3A: Communication Skills (Oral)	PLO 3B: Communication Skills (Written)	PLO 5: Professional Responsibility
	Students will master knowledge and understanding of pertinent principles and theories of the law, their relationships, and their limitations.	Students will analyze the legal rules and principles applicable to a problem and formulate legal theories. Students will apply problem-solving skills to diagnose a legal problem, generate alternative solutions, and develop a plan of action	Students will communicate effectively, whether advocating, advising a client, eliciting information, or effectuating a legal transaction.	Students will communicate effectively, whether advocating, advising a client, eliciting information, or effectuating a legal transaction.	Students will have knowledge and understanding of established standards related to a lawyer's professional conduct, including the ability to recognize and solve ethical issues and multicultural issues arising in practical situations.

Beginning Level Competency

Contracts	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency	70% MBE quiz average to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Torts	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency	70% MBE quiz average to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Criminal Law & Procedure	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency	70% MBE quiz average to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Legal Writing		P / P+ to demonstrate competency		P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency
Legal Research		P/P+ to demonstrate competency		P/P+ to demonstrate competency	
Professional Responsibility					70+ course grade to demonstrate competency
Core Mediation		P/P+ to demonstrate competency	P/P+ to demonstrate competency		

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Intermediate Level Competency

Evidence	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency	70% MBE quiz average to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Civil Procedure	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency	70% MBE quiz average to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Real Property	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency	70% MBE quiz average to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Legal Writing II		P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency
Appellate Writing		P/P+ to demonstrate competency	P/P+ to demonstrate competency	P/P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency
Clinical Education		P / P+ to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback



# JD PROGRAM Learning Outcome Assessment

JD Program Learning Outcome	PLO 1: Doctrinal Knowledge	PLO 2: Professional Analytics (Critical Thinking)	PLO 3A: Communication Skills (Oral)	PLO 3B: Communication Skills (Written)	PLO 5: Professional Responsibility
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Advanced Level Competency

Constitutional Law	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency	70% MBE quiz average to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Community Property	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency		Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Business Law	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency		Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Moot Court		P / P+ to demonstrate competency	P / P+ to demonstrate competency		P / P+ to demonstrate competency
Remedies	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency		Nongraded assessment feedback		P / P+ to demonstrate competency
Wills & Trusts	70+ course grade to demonstrate competency		Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback
Clinical Education		P / P+ to demonstrate competency	Nongraded assessment feedback		Nongraded assessment feedback