

Law School Technical Standards

The Alexander Blewett III School of Law prides itself in providing a legal education that integrates theory and practice. Our admissions materials underscore the importance of practice-ready skills, indicating that we offer “students a progressive, experience-rich education that combines legal theory with hands-on, first-person practical education...” and that “[s]tudents graduate ready to practice law thanks to a curriculum that requires participation in clinical programs.” Our curriculum and teaching methods aim at ensuring our graduates are capable of functioning as competent and ethical practitioners who will work professionally with clients, judges, attorneys, and others in the legal community. This requires that candidates for the Juris Doctor degree possess and maintain the cognitive abilities and mental and emotional stability required to competently and ethically represent clients in the resolution of legal problems in a timely manner. For purposes of this document, the term “candidate” means candidates for admission to the law school as well as enrolled law students who are candidates for graduation. The technical standards set forth below identify the essential abilities and characteristics required of all candidates and are not intended to deter or exclude candidates for whom reasonable accommodations for a disability will allow successful participation in and completion of the Juris Doctor program.

Time Management Skills

- A candidate must demonstrate the ability to meet deadlines, keep scheduled appointments, and timely complete all classroom and clinical assignments and administrative tasks within the assigned timeframe.
- A candidate must adhere to the School of Law's attendance policy as it applies to each course and must punctually attend class.
- The candidate must be able to timely complete assigned tasks in a satisfactory manner and attend classes, client meetings, and court proceedings prepared and ready to participate.

Communication Skills

- A candidate must be able to communicate in a respectful, professional and candid manner.
- A candidate must be able to understand and respond to oral and written directions and constructive feedback in a mature manner.
- A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms in a prompt and comprehensive manner regardless of the forum, including classroom discussion, assignments, court hearings, client meetings, and negotiated matters.
- A candidate must be able to review written and oral material in a timely and efficient manner required to participate, be called upon and answer questions without advance notice in a classroom or other instructional setting, including a clinical placement.

Organizational Skills

- A candidate must be able to follow directions, make reasonable inferences, and organize and synthesize information.
- A candidate must be able to organize ideas to communicate in writing and orally.
- A candidate must be able to coherently organize large amounts of information, as well as manage legal work in a clinical placement.

Behavioral Skills

- A candidate must possess the good judgment, honesty, integrity, and interpersonal skills required to work successfully under stressful conditions and to work well with others.
- A candidate must be able to tolerate and manage competing demands and workloads as mentally and emotionally taxing as are routinely found in the legal profession.
- A candidate must be able to adapt to changing circumstances.
- A candidate must be able to monitor his or her own behavior, act civilly, and adhere to all other norms of professional conduct.
- A candidate must be able to provide competent representation in a clinical placement.
- Intellectual, Conceptual and Integrative Skills
- A candidate must have the ability to set goals, formulate a plan to accomplish those goals, and implement the plan over time.
- A candidate must be able to understand, synthesize and apply complex information, and must have the ability to integrate and process information promptly and accurately.
- A candidate must be able to demonstrate mental and emotional skills and abilities to learn and to conduct effective problem solving; legal analysis, reasoning and research; factual investigation; oral advocacy, organization and management of legal work and client counseling in a classroom and a clinical placement.