



OUR MISSION, GOALS, AND GRADUATES

MISSION AND GOALS

The Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana prepares students for the people-oriented practice of law by integrating theory and practice in a competency-based curriculum; serves as the academic legal center in Montana; and contributes to the development of national, state, and tribal law and legal institutions through teaching, scholarship, and service.

In pursuit of this mission, the Blewett School of Law strives to:

- Develop in its students the demonstrated ability to serve society as lawyers, to represent clients generally and in particular transactions, and to seek resolution of conflicts in appropriate forums;
- Foster intellectual inquiry, knowledge of the law, fundamental professional skills, perspective on the role of law and lawyers in society, and the character and values necessary to serve society;
- Support scholarship and provide professional service to Montana, tribal governments and communities, the nation, and the international community;
- Emphasize those areas of law significant to the Rocky Mountain West, including natural resources, environmental, and Indian law; and
- Promote among students, faculty, and the profession a sense of community enriched by a diverse group of people devoted to freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression.

GRADUATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Blewett School of Law graduates students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to serve society as lawyers.

- Our graduates possess a practical understanding of substantive and procedural law, including:

- Law significant to the Rocky Mountain West;
 - Legal theory and legislative, executive, and judicial roles in law and policy-making; and
 - Graduates who complete our certificate programs possess additional expertise in natural resources and environmental law, Indian law, or dispute resolution.
- Our graduates are proficient in fundamental lawyering skills, including:
 - The identification of legal issues;
 - Legal research;
 - Legal analysis;
 - Factual investigation and development;
 - Problem-solving;
 - Objective and persuasive oral and written communication;
 - Client interviewing and counseling;
 - The organization and management of legal work;
 - The recognition and resolution of ethical dilemmas;
 - Negotiation;
 - Dispute resolution;
 - Document-drafting;
 - The use of technology; and
 - Cross-cultural competence.
 - Our graduates recognize the character, values, and professionalism necessary to serve society as lawyers, including:
 - Excellence in their role as a representative of clients, an officer of the court, and a public citizen responsible for the quality and availability of justice;
 - Diversity and equality of opportunity in the practice of law;
 - The importance of *pro bono* work, service, and access to justice for underserved communities;
 - Collaboration with clients and other professionals; and
 - The capacity for self-reflection as key to continuous learning, self-improvement, and self-development.