



UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER

Sturm College of Law
Lawyering Process Program

Areas of Consistency within the Lawyering Process Program

April 2009

Program Mission Statement

The Lawyering Process Program provides first year law students with an introduction to the essential lawyering skills (among them - research, writing, analytical thinking, and oral advocacy) that are necessary to be an effective, ethical, and professional member of the legal community in a rigorous, supportive learning environment that uses a client-centered approach to advocacy.

Areas of Consistency within the Program

1. Grading – through use of mandated first year curve and other school policies, but grade distribution not set program-wide.
2. Amount of work –
 - a. Measured by number of pages required each semester. (Number is approx. 50 per student in Fall and 50 per student in Spring)
 - b. Measured by type of assignment. Fall requirement is office memo. May be either open or closes universe, must require a rewritten version. Weight of the memo and rewritten version will range between 40-70%
3. Research skills, both print resources and Westlaw/Lexis. Library will prepare library tips for everyone.
4. Each class will use a least one outside attorney, either as Senior Partner, Senior Attorney, etc.
5. Class can be structured in a variety of ways, but assignments will reflect “real life” legal assignments.
6. No required text – professors may choose own text, or choose not to use a text
7. To extent possible, class sized will be consistent, with all classes scheduled in rooms with similar technology capabilities.
8. At least two individual/small group meetings per student per semester.
9. No standard problem, but fall problem should be “1L friendly.”
10. At least one collaboration experience each semester, bearing in mind the logistic issues of evening working students.
11. Some sort of oral communication experience each semester.
12. LP Faculty will give detailed feedback on major assignments. If solely written comments, teachers will provide both interlinear and end comments on these assignments.
13. Final assessment fall semester a major project, due within a week of Thanksgiving. Major writing assignment due dates will be communicated amongst the LP Faculty and coordinating them within a week of each other is preferred. No exam during finals week.
14. Attempt to coordinate intermediate assignment due dates with other classes.

15. While assignments before the final project will still be given numbers or raw scores rather than letter grades, each professor will clearly communicate the meaning of those numbers or scores, particularly to students who may be in academic trouble.
16. Rubric for each assignment will be given to students in advance.
17. Grammar and Usage Diagnostic given to all students.
18. AAP will work with LP to try to present supplemental workshops on technology, library skills, and academic skills.
19. CaseMap training will be offered to all students, but up to individual professor whether to require such training, and how to incorporate that software into the course.
20. All classes will have TA within budgetary requirements.
21. LP will continue to have a Writing award for each semester, with one nomination from each class, outside judges for final selection.