



STUDENT LEARNING GOALS AND OUTCOMES*

Adopted by the Faculty of the Sturm College of Law
January 20, 2026

Purpose

These student learning goals and outcomes - agreed upon by faculty consensus - are aspirational in nature. The idea is not that they can be achieved perfectly, but that they are what we are aiming for as an institution to form well-rounded professional law graduates and help prepare them for continued learning in practice. They are to be used to aid the faculty in improving teaching and learning directed at our law students. The intent is for this document to be iterative, that is, to serve as a living guide subject to improvement as more is learned about actual student learning.**

Non-Legal Contexts

In addition to the following goals and outcomes for our law education program, the Sturm College of Law recognizes that, to be successful, today's practice-ready lawyers must have a fundamental understanding of the culturally diverse society and larger world in which our legal system is situated. Accordingly, in addition to teaching and learning about the law, the Sturm College of Law seeks to facilitate students' awareness of contexts traditionally viewed as external to the study of law. Specifically, the Sturm College of Law will endeavor to offer courses focused on the business, social, and global contexts of legal practice. Thus, for example, in addition to attaining literacy in core legal skills, graduates should be able to understand basic business concepts (especially regarding the business of lawyering), engage appropriately with individuals from diverse backgrounds, and consider the implications of international events if called to do so in the course of representing a client. The study of business, social, and global contexts will allow our students to respond to the variety of challenges lawyers face in today's practice environment.

* These goals and outcomes are informed by the findings of the [Foundations for Practice](#) national survey of legal providers by the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS).

** The learning outcomes are more specific than the goals and are designed to be used in law school courses. These have been written with Bloom's Taxonomy as a guide. The Taxonomy is widely used in multiple educational contexts to make learning outcomes measurable. They are designed also to help our students progress, through the courses we teach them and the full program we offer, from novice to proficient in the law.

LEARNING GOALS

Graduates of the SCOL will:

- Develop and maintain a professional identity:
 - Understand their professional roles, boundaries, and limitations
 - Demonstrate an awareness of conflicts and obligations beyond those of the rules of professional conduct
 - Develop and maintain strategies to sustain mental, emotional, social, and physical well-being
 - Understand the personal risks of practice
 - Develop the ability to listen to, make an effort to understand, and integrate diverse and intercultural perspectives in a supportive manner
 - Possess a commitment to justice, including an awareness of the need to represent the defenseless and oppressed, and a commitment to public and pro bono service
 - Possess a commitment to the rule of law, including an understanding of the rule of law and its effects and impacts on all members of the community
 - Articulate an understanding of bias, cross-cultural competency, racism, and other forms of oppression and their impacts on clients, lawyering, and the legal profession
- Conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner, including:
 - Keep information confidential when legally and ethically appropriate
 - Adhere to the rules of professional conduct
 - Be consistently truthful and candid and honor commitments
 - Deal sensitively, maturely, and effectively with clients, colleagues, adversaries and courts and treat them with respect
 - Give proper attention to detail and maintain a high-quality work product

- Possess a proper work ethic, using best efforts and diligence to complete tasks on behalf of clients
- Take individual responsibility for actions and results and have the confidence to admit mistakes and seek assistance when needed
- Seek and be responsive to feedback
- See a case or project through from start to timely finish
- Identify client and stakeholder objectives, priorities, constraints, and expectations.
- Strive to forge within the bounds of the law the most efficient and favorable outcome to a client's matter
- Mediate among diverse interests (multi-party negotiation / dispute resolution)
- Navigate challenging or time-sensitive situations
- Work with experts and other non-lawyers
- Set goals and make a plan to meet them
- Solve problems collaboratively, including with those in other disciplines
- Manage practice effectively:
 - Manage time and meet deadlines
 - Solicit clients in an ethical and professional manner
 - Respond promptly to clients and keep clients updated
 - Continue to engage in legal education and maintain contemporaneous knowledge of the law and attendant procedures
 - Conclude client relationships appropriately
 - Learn and use relevant technology effectively
 - Understand the business of law and factors contributing to client development

- Adhere to proper timekeeping and/or billing procedures as required by one's practice setting
- Effectively and properly manage client funds and client trust accounts

LEARNING OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE OF AND FACILITY WITH THE LAW

Graduates of the SCOL are able to:

- Read texts carefully
- Locate and interpret legal research
- Understand and apply cases (know holding and dicta), statutes, and regulations
- Exercise critical thinking – critique / anticipate critiques
- Apply the legal analytical framework (issue, rule, application/analysis, conclusion) to address legal problems
- Exhibit the ability to adapt when confronted with unforeseen, ambiguous, and/or changing circumstances
- Develop an appreciation for and understanding of different interpretive methods, interdisciplinary approaches, and jurisprudential philosophies
- Understand and apply historical and social contexts
- Apply and relate “core knowledge” to hypothetical situations in at least the following subject matter areas:

- Administrative Law
- Business Associations
- Civil Procedure
- Constitutional Law
- Civil Procedure
- Contracts
- Criminal Law & Procedure
- Evidence
- Family Law
- Professional Ethics (including concepts of legal privilege)

Property
Torts
Lawyering Process

EXPERT PRACTICE AND SKILLS

Graduates of the SCOL are able to:

- Read and communicate effectively
- Persuade and debate as advocates
- Write appropriate legal documents, including contracts and other agreements, memoranda, letters, briefs, pleadings, and legislation
- Conduct legal research, discovery, and fact investigation
- Conduct interviews, depositions, and trial examinations
- Recognize and strategize around factual and legal uncertainty
- Know the required procedures within the court, administrative, and any other forum in which a client's matter is pending
- Recognize and observe client or stakeholder needs, objectives, priorities, constraints, and expectations
- Select the appropriate legal and non-legal tools for each situation, including contexts (litigation, negotiation, collaboration) in which disputes arise
- Solve problems effectively:
 - Explain factual evidence (including procedural and strategic considerations)
 - Synthesize the law with the evidence in a client's matter
- Work well autonomously, collaboratively, and under supervision:
 - Show curiosity, initiative, and creativity
 - Prioritize and manage multiple tasks
 - Adapt work habits to meet demands and expectations