

New England Law | Boston: Institutional Learning Outcomes and Competencies

Upon graduation, a student will:

1. Demonstrate core knowledge sufficient for entry into the legal profession.

Competencies:

- Possess knowledge of the doctrine covered in required courses
- Know the sources of law (e.g. constitutions, cases, statutes, regulations)
- Be familiar with the historical development of important legal doctrines and their connections to social and economic policy and theory
- Understand the basic underlying concepts that structure the U.S. legal system, including the separation of powers, differing roles and competencies of the judiciary, legislature, and executive, and the ways in which law is used to create private rights and obligations among individuals and entities

2. Be able to engage in legal analysis, research law, apply law to resolve problems, and effectively communicate both orally and in writing.

Competencies:

- Demonstrate facility with reading and using cases, constitutions, statutes and regulations, including spotting and analyzing issues, identifying rules and holdings, synthesizing and distinguishing lines of cases, and recognizing hierarchies and jurisdictional differences
- Construct effective legal arguments and problem-solve
- Conduct legal research
- Display legal writing skills for multiple settings and audiences, including office, trial and appellate work
- Exhibit persuasive oral argument skills at the trial and appellate court level

3. Understand professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system, including an appreciation for the power of the law and legal professionals to affect the lives and well-being of individuals and communities.

Competencies:

- Know the ethical rules governing lawyers
- Behave with awareness and respect for the ethical and professional responsibilities of the legal profession, including the pro bono obligation of attorneys
- Progress toward developing a professional identity
- Engage in professional conduct and work to promote good means and ends within the practice of law
- Awareness of the intersection of law and social values, including race, ethnicity, class, and gender

4. Demonstrate other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.

Competencies:

- Understand the roles of the lawyer in various contexts, such as dispute resolution, litigation, planning, and transactional work
- Capacity to communicate effectively with a diverse range of clients.
- Possess foundational lawyering skills, related to each student's professional goals and interests.
- Be able to engage in self-regulated learning as a member of the legal profession

Immigration Concentration Learning Outcomes and Competencies

Upon graduation, a student receiving the Immigration Concentration transcript designation will:

1. Demonstrate core knowledge sufficient for entry into one or more areas of the immigration legal profession.

Competencies:

- Possess knowledge of the doctrine covered in required courses, including in particular the core immigration fields of family and employment based immigration, non-immigrant visas and defenses against removal.
- Know the sources of law (e.g. constitution cases, statutes, administrative memos, regulations)
- Be familiar with the historical development of important immigration law doctrine and its connection to social and political theory, including especially the particular roles of Congress, the Executive and the administrative agencies in making and executing the laws.

2. Be able to engage in legal research and analysis, apply law to resolve clients' problems, and effectively communicate both orally and in writing.

Competencies:

- Demonstrate understanding of lawyer role in lawyer/client interactions, including where the client is "the people of the United States"
- Demonstrate ability to assess client goals, identify key legal strategies, and anticipate legal hurdles that might impede the achievement of those goals, through client interaction
- Demonstrate facility with reading and using cases, constitutional provisions, statutes, regulations, and administrative memos, including spotting and analyzing issues, identifying rules and holdings, synthesizing and distinguishing lines of cases, and recognizing hierarchies and jurisdictional differences
- Become acquainted with how and why to search for published and unpublished cases, including both those issuing from the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the federal courts.
- Understand how to read the Immigration and Nationality Act
- Conduct legal research and analysis
- Apply client facts to law
- Communicate effectively with clients
- Display legal writing skills for multiple settings and audiences, including office, trial and appellate work

3. Understand professional and ethical responsibilities to clients, including an appreciation for the power of the law and legal professionals to affect the lives and well-being of individuals and communities.

Competencies:

- Know the ethical rules governing immigration lawyers, in particular duties of candor and disclosure to tribunals, confidentiality and attorney-client privilege
- Behave with awareness and respect for the ethical and professional responsibilities of the legal profession, in particular the pro bono obligation of attorneys
- Progress toward developing a professional identity

- Engage in professional conduct and work to promote good means and ends within the practice of immigration law
- Understand how immigration status impacts other substantive areas of law, including criminal and family law and the particular duties of lawyers to properly advise clients as to the immigration consequences of pleas, sentences and agreements in those contexts.

4. Other Professional Skills

- Understand the roles of the immigration lawyer in various contexts, such as family and employment based immigration, defense of removal, asylum and other immigrant and non-immigrant visas, in both the transactional and litigation contexts, as well as with respect to policy discussions.
- Possess foundational lawyering skills, related to each student's professional goals and interests.
- Be able to engage in self-regulated learning as a member of the legal profession

Intellectual Property Concentration Learning Outcomes and Competencies

Upon graduation, a student receiving the Intellectual Property Concentration transcript designation will:

1. Demonstrate core knowledge sufficient for entry into one or more areas of the intellectual property legal profession.

Competencies:

- Possess knowledge of the doctrine covered in required courses, including in particular the core intellectual property fields of patent, trademark and copyright law
- Know the sources of law (e.g. constitutions, cases, statutes, regulations)
- Be familiar with the historical development of important intellectual property legal doctrines and their connections to social and economic policy and theory, including especially the role of both the public and private interests in intellectual property policy making

2. Be able to engage in legal research and analysis, apply law to resolve problems, and effectively communicate both orally and in writing.

Competencies:

- Demonstrate facility with reading and using cases, constitutional provisions, statutes and regulations, including spotting and analyzing issues, identifying rules and holdings, synthesizing and distinguishing lines of cases, and recognizing hierarchies and jurisdictional differences
- Become acquainted with how and why to search public intellectual property databases, including in particular those maintained by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and Copyright Office
- Become acquainted with how to review intellectual property case law resources and administrative materials, such as regulations promulgated by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and Copyright Office
- Construct effective legal arguments and problem-solve
- Conduct legal research
- Display legal writing skills for multiple settings and audiences, including office, trial and appellate work

3. Understand professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the intellectual property system, including an appreciation for the power of the law and legal professionals to affect the lives and well-being of individuals and communities.

Competencies:

- Know the ethical rules governing intellectual property lawyers, including in particular duties of candor and disclosure to tribunals
- Behave with awareness and respect for the ethical and professional responsibilities of the legal profession, including the pro bono obligation of attorneys
- Progress toward developing a professional identity
- Engage in professional conduct and work to promote good means and ends within the practice of intellectual property law

4. Other Professional Skills

- Understand the roles of the intellectual property lawyer in various contexts, such as dispute resolution, clearance searching, intellectual property acquisition, litigation, planning, and transactional work
- Possess foundational lawyering skills, related to each student's professional goals and interests.
- Be able to engage in self-regulated learning as a member of the legal profession