

New York State Skills Competency Requirement

In December 2015, the New York Court of Appeals adopted [Rule 520.18](#) establishing bar admission requirements regarding skills competencies and professional values, applicable to all students who begin their J.D. studies in August 2016 or later. Rule 520.18 provides five pathways by which J.D. students can satisfy the requirement. Pathway 1 and Pathway 2 are relevant to your law school study.

Pathway 1

Pathway 1 allows an applicant to submit a certification from the applicant's law school confirming that (a) the law school has developed a plan identifying and incorporating into its curriculum the skills and professional values that, in the school's judgment, are required for its graduates' basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession; and (b) the applicant has acquired sufficient competency in those skills and sufficient familiarity with those professional values.

Georgetown University Law Center is committed to providing all students an intellectually rich education that combines theory and practice, and embraces the values of cultural competence, social justice, serving the public good, and educating the whole person. Our curricular offerings, including both degree requirements and electives in a broad range of subject areas and professional skills, reflect our [institutional learning outcomes](#) and are designed to prepare our students for competent and ethical participation in the legal profession.

Through our required first-year doctrinal courses, our foundational Legal Practice course, our opportunities for substantial scholarly research paper under close supervision of a faculty member, our required course in professional responsibility, the experiential learning opportunities represented by our clinics, externships, fieldwork and/or project-based practicums, and/or simulation courses, and additional elective coursework that allows students to pursue their professional and academic interests, our curriculum is designed to develop and reinforce our students' (1) knowledge of substantive and procedural law, including the influence of the administrative state, political institutions, and other academic disciplines; (2) ability to engage in legal analysis, including the analysis of case law, constitutions, statutes and regulations, legal instruments and sources, and the application of law and theory to fact; (3) ability to conduct legal research; (4) ability to communicate effectively in the legal context, orally and in writing; (5) ability to use problem-solving and collaborative techniques in the legal context; (6) the ability to engage in critical and strategic thinking; and (7) understanding of the rules, ethics, and values of

the legal profession, such as honesty, civility, work-ethic, and the centrality of a commitment to one's clients and to the legal system.

Georgetown Law will certify graduates who have successfully completed our first-year courses (or approved equivalents for transfer students), a course in professional responsibility, a substantial writing project, six credits of experiential learning in clinics, externships, practicums, or simulation courses, and additional elective coursework as satisfying the skills competency requirement under Pathway 1, "Successful completion" is defined as a passing grade in each course as well as a cumulative grade point average of C or higher.

Pathway 2

J.D. candidates who have successfully completed 15 credit hours of experiential learning can demonstrate satisfaction of the requirement through Pathway 2, in addition to Pathway 1. All credits earned in clinics, externships, practicums (fieldwork or project-based), and simulation courses count as "practice-based experiential coursework" under Pathway 2.