



SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY COMPETENCY COMPARISONS LAW SCHOOLS AND LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA

COMPETENCY DESCRIPTIONS*

ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

- Identifying professional ethical dilemmas as and when they arise in practice and dealing with these appropriately, in particular
 - Identifying and responding appropriately to potential and actual conflicts of interest
 - Understanding and respecting the extent and limits of the confidentiality obligation
 - Carrying out fiduciary duties to clients and others
- Articulating her or her own ethical framework for making choices that respond to ethical
- Demonstrating a commitment to providing effective and competent legal services to advance the client's interests while upholding the law
- Demonstrating a commitment to the promotion of justice

CLIENT RELATIONS AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

- Interviewing to understand the problem, issues, context and goals or objectives of the client and to gather relevant information
- Advising the client about decisions that must be made and options that are available
- Communicating effectively with clients
- Managing client expectations
- Managing time and setting priorities
- Using a tickler system
- Maintaining an orderly and up-to-date files, including documenting actions taken on a file

* Although many of the law school courses listed in the chart cover a variety of professional responsibility and ethics competencies, courses are listed according to the primary competencies covered.

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COMPETENCY DESCRIPTIONS CONT'D

MANAGING A CLIENT FILE (TRANSACTIONS/APPLICATIONS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION)

- Understanding client goals
- Developing a theory of the file
- Developing a dispute resolution strategy (including making choices and decisions for file direction)
- Preparing for the different forms of dispute resolution available at the various stages of the case
 - Negotiation
 - Mediation
 - Trial/hearing
 - Appeal
- Implementing a dispute resolution strategy and using the skills of advocacy appropriate to the chosen forum

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

- Conducting electronic research using relevant legal and non-legal databases
- Conducting library/paper-based research
- Analyzing results, including sorting cases, legislation and secondary legal materials according to relevance; identifying leading cases and trends in the law; and citing all sources appropriately
- Drafting a legal memorandum that analyzes and presents the results of the research in an effective manner
- Providing practical and clear written advice based on research
- Drafting clear and cogently written advocacy

ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM - Mandatory Courses

Law Society of Upper Canada Skills and Professional Responsibility Program			
Law School	MANDATORY COURSES	Law School Hours	Law Society Hours
BC	Law in Context	9.5	
	Total:	9.5	6.5
Calgary	Ethics and Professionalism	39	
	Total:	39	6.5
Dalhousie	The Legal Profession and Professional Responsibility	26	
	Total:	26	6.5
Manitoba	The Legal Profession and Professional Responsibility	39	
	Total:	39	6.5
McGill	Legal Writing, Mooting and Advanced Legal Research	26	
	Total:	26	6.5
Moncton	N/A		
	Total:	0	6.5
Osgoode	Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community	39	
	Osgoode Public Interest Requirement	40	
	Total:	79	6.5
Ottawa	Dispute Resolution and Professional Responsibility	12	
	Total:	12	6.5
Queens	Legal Foundations Program	1.5	
	Total:	1.5	6.5
Toronto	Legal Ethics - Bridge Week (1st year)	16.25	
	Total:	16.25	6.5
Victoria	Legal Process (1st Year)	10	
	Civil Procedure (Upper Year)	6	
	Evidence (Upper Year)	6	
	Total:	22	6.5
Western	Legal Ethics	30	
	Total:	30	6.5
Windsor LLB	Ethics and Professionalism	6	
	Total:	6	6.5
Windsor LLB/JD	Ethics and Professionalism	6	
	Professional Responsibility	48	
	Total:	54	6.5

ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM - Optional Courses

Law Society of Upper Canada Skills and Professional Responsibility Program				
Law School	OPTIONAL COURSES	% of students	Law School Hours	Law Society Hours
BC	Professional Responsibility	30%	39	
	Total:			39
Calgary	N/A			
	Total:			
Dalhousie	N/A			
	Total:			
Manitoba	N/A			
	Total:			
McGill	N/A			
	Total:			
Moncton	Professional Responsibility: ethics and professional responsibility component	15%	45	
	Total:			45
Osgoode	Legal Profession	8%	39	
	Legal Ethics	2.3%	26	
	Total:			65
Ottawa	Professional Responsibility	10-15%	45	
	Total:			45
Queens	Legal Ethics	28%	39	
	Total:			39
Toronto	Legal Ethics	14%	26	
	Perspectives on Civil Litigation Procedures and Professionalism		26	
	Total:			52
Victoria	Legal Profession	5%	25	
	The Law Centre - Clinical Law Term	40%	20	
	Environmental Law Centre Clinic	20%	4	
	Environmental Law Centre Clinic - Intensive Stream	3%	4	
	Business Law Clinic	15%	10	
	Total:			63
Western	Advanced Legal Ethics and Professionalism	6%	26	
	Criminal Law Advocacy	3%	6	
	Litigation Practice	20%	3	
	Total:			35
Windsor LLB	The Legal Profession	10%	39	
	Total:			39
Windsor LLB/JD	N/A			
	Total:			

**MANAGING A CLIENT FILE - Mandatory Courses
(TRANSACTIONS/APPLICATIONS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION)**

Law Society of Upper Canada Skills and Professional Responsibility Program			
Law School	MANDATORY COURSES	Law School Hours	Law Society Hours
BC	Law in Context - Ethical Negotiation	2	
	Law in Context - Demonstration Moot	1.5	
	Total:	3.5	18.75
Calgary	Intensive Trial Advocacy	35	
	Interviewing, Negotiation and Counselling	32	
	Total:	67	18.75
Dalhousie	Civil Procedure workshops	10	
	First Year Moot	5	
	Second Year Moot	7	
	Total:	22	18.75
Manitoba	Advocacy	39	
	Legal Methods	13	
	Negotiation	39	
	Total:	91	18.75
McGill	N/A		
	Total:	0	18.75
Moncton	Civil Procedure: advocacy component	4	
	Trial Advocacy	45	
	Total:	49	18.75
Osgoode	Legal Process	101	
	Total:	101	18.75
Ottawa	Dispute Resolution and Professional Responsibility	48	
	Oral Advocacy Requirement *	39	
	Total:	87	18.75
Queens	Oral Advocacy Requirement	39	
	Total:	39	18.75
Toronto	Compulsory Moot (Upper Years)	13+***	
	Total:	13+	18.75
Victoria	Legal Process (First Year)	14	
	Civil Procedure (Upper Year)	6	
	Legal Research and Writing (advocacy component)	3	
	Total:	23	18.75
Western	Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy **	13	
	Total:	13	18.75
Windsor LLB	Legal Research and Writing **	24	
	Total:	24	18.75
Windsor LLB/JD	Applied Legal Theory & Analysis**	24	
	Total:	24	18.75

* can be satisfied through a course, moot or clinic work

** includes a moot component

*** These are minimum instructional hours but students often put in more hours and many students participate in the competitive moots in order to fulfill their moot requirement and this involves considerably more work.

**MANAGING A CLIENT FILE - Optional Courses
(TRANSACTIONS/APPLICATIONS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION)**

Law Society of Upper Canada Skills and Professional Responsibility Program				
Law School	OPTIONAL COURSES	% of students	Law School Hours	Law Society Hours
BC	Aboriginal Law Litigation	10%	39	
	Negotiation and Dispute Resolution	25%	39	
	Mediation Advocacy and Moot	15%	60	
	Dispute Resolution, Theory and Practice	5%	39	
	Total:		177	
Calgary	Dispute Resolution	20%	26	
	Mooting & Clinical Studies	10%	26	
	Jessup Moot	6%	39	
	Total:		91	
Dalhousie	Alternative Dispute Resolution - Introduction to ADR	10-20%	24	
	Corporate Transactions	10%	24	
	Family Law Dispute Resolution	up to 10%	24	
	Civil Trial Practice	22%	35	
	Criminal Trial Practice	7-8%	35	
	Administration of the Collective Agreement	7-8%	24	
	Total:		166	
Manitoba	Advanced Advocacy	15%	39	
	Art of the Deal	25%	84	
	Total:		123	
McGill	Legal Clinic Courses	10%	variable	
	Total:		0	
Moncton	Professional Responsibility: ADR methods	50%	45	
	Total:		45	
Osgoode	Course of a Transaction: Following a Business Transaction from Start to Finish	4.5%	26	
	Trial Practice	28%	42	
	Total:		68	
Ottawa	Interviewing, Counseling & Negotiation	30-40%	45	
	Alternative Dispute Resolution Processes	12-15%	45	
	Mediation	12-15%	45	
	Total:		135	
Queens	Civil Procedure (practice management sections)	50%	52	
	Alternative Dispute Resolution	24%	39	
	Negotiation	12%	39	
	Total:		130	
Toronto	Negotiation	43% will take one of these 5 courses	24	
	Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)		26	
	Seminar Trial Advocacy		40	
	Legal Process		32.5	
	Advanced Advocacy		40	
	Total:			
Victoria	Dispute Resolution Theory and Practice	50%	36	
	Mediation and Lawyers	5%	36	
	The Law Centre - Clinical Law Term	40%	20	
	Advocacy	50%	48	
	Legal Mooting (oral advocacy requirement)	15%	20	
	Total:		160	
Western	Negotiation & Mediation	7%	39	
	Litigation Practice	20%	10	
	Total:		49	
Windsor LLB	Alternative Dispute Resolution	22%	39	
	Advanced Practicum in Mediation and Conflict Resolution	1%	39+	
	Civil Trial Advocacy	22%	39	
	Criminal Trial Advocacy	11%	52	
	Advocacy Before Administrative Tribunals	7%	39	
	Labour Arbitration	7%	39	
	Total:		247+	
Windsor LLB/JD	N/A			
Total:				18.75

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING - Mandatory Courses

Law Society of Upper Canada Skills and Professional Responsibility Program			
Law School	MANDATORY COURSES	Law School Hours	Law Society Hours
BC	Law in Context - Techniques for Ethical Research*	3	
	Legal Research and Writing	39	
	Total:	42	6.75
Calgary	Fundamental Legal Skills Course	45	
	Advanced Legal Research	15	
	Total:	60	6.75
Dalhousie	Legal Research and Writing	19	
	Total:	19	6.75
Manitoba	Legal Methods	52	
	Total:	52	6.75
McGill	Introductory Legal Research	39	
	Legal Writing, Mooting and Advanced Legal Research	26	
	Total:	65	6.75
Moncton	Major Research Paper	45	
	Total:	45	6.75
Osgoode	Legal Process	101	
	First Year Perspective Option Seminar	39	
	Upper Year Research and Writing requirement	28	
	Total:	101	6.75
Ottawa	First Year Small Group (legal research and writing component)	15	
	Major Paper Requirement **	**	
	Total:	15	6.75
Queens	Introduction to Legal Research (1st Year)	9	
	Total:	9	6.75
Toronto	Small Group Legal Research & Writing Program (1st Year)	***	
	Supervised Upper Year Research Paper Requirement	****	
	Total:	0	6.75
Victoria	Civil Procedure (Upper Year)	6	
	Legal Research and Writing (1st Year)	30	
	Major Paper Requirement (Upper Year)	36	
	Total:	66	6.75
Western	Legal Research Writing and Advocacy	41	
	Total:	41	6.75
Windsor LLB	Legal Research and Writing	54	
	Legal Research Paper Course	39	
	Total:	93	6.75
Windsor LLB/JD	Applied Legal Theory & Analysis	78	
	Total:	78	6.75

* These are minimum hours of instruction in the first year. The entire first year curriculum also emphasizes writing with 18 different practical assignments.

** students demonstrate legal research and writing skills in context of an extended piece of written analysis and represents not less than 50% of the grade assigned to course.

*** The entire first year program integrates legal research and writing and there is no way to quantify this.

**** Students must complete under the supervision of full-time faculty and do this within the context of a seminar course. Again there is no way to quantify this.

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING - Optional Courses

Law Society of Upper Canada Skills and Professional Responsibility Program				
Law School	OPTIONAL COURSES	% of students	Law School Hours	Law Society Hours
BC	N/A			
	Total:			6.75
Calgary	Directed Research	5%	26	
	Total:		26	6.75
Dalhousie	Advanced Legal Research	10%	24	
	Total:		24	6.75
Manitoba	Advanced Legal Research	50%	39	
	Total:		39	6.75
McGill	N/A			
	Total:			6.75
Moncton	N/A			
	Total:			6.75
Osgoode	Legal Drafting	7%	42	
	Intensive Legal Research Writing	7%	28	
	Independent Research Papers	15%	28	
	Total:		98	6.75
Ottawa	N/A			
	Total:			6.75
Queens	Advanced Legal Research	51%	39	
	Total:		39	6.75
Toronto	Advanced Legal Research Analysis & Writing	25%	26	
	Total:		26	6.75
Victoria	Advanced Legal Research and Writing	25%	36	
	Supervised Research and Writing	50%	36	
	Legal Mooting (research & writing for moot component)	15%	20	
	Total:		92	6.75
Western	Litigation Practice	20%	2	
	Advanced Legal Research	30%	39	
	Total:		41	6.75
Windsor LLB	Advanced Legal Research	8%	39	
	Total:		39	6.75
Windsor LLB/JD	N/A			
	Total:			6.75

CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

INTENSIVE COURSES AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The majority of competencies related to Client Relationships and Practice Management are covered in intensive courses and clinical experience offered by the following law schools:

Law Society of Upper Canada Skills and Professional Responsibility Program

Law School	COURSES	% of students	Law School Hours	Law Society Hours
BC	Criminal Law Clinic	10%	72	
	Innocence Project	2%	39	
	Law Students Legal Advice Program	80%	varies*	
	First Nations Clinic	2%	520	
	Total:	94%		
Calgary	Business Clinical	8%	30-40	
	Criminal Clinical	8%	30-40	
	Natural Resources Clinical	8%	30-40	
	Family Law Clinical	8%	30-40	
	Total:	32%		
Dalhousie	Clinical Law (Legal Aid Clinic)	25%	600	
	Criminal Clinic	7-8%	175	
	Legal Accounting	38%	24	
	Total:	71%		
Manitoba	Legal Aid Centre	40%	39	
	Pro Bono Work	50%	39	
	Small Business Law Clinic	25%	39	
	Clinical Administrative Law	17%	39	
	Clinical Family Law	12%	39	
	Clinical Criminal Law	12%	39	
	**Total:	156%		
McGill	Legal Clinic Courses	10%	varies	
	Total:	10%		
Moncton				
	Total:			
Osgoode	Intensive Program in Poverty Law - Parkdale Legal Clinic	7%	390	
	CLASP - Division Leaders	3%	208	
	Criminal Intensive	3.5%	390	
	Innocence Project	1.5%	234	
	Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources and Governments	1.5%	390	
	Immigration and Refugee Intensive	3.5%	390	
	Mooting Program	7%	104	
	Advanced Business Law Workshop I & II	6%	140	
	Osgoode Business Clinic	4%	56	
	Total:	37%		

* BC - The number of hours students devote to LSLAP varies from student to student as this is a volunteer effort. Students with responsibility for a particular clinic will put up to 10 to 12 hours per week during the term time and other students will put in between one to two hours per week to a maximum of 10 hours. The time varies from week to week depending on the workload.

** 100% of students participate in clinic work before graduating. There is significant overlap as many students participate in more than one clinic.

CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

INTENSIVE COURSES AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The majority of competencies related to Client Relationships and Practice Management are covered in intensive courses and clinical experience offered by the following law schools:

Law Society of Upper Canada Skills and Professional Responsibility Program

Law School	COURSES	% of students	Law School Hours	Law Society Hours
Ottawa	Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic	60%	*	
	Charities Law Course		*	
	Clinical Legal Aid		60	
	Environmental Law and Policy Clinic		*	
	Federal Tribunal Placement		*	
	Pro Bono Students		*	
Total:		60%		7.25
Queens	Queen's Legal Aid	50%	91	
	Clinical Litigation Practice		325	
	Clinical Correctional Law	15%	325	
	Clinical Family Law		104	
Total:		65%		7.25
Toronto	Barbara Schlifer Clinic	1%	120	
	Advocates for Injured Workers	2%	90	
	International Human Rights Clinic	2%	143	
	Legal Clinic of the Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples	0.50%	90	
	Public Interest Advocacy - DLS Intensive	0.50%	385	
	Public Interest Advocacy - DLS Part time	6%	150	
	Health Equity and Law Clinic	2%	52	
	Downtown Legal Services	50%	60	
	Pro Bono Students Canada	29%	60	
	Total:		93%	
Victoria	Legal Process	100%	8	
	Civil Procedure (Upper Year)	100%	8	
	The Law Centre: Clinical Law Term	40%	20	
	Co-op Law Program	33%	500+	
	Business Law Clinic	15%	10	
	Environmental Law Centre Clinic	20%	10	
	Environmental Law Centre Clinic (Intensive Stream)	3%	10	
	Legal Skills	10%	30	
	The Legal Profession	5%	5	
Total:		126%		7.25
Western***	Litigation Practice	20%	25**	
	Criminal Law Advocacy	3%	52	
	Clinic in Criminal Law Practice	1.5%	39	
	Social Welfare Advocacy	5%	39	
Total:		29.5%		7.25
Windsor LLB	Community Legal Aid (CLA)	40%	26+	
	Legal Assistance of Windsor (LAW)	4%	104+	
	University of Windsor Mediation Service (UWMS)	4%	52	
	Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC)	17%	104	
Total:		65%		7.25
Windsor LLB/JD	Community Legal Aid (CLA)	40%	26+	
	Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC)	17%	104	
Total:		57%		7.25

* Hours vary and could not be quantified.

** Direct instruction plus approximately 1 hours clinic work per week. Almost all students achieve more hours of actual clinic experience.

*** Courses for this competency include non-credit clinical experience dealing with client relationships and practice management issues.