

Preparing for Your Profession

Graduation Requirement

Law school is a professional graduate program that prepares students for the practice of law or the use of the JD in law adjacent professions. Under the American Bar Association ("ABA") accreditation standards by which all law schools are bound and Scalia Law's Learning Outcomes, the law school is required to, among other things:

- prepare our students for admission to the bar and for effective, ethical, and responsible participation as members of the legal profession;
- provide substantial opportunities for the development of a professional identity; and
- provide education to law students on effective and civil communications.¹

Therefore, in addition to completing the required and optional classes necessary for graduation, Scalia Law students will participate in several training programs and meetings throughout their academic careers designed to help them succeed in law school and prepare them for the workplace encompassing four main areas:

LEGAL SKILLS: Students will learn about and practice the essential academic and practical skills needed to succeed in the classroom and work environment;

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY: Students will explore the professions in which JDs work and engage in deliberate refinement of their own professional identities;

CIVIL DISCOURSE: Students will engage in and practice effective and respectful classroom and client-centered discussions; and

BAR PREPARATION: Students will learn about character and fitness requirements for joining a bar, variations among state bars, and bar testing techniques.

¹ Relevant ABA standards include Standards 301: Objectives of Program of Legal Education, 302: Learning Outcomes, and 303: Curriculum. The standards can be found [here](#). The law school's Learning Outcomes can be found [here](#).

Many of these topics also will be explored and practiced in various required and optional courses, as well as optional career and academic programming over a student's academic career.

Mandatory programming begins in orientation.

Preparing for your Profession Schedule²

UPCOMING FULL-TIME JD STUDENT MANDATORY PREPARING FOR YOUR PROFESSION DATES

Friday, September 11, 12:00-2:00 pm

Friday, October 2, 12:00-1:30 pm

Friday, October 16, 12:00-1:00 pm

Wednesday, October 21, 6:00- 8:30 pm

In addition to the events listed above, first-year students will be required to attend (1) a Discussion Over Division program and (2) three additional career events during their first three semesters. Students will be able to choose from a variety of different career workshops, panels, and outside programming to fulfill this requirement.

UPCOMING FLEX JD STUDENT MANDATORY PREPARING FOR YOUR PROFESSION DATES*

Wednesday, October 21, 6:00-8:30 pm

(Flex-JD classes will not be held that evening to accommodate Flex-JD attendance.)

Friday, January 22, 6:00-8:30 pm

*First-year Flex-JD students who anticipate changing jobs early in their law school path or switching to full-time courses are welcome to attend some of the full-time student programming.

In addition to the events listed above, first-year flex students will be required to attend three additional career events sometime during the first two years of school. Students will be able to choose from a variety of different career workshops, panels, and outside programming to fulfill this requirement.

²Additional mandatory and optional programs will be added. Students should consult the GMU student emails regularly for updates.