

Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University

New York State Skills Competency Requirement

To be admitted to the New York State bar, J.D. students entering law school in fall 2016 or later, and LL.M. students entering a U.S. law school in fall 2018 or later, must fulfill the New York State Skills Competency Requirement (“NYS Skills Requirement”) by demonstrating that s/he “possesses the skills and values necessary to provide effective, ethical and responsible legal services in” New York State. *See* <https://www.nybarexam.org/Skills/skills.htm>. New York State has provided five different “pathways” for a student to follow to satisfy the NYS Skills Requirement. The Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University (“Pace Law School”) has adopted Pathway One—described below—as the primary method for all students to satisfy the requirement.

Rationale

The faculty has determined that a J.D. student who achieves a passing grade in the following combination of required and elective courses has achieved the learning outcomes the school has adopted for its students: All First Year required doctrinal courses; First Year Legal Skills I and II; Professional Responsibility; a course sufficient to satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement; a course sufficient to satisfy the Upper Level Administrative Law Requirement; and courses sufficient to satisfy the Upper Level Skills Requirement (via Pathway One). *See* <https://law.pace.edu/academics/juris-doctor-program> for the Law School’s Learning Outcomes.

We have also determined that an LL.M. student with a first law degree from a foreign country who achieves a passing grade in the following combination of required and elective courses has achieved Pace Law’s Learning Outcomes: Introduction to U.S. Legal Research, Writing and Analysis; Introduction to American Legal Systems, at least 6 credits of Bar Courses, Professional Responsibility, and Lawyering for LL.M. students.

The Academic Dean at Pace Law School can excuse J.D. students from the requirement of Pathway One if they complete 15 credits of courses approved for Upper Level Skills credit (Pathway Two), or participate in our Pro Bono Scholar’s Program (Pathway Three). The Director of Graduate Programs can excuse LL.M. students from Pathway One if they satisfy Pathway Four (qualifying apprenticeship) or Pathway Five (qualifying prior law practice in a foreign jurisdiction).

Pathway One

To fulfill the Pathway One requirement at Pace Law School, a student must

(a) successfully complete a total of 6 credits of coursework in courses approved by the Faculty Curriculum Committee as upper level skills courses. Approved upper level skills courses are:

Direct Representation Clinics

Barbara C. Salken Criminal Justice Clinic
Environmental Litigation Clinic
Equal Justice America Disability Rights Clinic
Food and Beverage Clinic
Immigration Justice Clinic
Investor Rights Clinic
Pro Bono Scholars Program
Amelia Gould Representation in Mediation Clinic
Semester-in-Practice

Externships

Corporate Law Externship
Criminal Justice (Prosecutorial) Externship
Environmental Law Externship (NY and DC)
Family Court Externship
Federal Judicial Honors Externship (Spring Semester Chambers Placement)
Legal Services Externship
Mediation Practicum
Pro Bono Scholars Program
Prosecution Honors Externship
Real Estate Externship
Semester-in-Practice
Social Justice Advocacy Externship

Simulations

Advanced Appellate Advocacy
Advanced Legal Research
Advanced Real Property
Advanced Trial Advocacy
Commercial Real Estate Transactions and Skills
Drafting Legal Documents
Environmental Commercial Transactions
Environmental Dispute Resolution
Environmental Skills
Federal Criminal Pre-Trial Simulation
Intellectual Property Agreements and Licensing
Law Practice Management
Lawyering
Matrimonial Practice
Mediation
Negotiations
Patent Practice and Procedure

Pre-trial Civil Litigation Simulation (PCLS)
Skills Workshop (any)
Trial Advocacy

AND b) complete at least ONE of the following in the course of fulfilling the 6-credit minimum:

1. The Pro Bono Scholars Program
2. Any clinic (Environmental Litigation; Food and Beverage Law; Immigration Justice; Disability Rights; Investor Rights; Criminal Justice; or Representation in Mediation)
3. The Semester-in-Practice Program (Track I, II, or III)
4. Advanced Environmental Certificate
5. Real Estate Practice “Path to Practice”
6. Criminal Practice “Path to Practice”
7. Litigation and Dispute Resolution “Path to Practice”
8. One of the following externships:
 - a. Corporate Law Externship
 - b. Criminal Justice (Prosecutorial) Externship
 - c. Environmental Law Externship (NY only)
 - d. Family Court Externship
 - e. Federal Judicial Honors Externship (Spring Semester Chambers Placement)
 - f. Legal Services Externship
 - g. Mediation Practicum
 - h. Prosecution Honors Externship
 - i. Real Estate Externship
 - j. Social Justice Advocacy Externship
9. Lawyering

Students may not satisfy both the Upper Level Skills requirement and the Upper Level Writing requirement with the same course. For purposes of this rule, the seminar component of a clinic or externship taken concurrently with the clinic or externship is considered the same course as such clinic or externship, even if the seminar component bears a separate course number.