

# Intro to the Law School Academic Experience

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# 1. Be goal-oriented



# What are our goals for you?

## **KNOWLEDGE**

Civil Procedure; Torts; Criminal Law; Contracts; Constitutional Law; Property; Other Bar Courses; Administrative Law Requirement

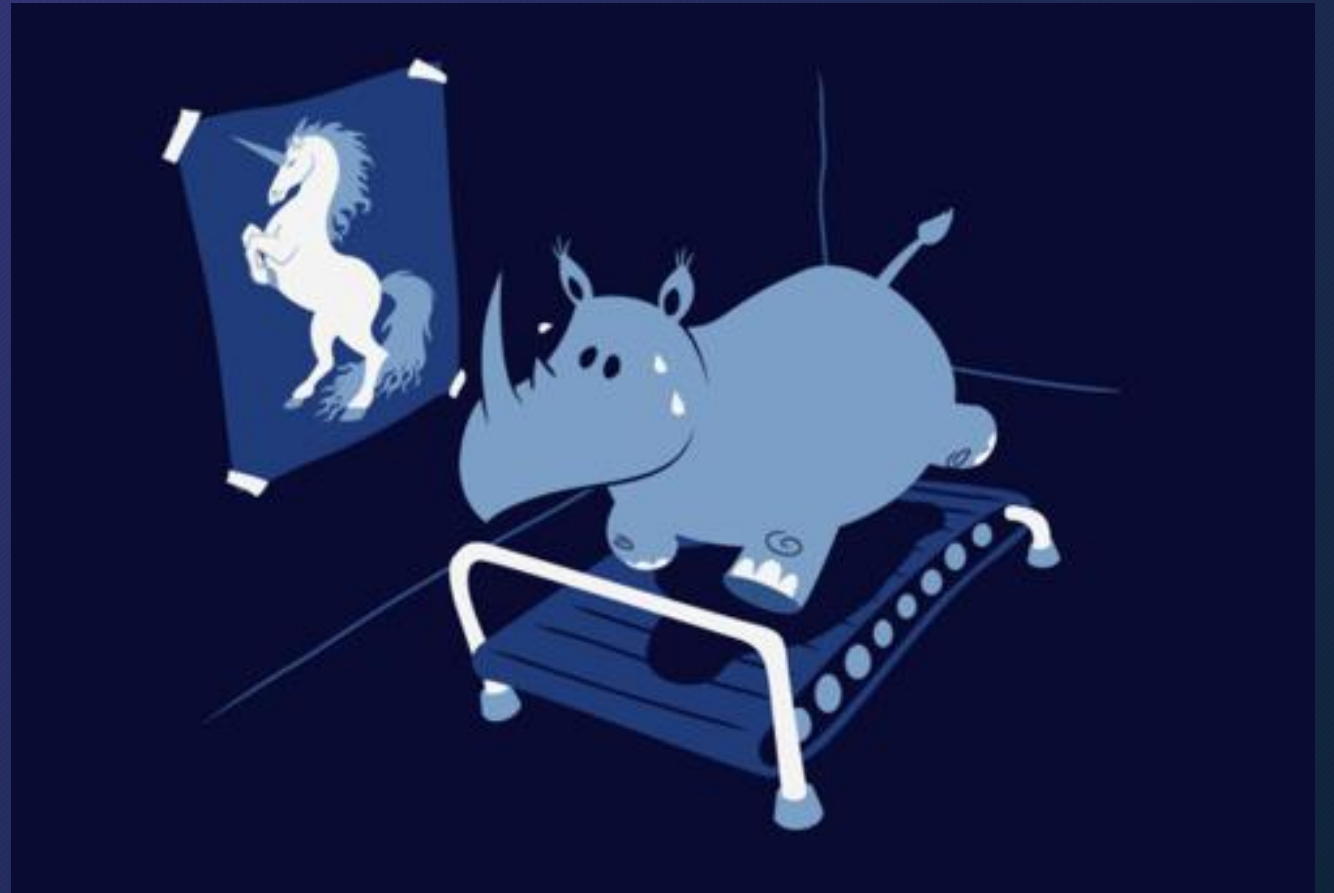
## **SKILLS**

Legal Skills I and II; Upper Level Writing Requirement; Upper Level Skills Requirement; Clinics & Externships

## **VALUES**

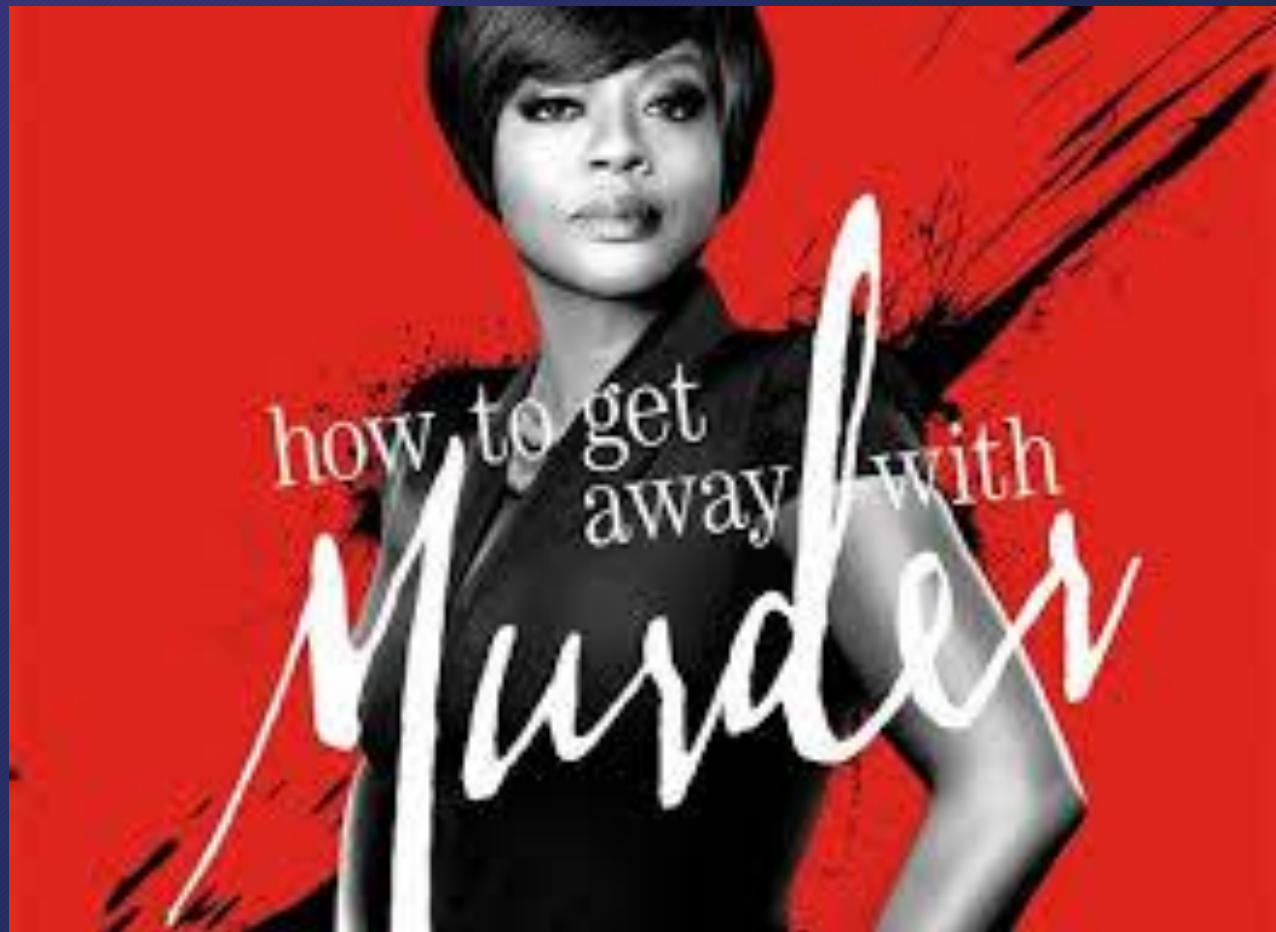
Professional Responsibility; Professional Development Credits

## 2. Set realistic expectations



# “Day One and you’re unprepared”

- [First Criminal Law class](#)



# What are our expectations of you?

- Prepare for and attend classes, whether in-person or online
- Respect your classmates
- Respect law school faculty and staff
- Academic honesty
- Good faith effort

Each academic credit = 55 minutes of classroom instruction + 2 hours of out-of-class work per week.

- 15 credit semester  $\approx$  45 hours per week
- 11 credit semester  $\approx$  33 hours per week

# Prepare, prepare, prepare...



By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.

~ Benjamin Franklin

### 3. Read critically





# What is critical reading?

[It does NOT mean criticizing what you read]

- Reading for interpretation and understanding
- SQ3R: Survey, Question, Read, Recall, Review
- Engaging with the reading by asking yourself questions such as:
  - *How does this text fit in to the bigger picture?*
  - *What is the legal rule this court is applying?*
- Resource: Jane Bloom Grise, *Critical Reading for Success in Law School and Beyond* (2d edition 2022)

## 4. Shed lazy habits



## 5. Use the resources in front of you



# Haub Law School Resources

- Dean for Student and Campus Affairs(Angie D'Agostino)
- Registrar/Bursar (Josie Wolf)
- Academic Success Office (Danielle Kocal; Stephanie Desiato; Niccol Kording)
- Office of Career and Professional Development (Kapila Juthani)
- Director of First Year Legal Skills Program (Michelle Simon)
- Writing Specialist (Tamar Gribetz)
- Academic Advisor

## 6. Develop a professional identity



# Professional Identity

“Professional identity focuses on what it means to be a lawyer and the special obligations lawyers have to their clients and society. The development of professional identity should involve an intentional exploration of the values, guiding principles, and well-being practices considered foundational to successful legal practice.”

ABA Standards for Legal Education, Interp. 303-5

# 7. Pay attention to detail



# Lawyers must be detail-oriented

- Read Academic Rules closely
- Keep up with and read emails from Pace administrators and faculty
- Think before you write and post
- Read syllabus for each course closely
- Follow instructions
- Follow-up
- Proofread all written communications





9. See the world through others' eyes.



# 10. Be good to yourself



# Questions?

