

Assessment Rubric for
First-Year Law Skills 1 and Law Skills 2

Describe student's performance on each of the below assessment areas as one of the following:

Displays High Competence
Displays Average Competence
Displays Minimal Competence
Fails to Display Minimal Competence

1. Rate student's ability to locate and identify relevant legal authority.
2. Rate student's ability to identify relevant facts and use them appropriately.
3. Rate student's ability to identify legal issues, state applicable legal principles, and apply the law to the facts.
4. Rate student's ability to organize and effectively present a theory of the case.
5. Rate student's ability to write in a clear, concise, and grammatically correct manner.
6. Rate student's knowledge of proper citation of legal authorities.
7. Rate student's ability to think critically about legal issues.

See the following page for a detailed breakdown of the assessment criteria for the preceding seven areas.

Dimensions	High Competence	Average Competence	Minimal Competence	Fails to Display Minimal Competence
Student's ability to locate and identify relevant legal authority	Student locates all binding authority and substantial persuasive authority on critical issues	Student locates all binding authority and some persuasive authority on critical issues	Student locates binding authority on critical issues	Student fails to locate binding authority on critical issues
Student's ability to identify relevant facts and use them appropriately	Student effectively and consistently distinguishes relevant from irrelevant facts and applies the relevant facts to the pertinent legal issues raised by the problem	Student typically distinguishes relevant from irrelevant facts and generally applies the relevant facts to the pertinent legal issues raised by the problem	Student sometimes distinguishes relevant from irrelevant facts and sometimes applies the relevant facts to the pertinent legal issues raised by the problem	Student fails to distinguish relevant from irrelevant facts and fails to apply the relevant facts to the pertinent legal issues raised by the problem
Student's ability to identify legal issues, state applicable legal principles, and apply the law to the facts	Student identifies all legal issues raised by the problem, indicates mastery of all applicable legal principles, and consistently applies law to facts in an effective manner	Student identifies most legal issues raised by the problem, indicates general understanding of most of the applicable legal principles, and typically applies law to facts in an effective manner	Student identifies some issues raised by the problem, indicates some understanding of applicable legal principles, and inconsistently applies law to facts in an effective manner	Student fails to identify basic issues raised by the problem, fails to demonstrate understanding of applicable legal principles, and/or fails to apply law to facts in an effective manner
Student's ability to organize and effectively present a theory of the case	Student consistently organizes and effectively presents a compelling theory of the case	Student typically organizes and effectively presents an appropriate theory of the case	Student sometimes organizes and presents an appropriate theory of the case	Student fails to organize and present an appropriate theory of the case
Student's ability to write in a clear, concise, and grammatically correct manner	Student consistently writes in a clear, concise and grammatically correct manner	Student typically writes in a clear, concise and grammatically correct manner	Student inconsistently writes in a clear, concise and grammatically correct manner	Student fails to write in a clear, concise, and grammatically correct manner
Student's knowledge of proper citation of legal authorities	Student consistently cites legal authorities correctly	Student typically cites legal authorities correctly	Student inconsistently cites legal authorities correctly	Student consistently fails to cite legal authorities correctly
Student's ability to think critically about legal issues	Student's analysis identifies all facets of legal issue and provides in-depth consideration of differing viewpoints	Student's analysis identifies most facets of legal issue and provides some consideration of differing viewpoints	Student's analysis identifies some facets of legal issue and provides superficial consideration of differing viewpoints	Student's analysis fails to identify key facets of legal issue and/or fails to consider different viewpoints