



University of Idaho

College of Law

College of Law Learning Outcomes (updated April 2026)

The College of Law faculty has adopted the following six learning outcomes, with associated competencies, for the College's program of legal education:

By the start of their legal careers, all graduates of the University of Idaho College of Law will achieve the following learning outcomes:

L1: LEARNING OUTCOME 1 – KNOWLEDGE OF LAW AND LEGAL INSTITUTIONS

Graduates will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law and legal institutions. Graduates will be able to:

- a. Demonstrate competence in the substance of foundational common law subjects.
- b. Demonstrate competence in the substance of U.S. Constitutional Law.
- c. Demonstrate an understanding of tribal sovereignty and tribal court jurisdiction.
- d. Demonstrate foundational competence in the substantive law of the student's chosen area of study, including the relevance of Native American Law, if applicable.
- e. Demonstrate the capacity to read, interpret, and apply statutes.
- f. Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate jurisdiction and choice of applicable law (i.e., state, federal, tribal, etc.).
- g. Demonstrate an understanding of the trajectory of a legal dispute or lawsuit from start to finish.

L2: LEARNING OUTCOME 2 – LEGAL ANALYSIS AND REASONING

Graduates will demonstrate the capacity to engage in sophisticated legal research, reasoning, and analysis. Graduates will be able to:

- a. Identify the legal rules and principles applicable to a given context.
- b. Identify legally relevant facts, both known and unknown, in a given legal context.
- c. Identify nature and consequence of ambiguities in the facts in a given context.
- d. Identify the legal rules and principles applicable to a given context.
- e. Identify legally relevant facts, both known and unknown, in a given legal context.
- f. Identify the existence and consequence of ambiguities in the facts in a given context.
- g. Construct and support an argument grounded in appropriate legal authority and policy considerations, while recognizing and, when appropriate, addressing potential weaknesses.
- h. Understand role of legal research in identifying applicable law and developing analysis and argumentation relevant for a particular dispute.

L3: LEARNING OUTCOME 3 – ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Graduates will be proficient at communicating complex legal arguments, reasoning, and analysis, both in writing and in oral communication. Graduates will be able to:

- a. Produce written work and citations that are logically organized, clear and concise, with minimal grammatical, syntactical, and other formal errors, and reflect an understanding of audience and purpose.
- b. Orally communicate legal arguments effectively and nimbly.

L4: LEARNING OUTCOME 4 – PROBLEM SOLVING

Graduates will recognize that multiple different potential resolutions to a dispute exist, including avoiding disputes before they begin. Graduates will be able to:

- a. Identify problems and classify them (i.e., legal, business, family, interpersonal, etc.).
- b. Identify possible means of resolving each identified problem, including legal and non-legal means.
- c. Assess the probability that each identified means will resolve the identified problem and quantify the anticipated costs, risks, and benefits associated with each identified means.

- d. Drawing therefrom, make a reasoned recommendation about the best course of action to attempt to resolve the identified problem.

L5: LEARNING OUTCOME 5 – PROFESSIONALISM, ETHICS, AND VALUES

Graduates will understand their professional and ethical obligations to their clients, the courts and the bar, and the public. Graduates will be able to:

- a. Demonstrate competence in the Rules of Professional Responsibility.
- b. Recognize common causes of lawyer misconduct and be aware of sources of support for lawyers.
- c. Engage in pro bono work.

L6: LEARNING OUTCOME 6 - OTHER PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Graduates will possess other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession. Graduates will be able to:

- a. Demonstrate the ability to engage in self-directed learning, including through reflection and self-evaluation.
- b. Demonstrate the ability to manage a complex workload in a way that is diligent, reliable, and timely.