

**University of California, Davis**  
**School of Law**  
**Certification of Competence in Skills and Professional Values**

Pathway One Plan for UC Davis School of Law Students

In December 2015, the New York State Court of Appeals adopted Section [520.18](#) to the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.18). This provision requires applicants seeking admission in New York to possess the skills and values necessary to provide effective, ethical and responsible legal services in the State of New York.

To establish that applicants have acquired the skills and professional values necessary to competently practice law, the State of New York requires that applicants complete one of five separate pathways described in section [520.18](#). This requirement is applicable to all students who begin their J.D. studies on August 1, 2016 or beyond, and LL.M.s who begin their Master of Laws program on August 1, 2018 or beyond.

We anticipate that at least some students from the University of California, Davis School of Law, who apply for admission to the New York Bar will be certified for admission through Pathway 1. This pathway requires an ABA Approved Law School to identify and incorporate into its curriculum the “skills and professional values” necessary for its graduates’ “basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession,” as required by American Bar Association Standard 302(a), (b), (c), and (d).

The University of California, Davis School of Law’s program of instruction is designed to train graduates who will be leaders in the profession. By the time of graduation, we expect that our graduates will be able to demonstrate the following skills and professional values, as outlined in our [Learning Outcomes](#):

- Be able to identify and understand key principles of substantive and procedural law.
- Be a competent legal analyst and researcher.
- Be able to communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Be able independently to learn new areas of the law, and address new problems.
- Have had exposure to methods and techniques enabling lawyers to practice effectively in a diverse society and world, including the ability to work collaboratively, to communicate effectively with clients, and to engage competently with persons from a variety of backgrounds and holding a variety of views.
- Understand the role of law in policy.
- Understand the broader social and intellectual context of the law and legal system, through, for example, study of legal theory and interdisciplinary perspectives on law.
- Learn and understand the rules of professional ethics.
- Understand the legal profession’s values, standards, and traditions of professionalism.

These skills and professional values are taught and assessed throughout the Law School's curriculum. Accordingly, the Law School will certify graduates who have successfully completed the following, as sufficiently satisfying the "skills and professional values" competency requirement under Pathway One. Please note that successful completion is defined as earning a passing final grade in each class.

### **Pathway One Plan for J.D. Students**

Earn four credits in foundational legal research and writing

Write a scholarly research and writing project under faculty supervision

Complete one course designated as meeting the professional responsibility requirement

Complete six credits of coursework designated as meeting the experiential learning requirement

A minimum of sixty-eight of the required eighty-eight units shall be by attendance in regularly scheduled classroom courses at the law school, with instruction in substantive and procedural law and professional skills.

### **Pathway One Plan for LL.M. Students**

Earn at least two credits in a course in professional responsibility

Earn at least two credits in Legal Research and Writing

Earn at least two credits in American Legal Study

Earn at least six credits in subjects tested on the Bar Exam

Earn a minimum of twenty-four total units

Complete all degree requirements for the degree of Master of Laws within a 24 month period

It is the responsibility of the LL.M. student to be aware of, and meet, eligibility requirements for Admission to the New York Bar under [Rule 520.6](#) for foreign-educated applicants.