

University of Iowa College of Law
NYS Bar Rule 520.18 Pathway 1 Plan

Adopted by the Faculty of the College of Law on March 28, 2019

In December 2015, the New York Court of Appeals adopted Rule 520.18. This rule modifies the requirements for admission to the New York Bar by creating a Skills Competency Requirement. This requirement, which is applicable to all students who begin their J.D. studies in August of 2016 or thereafter, establishes five pathways by which law students can qualify for admission to the New York Bar.

We anticipate that virtually all of our J.D. students who apply for admission to the New York Bar will be certified for admission through Pathway 1, which allows applicants to satisfy the skills competency requirement by submitting a certification from their law school confirming that “(a) the law school has developed a plan identifying and incorporating into its curriculum the skills and professional values that, in the school's judgment, are required for its graduates' basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession, as required by American Bar Association Standards and Rules of Procedure for the Approval of Law Schools Standard 302(b), (c) and (d), and has made this plan publicly available on the law school's website, and (b) the applicant has acquired sufficient competency in those skills and sufficient familiarity with those values.” Rule 520.18, Pathway 1. Other pathways, including prior legal practice, are available under Rule 520.18.

The University of Iowa College of Law's JD requirements, as guided by its [institutional learning outcomes](#), establish that all students receiving the JD degree, including transfer students, will acquire and graduate with the skills and professional values required for legal practice. The College of Law will certify students under Rule 520.18, Pathway 1, upon successful completion of the following requirements for the JD:

1. Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law I, Contracts, Criminal Law, Property, and Torts;
2. Legal Analysis, Writing and Research I and II;
3. A 3-credit Professional Responsibility course;
4. At least four upper-level writing units, at least two of which must be directly supervised by a faculty member; and
5. One or more experiential courses (designated as such in the registration materials) totaling at least six credit hours.

In order to successfully complete a course at the College of Law so as to satisfy these requirements, including the writing, Professional Responsibility, and experiential coursework, a student must obtain a passing grade, meaning a grade of 1.8 or higher, or, in a course taken Pass/Fail, a grade of Pass.

This required curriculum incorporates the skills and values that, in the College of Law's judgment, are required for its graduates' basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession.

The College of Law will also certify a transfer student if coursework equivalent to the above requirements is completed prior to or during the student's time at the College of Law.

For additional detail on the College of Law graduation requirements, see the *Academic Policies and Procedures*, which may be found at the beginning of the *Student Handbook*.