



CAL NORTHERN SCHOOL OF LAW JURIS DOCTORATE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Juris Doctorate graduates of CNSL will:

Outcome 1: Demonstrate the understanding of key concepts in substantive law.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and comprehend the principles of the substantive subjects tested on bar examinations, including the evolution of that law and its policy underpinnings.
- Identify and comprehend the structure and jurisdiction of federal and state courts in the United States and the function of precedent.
- Explain the processes of federal and state civil procedure.

Outcome 2: Demonstrate critical thinking skills by performing competent legal analysis, reasoning and problem solving.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

- Read critically applicable authority (Constitutions, statutes, administrative regulations, cases) including identifying relevant legal rules and underlying policy.
- Identify key issues in factual situations.
- Analogize the facts to, and distinguish the facts from, those of precedent cases to predict the likely outcome of the case.
- Synthesize relevant rules of law into a logical framework for analysis, including determining which rule a court is likely to apply where rules conflict.
- Apply identified rules to the relevant facts and evaluate potential counterarguments to predict the likely outcome of the case.

Outcome 3: Communicate effectively orally and in writing regarding legal matters.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

- Speak effectively in a clear, concise, well-organized, well-reasoned and professional manner.
- Write persuasive and professional documents using clear, concise, well-organized and well-reasoned language.
- Cite appropriate authority, including any relevant contrary authority.
- Listen actively to clients, judges, and colleagues.

Outcome 4: Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical rules that govern the legal profession.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and comprehend the applicable law governing legal ethics.
- Apply knowledge of legal ethics to representation of clients, performance of duties as an officer of the courts, and resolution of ethical dilemmas.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and professionalism through conduct consistent with the legal profession's values and standards.

Outcome 5: Demonstrate the ability to perform legal research.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

- Design and implement a logical research plan, weighing time and resource constraints.
- Employ appropriate resources and technologies to retrieve, use and manage research materials.
- Assess accurately the weight of authority.

Outcome 6: Advocate, collaborate, and problem-solve effectively in formal and informal dispute resolution processes.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

- Design a plan to resolve client issues, tailored to the client's objectives and legal options available.
- Identify the practical considerations in pursuing legal remedies.
- Recognize and appreciate litigation alternatives, including arbitration, mediation, and negotiation.