FIRST STEPS

Student Resource Center
Before arriving on campus, students will be asked to take our online diagnostic assessment, which will help Coastal Law understand each student’s strengths in areas crucial to law school success. After reviewing the results, Coastal Law will be able to customize a first semester such that it will reflect each student’s incoming aptitudes, as well as maximize student success.

Introduction to Legal Studies
Taking place approximately one week prior to the start of the semester, this for-credit course will provide students with an introduction to law school and the tools necessary to become active learners and successful law students. Through class discussion, practice problems, and exercises, students will develop an understanding of law school expectations and learn about study strategies.

FIRST YEAR COMPONENTS AND BUILDING YOUR PORTFOLIO

Upon completion of the Introduction to Legal Studies seminar, students will be assigned to one or more of three new courses: Legal Writing Foundations, Legal Methods and/or Comprehensive Legal Methods.

Legal Writing Foundations
This course will provide students with an opportunity to develop and enhance the writing skills necessary for concise, complete, and correct legal writing. Students will acquire the skills to write clear, succinct, grammatically correct, well-organized and stylistically adept prose through composition assignments, exercises, and individual conferences with the professor.

Legal Methods
This course will provide students with an opportunity to learn and improve the analytical and writing skills necessary to succeed in law school and, specifically, legal writing courses. The course will also introduce students to legal reasoning, which includes analogical, deductive, inductive and syllogistic reasoning, and the canons of construction.

Comprehensive Legal Methods
This course will provide students with opportunity to learn and improve analytical and writing skills necessary to succeed in law school and, specifically, legal writing courses beyond that available in Legal Methods. The course will stress completion and review of legal analysis exercise and grammar exercises, with opportunities for group feedback, classroom feedback and individual and summative feedback through individual conferences, written comments, and quizzes.

Skills Modules
We believe students must possess “lawyering” skills, which include legal writing, research, and analysis, if they are to successfully transition into law practice following graduation. Therefore we have made certain to include a number of opportunities for hands-on learning from the start of a student’s first year at Coastal Law. Modules complement what is learned in the classroom and in assigned readings through projects performed in a smaller group format. They are scheduled within students’ existing course schedules and are designed to allow for a more holistic understanding of the law, as well as opportunities for collaborative learning with student peers. First-year modules will focus on the many complex aspects of contracts and torts.