FIRST YEAR COMPONENTS AND BUILDING YOUR PORTFOLIO

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.

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.
SECOND YEAR COURSES AND SIMULATIONS

During students’ second years, they will begin an in-depth study of the practical aspects of the law which will include a focus on legal writing as it relates to Litigation and Transactional drafting. Students will also be offered MBE Strategies I to help maximize performance on the Multistate Bar Exam, which tests six subjects based upon principles of common law that apply throughout the United States. Available to all, it may also be assigned based upon performance on an exam administered at the beginning of the second year.

In addition, second year students will participate in our law firm simulation program, which is designed to further facilitate professional and personal development through a variety of hands-on exercises over the course of the spring semester.

Law Firm Simulations

Our law firm simulations provide second-year students with unique opportunities to improve their research and writing skills, enhance their analytical skills, acquire practical lawyering skills and generally increase their understanding about what lawyers do on a day-to-day basis.

Students may participate in one of two simulated exercises:

A litigation lab in which students perform many of the tasks of a trial lawyer, including jury instructions, and preparing witness and exhibit lists, and making cross examinations.

A transactional lab in which students perform many of the tasks of a transactional lawyer, including identifying deal points, negotiating terms, and verifying compliance with federal and state antitrust and securities laws.
THIRD YEAR REAL WORLD COMPONENTS
During their final year at Coastal Law, the Center for Professional Development will work to facilitate externships, judicial clerkships and other opportunities in the legal community that will complement knowledge and skills acquired during the first two years of law school. According to a 2010 NALP report, employers surveyed said practical legal work experience, also known as Experiential Learning, is the most marketable attribute on law graduates’ resumes. At Coastal Law, we are committed to providing numerous hands-on opportunities for students to acquire real world skills in a variety of high demand practice areas.

Experiential Learning opportunities can be earned in:

Externships - Provide a rewarding, hands-on experience in judicial chambers or a practice setting that will ease transition into the practice of law with an instilled sense of ethics and professionalism.

Clinical Programs - Our five in-house clinics allow students, under the supervision of full-time faculty members, opportunities to represent a diverse group of clients referred by various public interest agencies. The clinical suite (our law office) also provides a professional setting for students to work on cases, research, and confidentially interview clients, witnesses or other parties.

Pro Bono - Pro bono work is volunteer legal and non-legal work done without credit or compensation that law students perform to benefit individuals, groups or organizations.

The Shadow Program - This ABA award winning program offers students a unique opportunity to bridge classroom doctrinal instruction and courtroom practice skills by shadowing state and federal judges and attorneys from private firms, public interest law offices, and governmental law departments.

Practitioner Labs - A Skills Lab is a specialized course in which students, who have already taken the associated doctrinal course or other prerequisites, work more closely on pro bono cases with an attorney licensed to practice law in Florida to refine practical skills while interviewing clients, drafting pleadings or transactional documents, attending and participating in hearings and more.

Public Interest Research Bureau - The Bureau is a student-volunteer research service that provides free legal research to lawyers working for public interest and poverty law organizations. The Bureau’s student researchers and writers complete research requests overseen by a student board of editors and faculty.

Multistate Bar Examination Strategies I
This course provides students with an intensive substantive review of selective legal material routinely tested on the multistate portion of the bar examination: the “MBE.” The subjects include civil procedure, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, property, and torts. Through the use of problems and exercises in a bar examination format, students will become familiar with techniques for answering multiple choice question from the MBE. The course will be taught in a format similar to that of a commercial bar preparation course. Enrollment is highly recommended for all students in their last semester.

Enhanced Bar Prep Program
Open to all students, the Coastal Law Enhanced Bar Pass program can maximize a student’s chances for passing the bar exam – the first time in any state. Our program incorporates the best aspects of leading commercial bar prep providers, along with enhanced techniques developed by our own subject matter experts and tailored to a student’s individual needs and learning preferences. Our students receive access to BARBRI’s entire First Year Program and Upper Level Program free of charge.