

Standard 303. CURRICULUM

(a) A law school shall offer a curriculum that requires each student to satisfactorily complete at least the following:

- 1) one course of at least two credit hours in professional responsibility that includes substantial instruction in rules of professional conduct, and the values and responsibilities of the legal profession and its members;
- 2) one writing experience in the first year and at least one additional writing experience after the first year, both of which are faculty supervised; and
- 3) one or more experiential course(s) totaling at least six credit hours. An experiential course must be a simulation course, a law clinic, or a field placement, as defined in Standard 304.

(b) A law school shall provide substantial opportunities to students for:

- 1) law clinics or field placement(s);
- 2) student participation in pro bono legal services, including law-related public service activities; and
- 3) the development of a professional identity.

(c) A law school shall provide education to law students on bias, cross-cultural competency, and racism:

- 1) at the start of the program of legal education, and
- 2) at least once again before graduation.

For students engaged in law clinics or field placements, the second educational occasion will take place before, concurrently with, or as part of their enrollment in clinical or field placement courses.

Interpretation 303-5: Professional identity focuses on what it means to be a lawyer and the special obligations lawyers have to their clients and society. The development of professional identity should involve an intentional exploration of the values, guiding principles, and well-being practices considered foundational to successful legal practice. Because developing a professional identity requires reflection and growth over time, students should have frequent opportunities for such development during each year of law school and in a variety of courses and co-curricular and professional development activities.

Interpretation 303-6: With respect to 303(a)(1), the importance of cross-cultural competency to professionally responsible representation and the obligation of lawyers to promote a justice system that provides equal access and eliminates bias, discrimination, and racism in the law should be among the values and responsibilities of the legal profession to which students are introduced.

Interpretation 303-7: Standard 303(c)'s requirement that law schools provide education on bias, cross-cultural competency, and racism may be satisfied by, among other things, the following:

- 1) Orientation sessions for incoming students;
- 2) Lectures on these topics;
- 3) Courses incorporating these topics; or
- 4) Other educational experiences incorporating these topics.

While law schools need not add a required upper-division course to satisfy this requirement, law schools must demonstrate that all law students are required to participate in a substantial activity designed to reinforce the skill of cultural competency and their obligation as future lawyers to work to eliminate racism in the legal profession.

Interpretation 303-8: Standard 303 does not prescribe the form or content of the education on bias, cross-cultural competency, and racism required by Standard 303(c).