Intro to the Law School
Academic Experience

Jill Gross
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs &
Professor of Law
Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University
1. Be goal-oriented
What are our goals for you?

**KNOWLEDGE**

Civil Procedure; Torts; Criminal Law; Contracts; Constitutional Law; Property; Other Bar Courses; Administrative Law Requirement

**SKILLS**

Legal Skills I and II; Upper Level Writing Requirement; Upper Level Skills Requirement; Clinics & Externships

**VALUES**

Professional Responsibility; Professional Development Credits
2. Set realistic expectations
“Day One and you’re unprepared”

- First Criminal Law class
What are our expectations of you?

• Prepare for and attend classes, whether in-person or on Zoom
• Respect your classmates
• Respect law school faculty and staff
• Academic honesty
• Good faith effort

Each academic credit = 55 minutes of classroom instruction + 2 hours of out-of-class work per week.

- 15 credit semester ≈ 45 hours per week
Prepare, prepare, prepare...

By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.

~ Benjamin Franklin
3. Read critically
What is critical reading?

[It does NOT mean criticizing what you read]

• Reading for interpretation and understanding
• SQ3R: Survey, Question, Read, Recall, Review
• Engaging in what you read by asking yourself questions such as, ‘what is the author trying to say?’ or ‘what is the legal rule this court is applying?’

Critical reading leads to excelling on law school exams because it sparks analytical thinking, legal reasoning and deeper understanding.
4. Shed lazy habits
5. Use the resources in front of you
Haub Law School Resources

• Dean for Student and Campus Affairs (Angie D’Agostino)
• Director of Student and Campus Affairs (Natalie Panzera)
• Registrar/Bursar (Josie Wolf)
• Academic Success Office (Danielle Kocal; Stephanie Desiato; Niccol Kording)
• Office of Career and Professional Development (Kapila Juthani)
• Director of First Year Legal Skills Program (Michelle Simon)
• Writing Specialist (Tamar Gribetz)
• Faculty Advisor (to be assigned)
6. Develop a professional identity
7. Pay attention to detail
Lawyers must be detail-oriented

• Read Academic Rules closely
• Keep up with and read emails from Pace administrators and faculty
• Read syllabus for each course closely
• Follow instructions
• Follow-up
• Proofread all written communications
8. Learn to be a lifelong learner
9. See the world through others’ eyes.
10. Be good to yourself
Questions?