

Student-Centered Assessment: How to Include Student Voice in Shaping Pedagogical and Curricular Choices in Legal Education

**STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT
SAMPLE COURSE-RELATED ASSESSMENT ITEMS**

<p align="center">GENERAL COURSE-RELATED ITEMS</p> <p>What background do you have on the basics of the law? Conduct quiz on basics of the law. What is your background? (e.g., college major, work experience) Why are you taking this course? Conduct quiz on knowledge of the topic area. What specific topic areas are you most interested in? Would you like to have policy discussions? Would you like to examine current events? Would you like to discuss the bar exam? For which states? Would you like to cover more material but less in-depth, or less material but more in-depth?</p>	<p align="center">GENERAL SKILLS-RELATED ITEMS</p> <p>What skills would you like to improve? (e.g., legal analysis, legal writing, fact investigation, counseling, negotiation, ethics) What skills have you targeted thus far in law school?</p> <hr/> <p align="center">REGARDING PAPERS:</p> <p>What types of papers would be interesting for you? Would you like to work alone? In pairs? In groups? When would you like papers to be due? (e.g., mid-semester, end of semester) What percentage of your grade should the paper constitute? Would you like drafts to be reviewed? Would you like peer-review of drafts?</p>
<p align="center">TEACHING-STYLE-RELATED ITEMS</p> <p>What teaching styles work best for you? (e.g., videos, guest speakers) What types of handouts are you interested in? Would you like to contribute to the syllabus?</p>	<p align="center">REGARDING PRESENTATIONS:</p> <p>Would you like to do presentations? Would you like to work alone? In pairs? In groups? How would you like presentations to be graded?</p>
<p align="center">CLASS PROCEDURE ITEMS</p> <p>Should computer use be allowed during class? How do you think lateness should be handled? Would you like a break during class? Would you like slides to be posted? Would you like a review class for the exam?</p>	<p align="center">REGARDING IN-CLASS EXERCISES:</p> <p>Would you like to do in-class exercises? What types of exercises are you interested in? (Negotiation Exercises? Role-Play? Ethics Problems? Review Sessions?)</p>
<p align="center">GRADING ITEMS</p> <p>What grading system would you prefer? Would you like a class participation grade? Do you want to receive grades (during the semester) as they are available? Do you want to receive the distribution of grades for those that are available? What level of feedback would you like on papers/assignments?</p>	<p align="center">PROGRESS-RELATED ITEMS</p> <p>Mid-Semester: Are you satisfied with the course so far? Is the pace too slow or too fast? End of Semester: What would you change about the course? Do you believe that you received the proper grade? Are you satisfied with the grading procedure?</p>

Selected Survey Items from Emily Zimmerman's Empirical Research Project

For each survey item, law students are instructed to indicate how much they agree or disagree with the item by circling a number from 5 to 1, with 5 being “strongly agree,” 1 being “strongly disagree,” and 3 being “neither agree nor disagree.”

Sample Items from Beginning-of-Year Survey	Sample Items from End-of-Year Survey
I would like my final grade in each of my first-year law school courses to be determined by a single exam at the end of the course.	I would like my final grade in each of my law school courses to be determined by a single exam at the end of the course.
I would like my final grade in each of my first-year law school courses to be determined by a single paper at the end of the course.	I would like my final grade in each of my law school courses to be determined by a single paper at the end of the course.
I would like to be assigned multiple graded assignments throughout a first-year law school course.	I would like to be assigned multiple graded assignments throughout a law school course.
I would like to be assigned multiple un-graded assignments throughout a first-year law school course.	I would like to be assigned multiple un-graded assignments throughout a law school course.

1. Student Pre-Assessment | Page 1 of 5

This survey requires you to take an honest account of your strengths and weaknesses as a newcomer to the legal profession.

PURPOSE: It is an opportunity for you to give a frank assessment of your substantive and professional skills as they now stand. This will assist you in setting co-op goals and preparing your Learning Agenda.

INSTRUCTIONS:

A. Choose responses that best describe your abilities.

B. Select the rating that best describes how you think your supervisor would evaluate you in certain areas. Comments explaining your rating selection are required. If you have no experience in a certain area, make a prediction about how you would perform in that area in a professional context.

Ratings:

1 (POOR) Student fails to meet even minimal expectations

2 (FAIR) Student meets only minimal expectations

3 (GOOD) Student meets all expectations commensurate with academic level

4 (VERY GOOD) Student exceeds expectations in some areas

5 (EXCEPTIONAL) Student exceeds expectations in all areas

DUE DATE: January 13, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

* [1] CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Email Address:

* [2] EXPECTED GRADUATION YEAR

2011

2012

2013

* [3] CO-OP PARTNER

Placement Name

Supervisor Name

[4] PLACEMENT LOCATION

City/Town:

State:

* [5] PLACEMENT TYPE

In-House

Law Firm

Government

Judicial Office

Public Interest

* [6] CO-OP CYCLE

Spring 2011

Summer 2011

Fall 2011

2. Student Pre-Assessment | Page 2 of 5

* [7] LEGAL RESEARCH RATING

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Effectiveness of research strategy	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Thoroughness of research	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Accuracy of research	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

* [8] LEGAL ANALYSIS RATING

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Application/Interpretation of case law	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Application/Interpretation of statutes and regulations	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Appreciation of factual, legal, and procedural distinctions	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

* [9] WRITING ABILITY RATING

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Accuracy and conciseness of writing	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Organization of writing	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Effectiveness for intended audience	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

* [10] FACT INVESTIGATION RATING

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Level of preparation	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Consideration of appropriate strategies	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Thoroughness of student's work	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

3. Student Pre-Assessment | Page 3 of 5

* [11] INTERVIEWING RATING

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Appropriateness of interactions	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Effectiveness in obtaining relevant information	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Clarity in communicating next steps	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

* [12] COUNSELING RATING

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Sensitivity to full range of the client's interests and needs	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Level of assistance in defining problem and explaining options	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Appropriate attendance to client's concerns	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

* [13] NEGOTIATING RATING

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Understanding of negotiation process	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Understanding of relative merits of parties' positions	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Development of win-win solutions	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

* [14] ETHICS RATING

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Alertness to ethical issues as they arise	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Ethical reflection and analysis	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Appropriateness of choices	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

4. Student Pre-Assessment | Page 4 of 5

*** [15] EFFORT RATING**

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Submitting the best possible work product	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Getting work done in a timely manner	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Maintaining energy and interest throughout an entire project	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

*** [16] RELIABILITY RATING**

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Punctuality and availability	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Communication regarding the status of assignments	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Following instructions and meeting deadlines	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

*** [17] INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS RATING**

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Effectiveness of relations with the student's supervisor and other lawyers in the office	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Effectiveness of relations with support staff	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Appropriateness of relations with clients, court staff, and others outside the office	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

*** [18] EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY RATING**

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Demonstration of initiative in seeking educational experiences	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Appropriateness of assignment clarification efforts	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Acceptance and incorporation of constructive feedback	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

Required Comment: Write one to two sentences describing how you intend to improve in this area during your co-op experience.

* [19] OVERALL ASSESSMENT RATING

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Exceptional)
Please evaluate the overall impact of your co-op experience on your learning goals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>