

## Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University

### New York State Skills Competency Requirement As of April 2025

To be admitted to the New York State bar, J.D. students entering law school in fall 2016 or later, and LL.M. students entering a U.S. law school in fall 2018 or later, must fulfill the [New York State Skills Competency Requirement \(“NYS Skills Requirement”\)](#) by demonstrating that s/he “possesses the skills and values necessary to provide effective, ethical and responsible legal services in” New York State. New York State has provided five different “pathways” for a student to follow to satisfy the NYS Skills Requirement. The Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University (“Pace Law School”) has adopted Pathway One—described below—as the primary method for all students to satisfy the requirement.

#### Rationale

The faculty has determined that a J.D. student who achieves a passing grade in the following combination of required and elective courses has achieved the learning outcomes the school has adopted for its students: All First Year required doctrinal courses; First Year Legal Skills I and II; Professional Responsibility; a course sufficient to satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement; a course sufficient to satisfy the Upper Level Administrative Law Requirement; and courses sufficient to satisfy the Upper Level Skills Requirement (via Pathway One). See the [Law School’s Learning Outcomes](#).

We have also determined that an LL.M. student with a first law degree from a foreign country who achieves a passing grade in the following combination of required and elective courses has achieved Pace Law’s Learning Outcomes: Introduction to U.S. Legal Research, Writing and Analysis; Introduction to American Legal Systems, at least 6 credits of Bar Courses, Professional Responsibility, and Lawyering for LL.M. students.

The Academic Dean at Pace Law School can excuse J.D. students from the requirement of Pathway One if they complete 15 credits of courses approved for Upper Level Skills credit (Pathway Two), or participate in our Pro Bono Scholar’s Program (Pathway Three). The Director of Graduate Programs can excuse LL.M. students from Pathway One if they satisfy Pathway Four (qualifying apprenticeship) or Pathway Five (qualifying prior law practice in a foreign jurisdiction).

#### Pathway One

To fulfill the Pathway One requirement at Pace Law School, a student must satisfy the Law School’s Upper-Level Skills Requirement as detailed on the next page.

**Upper-Level Skills Requirement. Students must successfully complete a total of 6 credits of coursework in courses approved by the Faculty Curriculum Committee as upper-level skills courses. This requirement can be satisfied by choosing Option 1 or Option 2, below.**

**Option 1 – ONE Course from the following list (at least 6 credits each):**

Clinic: Criminal Defense (6/6)  
Clinic: Environmental Litigation (6)  
Clinic: Fairbridge Investor Rights (5/4)  
Clinic: Food and Farm Business (6)  
Clinic: Immigration Justice (6)  
Externship: Environmental Law (DC) (6)  
Externship: Legal Services (6 CR version)  
Externship: Honors Prosecution (6)  
Pro Bono Scholars Program (15)  
Semester-in-Practice (14)  
Externship: Corporate (6)

**Option 2 – At least SIX credits from courses in the below lists, in any combination, as long as at least one course comes from Column A (credit allocations are in parentheses):**

**Column A**

Clinic: Health Law/ Disability Rights (4)  
Clinic: Gould Representation in Mediation (4)  
Environmental Skills (4)  
Externship: Environmental Law (NY) (4)  
Externship: Family Court (3)  
Externship: Federal Judicial Honors (4; spring)  
Externship: Legal Services (4 credit version)  
Externship: Real Estate (3 or 4)  
Externship: Social Justice Advocacy (3)  
  
Federal Criminal Pre-Trial Simulation (4)  
Lawyering (4)  
Mediation Practicum (4)  
Pre-trial Civil Litigation Simulation (4)  
Trial Advocacy (4)

**Column B**

Advanced Appellate Advocacy (3)  
Advanced Legal Research (3)  
Advanced Real Property (3)  
Advanced Trial Advocacy (3)  
Commercial Real Estate Trans. & Skills (3)  
Drafting Legal Documents (2)  
  
Environmental Dispute Resolution (3)  
Healthcare Lawyering Skills (2)  
Intellectual Property Agreements & Licensing (3)  
Law Practice Management (3)  
Matrimonial Practice (2)  
Negotiations (2)  
Patent Practice and Procedure (3)  
Skills Workshop (any; 1 credit each)  
Trademark Practice and Procedure (2)

**Students may not satisfy both the Upper-Level Skills Requirement and the Upper-Level Writing Requirement with the same course except that for a 2-semester clinic, a student may use the Fall semester of the clinic to satisfy one requirement and the Spring semester**

**to satisfy the other requirement. For purposes of this rule, the seminar component of a clinic or externship is considered the same course as such clinic or externship, even if the seminar component bears a separate course number.**