

Intro to the Law School Academic Experience

Jill Gross
Vice 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

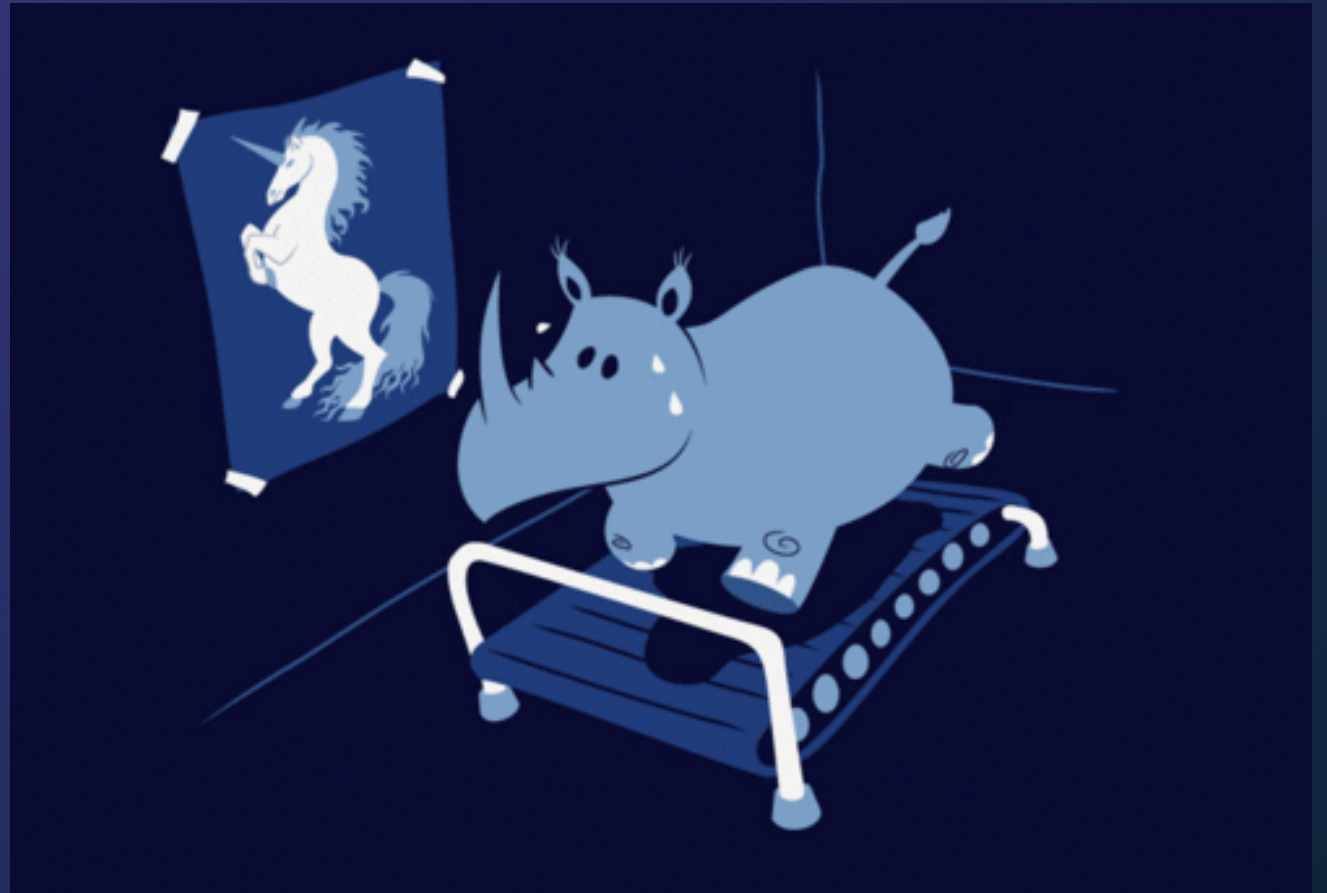
SKILLS

Legal Skills I and II; Upper-Level Writing Requirement; Upper-Level Skills Requirement (Simulations, Clinics, & Externships)

VALUES

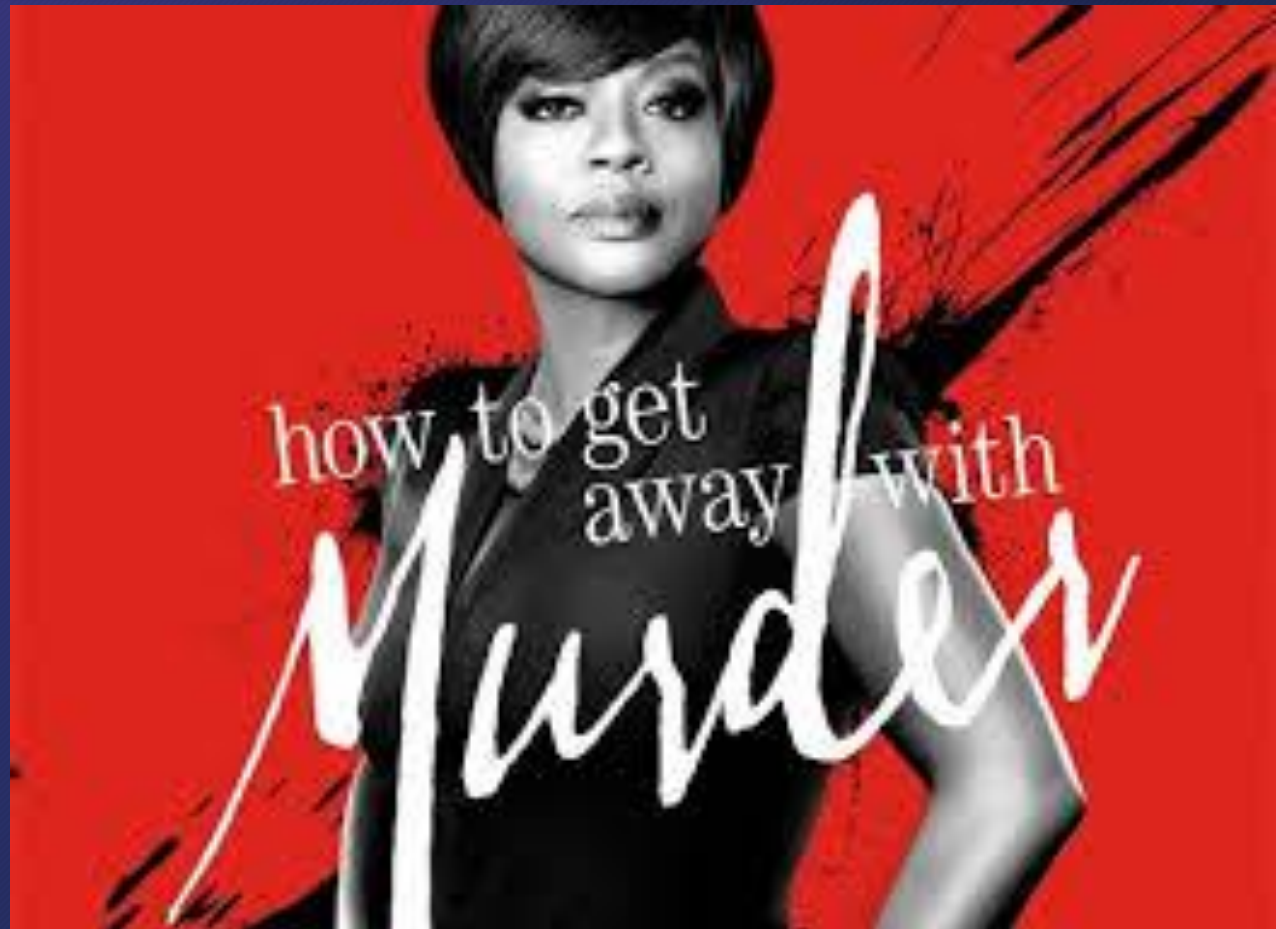
Professional Responsibility; Professional Development Credits

2. Set realistic expectations



“Day One and you’re unprepared”

- First Criminal Law class



What are our expectations of you?

- Prepare for classes
- Attend classes
- 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 \approx 45 hours per week
- 11 credit semester \approx 33 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 with the reading by asking yourself questions such as:
 - *How does this text fit in to the bigger picture?*
 - *What is the legal rule this court is applying?*
- Resource: Jane Bloom Grise, *Critical Reading for Success in Law School and Beyond* (2d edition 2022)

4. Shed lazy habits



Be in the Zone!



Comfort
Zone

Learning
Zone

Panic
Zone

5. Use the resources in front of you



Haub Law School Resources

- Dean for Student and Campus Affairs(Angie D'Agostino)
- 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)
- Academic Advisor (to be assigned)
- On-site Counseling Center (Jennifer Magdits, LMHC, LPC)
- BARBRI and West Academic - free online course supplements and study aids

6. Develop a professional identity



Professional Identity

“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.”

ABA Standards for Legal Education, Interp. 303-5

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
- Think before you write and post
- Read syllabus for each course closely
- Follow instructions
- Follow-up
- Proofread all written communications



9. See the world through others' eyes.



10. Be good to yourself



Questions?

