

## Lawyering Process Program FAQ

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**Q: What is “Lawyering Process?”**

**A:** Lawyering Process I and II are first-year, two-semester (six credits) courses designed to develop your knowledge of the history of law, legal research, analysis, writing and oral skills. Each course uses a combination of classroom lecture and participation, library assignments, out-of-class writing assignments, and larger graded writing assignments to allow you to develop your legal skills. In Lawyering Process II, you will have the opportunity to develop oral advocacy skills, culminating in an oral advocacy competition.

In addition to the Lawyering Process class, a 45 minute Legal Writing Workshop will be offered each week to review the fundamentals of writing in general with a specific emphasis on legal writing.

**Q: How does Lawyering Process and Legal Writing prepare me for the practice of law?**

**A:** One of the primary objectives of the Lawyering Process Program is to assist you in developing the professional and practice skills that are needed immediately upon graduation to make you practice ready. You will learn how to find the law, how to cite the law properly, how to write predictive and persuasive memoranda and briefs, how to write clearly and concisely, how to research manually in the library or online, how to accurately and creatively analyze a legal problem, and how to present the results of your research in writing and orally.

**Q: How does Lawyering Process and Legal Writing fit in with the rest of my law school education?**

**A:** Lawyering Process and Legal Writing will enhance what you learn in the substantive subjects of Tort Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law and Civil Procedure. The analytical skills that you develop during your first year will be used through out the remainder of your law school education and when in the practice of law. Consider Lawyering Process as the “master-key” to your legal education.

**Q: What kind of assignments will be given?**

**A:** The Lawyering Process faculty will all be using the same textbooks and will require the same amount of reading, however, each professor will design his or her own research problems. The problems are designed to be interesting, practical and somewhat realistic. We want you to experience the kinds of legal questions that you might be asked to assist with in the practice of law.

**Q: Will the course be just about writing?**

**A:** Students will be exposed to a variety of materials that will allow you to become proficient legal researchers and writers; however, the core curriculum is designed to facility practice-ready outcomes. You will learn the fundamentals of lawyering skills and legal reasoning. You learn analysis, writing, research and advocacy. You will be introduced to fundamental lawyering values.

In the Lawyering Process Program, we will consider the competing interests of social justice and skills. We will use fundamental legal education theory and practice to examine and re-examine innovative

ways of assisting students learn the professional skills, judgment and values that will be needed to practice law in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While many Legal Research and Writing programs just focus on technical skills, Phoenix International's program will require students to explore more sophisticated research, writing and advocacy strategies in the application of state, federal and international law.

**Q: How does Lawyering Process I differ from Lawyering Process II?**

**A:** In Lawyering Process I, you will learn legal analysis and reasoning; introductory and predictive legal writing and introduction to legal research. In Lawyering Process II, you will learn persuasive legal writing, advanced legal research, statutory interpretation and oral advocacy. Lawyering Process II will also include a focus on professional ethics and professional responsibility as it relates to legal research and writing.

**Q: What are the backgrounds and experiences of the Lawyering Process Professors?**

**A:** All of Phoenix International School of Law Lawyering Process professors have a wide array of both teaching and practice experience. The combined teach experience of the Lawyering Process faculty amounts to over 30 years of teaching adult learners including experience teaching at other law schools. The professors have trial and appellate experience at the state and federal level. And several of the professors have published scholarly articles and books.

**Q: What is the student-to-professor ratio for the Lawyering Process Program?**

**A:** Phoenix International Law School currently has a small student-to-professor ratio because it is in start-up mode. It is our goal, however, to stay within the national average of 25-1. A small ratio means that you have more opportunities for one-on-one contact and instruction from your Professor, more individualized feedback and more opportunities to participate in class discussion.

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