

# 1995-96 National Study of Student Performance In the First Year of Law School Survey of Students

Please use a dark pencil or a black or blue pen to fill in your responses.

Example: ●

002227

## Questions about law school

1. Please indicate how important each of the following goals were in motivating your decision to attend law school:

		Very Important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat Irrelevant	Irrelevant		Very Important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat Irrelevant	Irrelevant		
A	Intellectual challenge of law school and the law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		E	Desire for eventual financial security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	Desire to help individuals as a lawyer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		F	Desire to change or improve society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	Desire to develop a satisfying career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		G	Becoming influential in a powerful profession	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	Desire to defer entry into the job market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>								
		1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5

2. After several months of law school, are you more optimistic or less optimistic that you will be able to achieve the goals listed above that are most important to you (mark one):

- 1  More optimistic                      2  Less optimistic                      3  Unsure, mixed

3. With which of the following statements about your first few months of law school do you agree? (mark all that apply)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>A <input type="radio"/> The environment at this law school is unnecessarily competitive.</p> <p>B <input type="radio"/> I believe that this school wants to help every student do well.</p> <p>C <input type="radio"/> The faculty at this law school treat students with respect.</p> <p>D <input type="radio"/> I believe sexual harassment is a significant problem at this school.</p> <p>E <input type="radio"/> Law school teaching is too theoretical and unconcerned with real life law practice.</p> | <p>F <input type="radio"/> Law school should be a center for law reform research and activity.</p> <p>G <input type="radio"/> I believe that there is substantial hostility at this school:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">6 <input type="radio"/> between men and women</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">H <input type="radio"/> along racial lines</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">I <input type="radio"/> along political lines</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">J <input type="radio"/> along religious lines</p> |
|--|--|
- 1 = checked

4. Would you say your enthusiasm about attending law school has increased or decreased since the beginning of the semester (quarter)? (mark one)

- 1  Increased                      2  Stayed about the same                      3  Decreased

5. At the end of your first year, what do you guess your class rank will be?

- 1  Top 5%    2  Top 10%    3  Top quarter    4  Top half    5  Bottom half    6  Bottom quarter

6a. Please describe conditions in law school that you think have been particularly helpful in shaping your ability to do your best in law school.

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6b. Please describe conditions in law school that you think have been particularly harmful in shaping your ability to do your best in law school.

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## Activities in law school

7. Not counting time spent in classes, how much time do you spend studying material for your law classes each week?

- 1  Less than twenty hours                      3  30-39 hours                      5  50 hours or more
- 2  20-29 hours                      4  40-49 hours

8. Considering all of the classes that you attended over the past two weeks, for what proportion of those classes had you completed the assigned reading before class?

- 1  All or nearly all of them    2  Most of them    3  About half    4  Some of them    5  None

■ **Activities in law school (Continued)**

9. Since this school year began, have you worked for pay at a job?

- 1  No. (Please skip to question 11)    3  Yes, usually 10-19 hours per week    5  Yes, usually 30 or more hours per week  
 2  Yes, usually less than 10 hours per week    4  Yes, usually 20-29 hours per week

10. Have you felt that your employment has interfered with your schoolwork?    1  Yes    0  No

11. Have you participated in any of the following school-organized academic activities outside of class? (mark all that apply)

- A  Lectures by guest speakers    D  Supplemental review sessions by teachings assistants or upper-level students  
 B  Exam workshops    E  Other (please indicate)  
 C  Study sessions organized by professors

12. Have you participated in study groups organized by you or your fellow students?    1  Yes    0  No

13. If so, please estimate how much time you have spent studying with your study group in a typical week during the past month:

- 1  Over 20 hours    2  15 - 20 hours    3  10 - 14 hours    4  5 - 9 hours    5  3 - 4 hours    6  Less than 3 hours

14. Have you been active in any of the following student organizations since starting law school? (mark all that apply)

- A  Groups organized around political issues    E  Groups organized around law school activities (e.g., student newspaper, etc.)  
 B  Groups organized around race or racial issues    F  Groups organized around social activities  
 C  Groups organized around gender or gender issues  
 D  Group organized around particular area of legal practice
- 1 = checked*

15. Have you participated in any public service legal clinic, or other legal service activity, since starting law school?

- 1  Yes    0  No

16. Have any of the following major events happened to you since July 1st of this year? (mark all that apply)

- A  You entered into a relationship    E  A family member or close friend died or experienced a serious illness  
 B  You got married    F  You suffered a substantial illness or injury (i.e., one that caused you to miss more than two days of class)  
 C  You broke up with a spouse or partner  
 D  You moved more than fifty miles to attend this school    G  Other major event (describe) \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 = checked*

17. During this semester (quarter), have you regularly spent a significant amount of time providing care to a child, spouse, or other relative or close friend?

- 1  No    2  Yes, for less than 10 hours per week    3  Yes, for 10-20 hours per week    4  Yes, for more than 20 hours per week

**Law Classes**

18. Taking all of your current law school classes together, how frequently would you say you volunteer comments in class? (mark only one)

- 1  Once or more each class    3  A few times a week    5  Rarely (less than once a week)  
 2  Once or twice a day    4  Once or twice a week    6  Never

19. Is there any particular class in which you are more likely to volunteer comments?

\_\_\_\_\_

20. Are there specific reasons why you participate more in that class? (please describe)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Law Classes (Continued)**

21. Have you ever had any of the following experiences after speaking in class? (mark all that apply)

- A  Other students in the class made derisive comments (e.g., hissing in class, derogatory whispers, laughing when no humor was intended, or personal attacks)
  - B  Students made derogatory remarks to me or about me outside of class
  - C  The professor responded in a derogatory, non-substantive way
  - D  The professor seemed hostile to me outside of class
  - E  The professor seemed to single me out for repeated questions, and I construed this as a hostile reaction
  - F  None of these has happened to me (skip to question 23)
- 1 = checked*

22. If so, did this reaction cause you to volunteer comments less frequently in this or other classes? (mark all that apply)

- 1  No
- 2  Yes, in this class
- 3  Yes, in other classes

23. Taking all of your current law school classes together, how frequently would you say you are called on to make comments in class during a typical week? (mark only one)

- 1  Once or more each class
- 2  Once or twice a day
- 3  A few times a week
- 4  Once or twice a week
- 5  Rarely (less than once a week)
- 6  Never

24. Are you currently taking any of the following courses? (mark all that apply)

- A  Criminal Law
- B  Civil Procedure
- C  Contracts
- D  Torts

Question 25a and 25b ask about your experiences in the course(s) selected for question 24. Fill in the appropriate oval under each column that applies to your classes. (mark all that apply)

25a. What is the professor's typical instructional style in this class? (mark one for each course that you are currently taking)

	Criminal Law	Civil Procedure	Contracts	Torts
Traditional Socratic (professor selects a student and questions student)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	9 <input type="checkbox"/>	13 <input type="checkbox"/>
Discussion of problems	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	10 <input type="checkbox"/>	14 <input type="checkbox"/>
Lecture with professor asking for occasional volunteers	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	11 <input type="checkbox"/>	15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Lecture interspersed with Socratic dialogue	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	12 <input type="checkbox"/>	16 <input type="checkbox"/>

25b. Which statements accurately describe your experience in this class? (mark all that apply)

	Criminal Law	Civil Procedure	Contracts	Torts
Students sometimes ridicule one another in class	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	13 <input type="checkbox"/>	19 <input type="checkbox"/>
This is a fairly relaxed class	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	14 <input type="checkbox"/>	20 <input type="checkbox"/>
The professor is overbearing	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	9 <input type="checkbox"/>	15 <input type="checkbox"/>	21 <input type="checkbox"/>
The classroom dynamics contribute to a free exchange of ideas	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	10 <input type="checkbox"/>	16 <input type="checkbox"/>	22 <input type="checkbox"/>
The professor doesn't prejudge students	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	11 <input type="checkbox"/>	17 <input type="checkbox"/>	23 <input type="checkbox"/>
There were some problems in this class, but I generally felt comfortable	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	12 <input type="checkbox"/>	18 <input type="checkbox"/>	24 <input type="checkbox"/>

**Current Concerns**

26. How stressful have you found law school?

- 1  Extremely stressful
- 2  Fairly stressful
- 3  Not especially stressful
- 4  Not at all stressful

27. Since starting law school, have you experienced increased: (mark all that apply)

- A  Difficulty sleeping (as opposed to difficulty finding time to sleep)
- B  Use of alcohol or tobacco
- C  Use of over-the-counter or prescription stimulants (e.g., No Doz)
- D  Use of over-the-counter or prescription depressants (e.g., sleeping pills)
- E  Crying
- F  Feelings of violence or aggression
- G  Difficulty in exercising regularly
- H  Difficulty in eating properly

**Current Concerns (Continued)**

28. How often in the past week of school have you felt depressed?

- 1  Most of the time      2  During a few passing periods      3  Rarely or never

**Attitudes**

- |   |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                        |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
|   | Extremely liberal     | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     | 6                     | 7                     | Extremely conservative |
| 29. On a political spectrum from left to right, where a 1 is "extremely liberal" and a 7 is "extremely conservative", where would you place yourself? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |                        |
| 30. Where would you place the typical student at your law school?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |                        |
| 31. Where would you place the typical professor at your law school?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |                        |

32. With which of the following views do you substantially agree? (mark all that apply)

- A  Women make better mediators than men      D  Income taxes should be set at a flat percentage rate for all income groups
- B  Television violence and gangsta' rap are symptoms of a violent society, not causes of violence.      E  I disagree with all of these statements
- C  Medicaid should not provide funding for abortions

**Background Information**

33. Are you attending school: 1  Full-time 0  Part-time

- |  |                       |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | 1 Yes                 | No 0                  |
| 34. Were you enrolled as a law student at this school, or another law school, before this academic year?         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 35. Did you grow up within fifty miles of this law school?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 36. Do members of your immediate family or close relatives currently live within fifty miles of this law school? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

37. Do you --

- 1  live alone?      3  live with your family?      5  live with roommates not attending this law school?
- 2  live with a spouse or partner?      4  live with other law students?

38. Is your housing -- 1  on campus?      2  off campus, but within five minutes of school (by your usual mode of transit)?      3  off campus and more than five minutes away?

39. Which of the following categories best describes your race or ethnicity?

- 1  American Indian / Alaskan Native      4  Black / Afro-American / African-American      7  Other Hispanic / Latin-American / Latino / a
- 2  Anglo/Caucasian      5  Mexican American / Chicano / a      8  Multiracial
- 3  Asian/Pacific Islander / Pacific American      6  Puerto Rican / Puertoriqueno      9  Other; prefer no classification

40. What is your sex? 1  Male      0  Female

41. What is the highest level of education attained by each of your parents?

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                    |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                       | Father                | Mother                |                       | Father                | Mother                |                    | Father                | Mother                |
| 1 Doctoral degree     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 4 Bachelor's degree   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 7 Some high school | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2 Professional degree | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 5 Some college        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 8 Grade school     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3 Master's degree     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 6 High school diploma | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |                    | A                     | B                     |

42. Do you have any additional comments about this survey or about influences on law school performance?

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