

## **New York Bar Certification – Rule 520.18 for JD Students**

**This information is provided as a summary of the requirements of the NY Court of Appeals Rule 520.18 for students who have entered a JD program after August 1, 2016. It remains your responsibility to understand and comply with all of New York’s rules for admission including Section 520.18. Ultimately, the State of New York through its Board of Law Examiners and New York Court of Appeals determine eligibility for admission to the New York Bar.**

Section 520.18 of the New York Court of Appeals Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law requires all applicants to confirm that they have acquired the skills and professional values necessary to competently practice law. This can be done by completing any one of five separate pathways provided in Section 520.18. The first pathway provides that the Law School can certify competence in skills and professional values, confirming that: (a) the law school has developed a plan identifying and incorporating into its curriculum the skills and professional values that, in the school's judgment, are required for its graduates' basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession, as required by American Bar Association Standards and Rules of Procedure for the Approval of Law Schools Standard 302(b), (c) and (d), and has made this plan publicly available on the law school's website; and (b) the applicant has acquired sufficient competency in those skills and sufficient familiarity with those values.

At Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, our published learning outcomes have been incorporated throughout the curriculum and provide that students are prepared for a rapidly changing legal marketplace by gaining competence, among other things, in knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law and the workings of the regulatory state; legal analysis and reasoning, research and problem solving; exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system, including a sense of justice; skills derived from participation in supervised live-client experience, externships, or litigation and transactional practice simulations, such as interviewing, counseling, negotiation, mediation, fact development and analysis, trial practice, deal structuring, document drafting, project management, and collaborative work.

There are a number of factors that prepare Northwestern Pritzker students with the professional skills and values necessary for the practice of law. Almost all Northwestern Pritzker students are employed at large or mid-sized firms, government agencies or public interest organizations in the summers following their 1L and 2L years. Approximately 80% of our students gain practice experience in at least one clinic or practicum/externship course in their second and/or third years. In addition, the Registrar of the Law School will confirm that all students have successfully completed the following required courses:

1. Two semesters of legal writing and research.
2. At least one advanced academic writing experience.
3. One Legal Ethics course.
4. Six credits of experiential learning course work.

Therefore, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law will certify that graduates of our JD programs have completed coursework necessary to fulfill the requirements of Pathway One under Section 520.18 of the New York Court of Appeals Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law.