

LL.M. Student Learning Outcomes

AUA Law has identified a list of practical skills and knowledge that it offers students through its courses. A competency matrix identifies the skills and knowledge imparted in each course. The competency matrix is posted on the AUA Law web page.

LL.M. Competencies can be listed as follows:

1. Legal Research

1.1. Sources

The ability to research, properly cite, and analyze primary and secondary sources of both Armenian and English-language foreign law, including constitutions, statutes, regulations, court decisions, and treaties or conventions.

1.2. Weight

The ability to assess the continuing validity, relevance, weight, applicability and use of sources of law in relation to the topic of research or the legal problem presented.

2. Legal Analysis

2.1. Statutory Construction

The ability to read, understand, and analyze a statute by:

- Employing standard rules of statutory interpretation
- Identifying the statutory elements which are subject to interpretation
- Identifying and applying case law precedent, regulations, and other sources of law to define statutory terms and general meaning
- Reading for underlying policy rationale.

2.2. Precedent

The ability to read, understand and analyze a judicial decision by:

- Employing standard methods of case analysis (identifying relevant facts, applicable rule(s), issues, holdings and policy rationales)
- Comparing and contrasting cases, identifying lines of precedent, recognizing dicta, noting procedural posture, and reading for *ratio decidendi*.

2.3. Legal Problem-solving

The ability to solve factual legal problems by:

- applying appropriate rules to factual situations, identifying rules that do not apply to a factual situation, forecasting decisions/results based on application of appropriate rules
- identifying standard legal arguments and policy rationales underlying a source of law and generating and evaluating the efficacy of counterarguments
- identifying gaps, conflicts and ambiguities among sources of law
- identifying factual evidence that supports or controverts a particular legal position, and assessing weight or value of evidence
- identifying a source of law that supports or controverts a particular legal position, and assessing weight or value of such law.

2.4. Law in Context

The ability to explain a source of law and its implications by:

- generating hypothetical examples of when a rule would apply or not apply, and if it applies, the ability to forecast the result of application
- explaining legal concepts in their diachronic (historical/evolutionary) dimension, synchronic (systemic/functional) dimension, as well as in regard to economic, cultural and social justice perspectives.

3. Legal Writing & Advocacy

3.1. Objective Writing

The ability to write an objective assessment of a factual legal problem, such as a client advisory letter or a legal memorandum.

3.2. Persuasive Writing

The ability to write a persuasive legal document.

3.3. Routine Documents

The ability to draft in English basic legal documents like due diligence reports on companies or transactions, powers of attorney, legal entity charters, corporate resolutions, employment agreements, sales agreements, and other contracts.

3.4. Oral Presentation and Advocacy Skills

The ability to make objective oral presentations as well as engage in oral argumentation in support of a legal position.

4. Practitioner Competencies

4.1. Issue Spotting

The ability to advise a client regarding:

- The principal issues likely to arise while undertaking a particular transaction
- The principal issues likely to arise during a particular dispute
- The relevant documents and information which will be needed during representation
- The likely scenarios, outcomes and future consequences.

4.2. Comparative Law Advising

The ability to advise and explain, both local and foreign legal requirements, in a manner which is most understandable to either a local client or a foreign client, depending on their legal frame of reference, for:

- common matters such as incorporation, purchases of real property or shares, loans, secured transactions, employment agreements, etc.
- basic tax issues
- basic intellectual property rights issues
- basic environmental issues (e.g., zoning, pollution and toxic disposal, nature protection, public and worker safety)
- basic criminal law and criminal procedure matters (e.g., basic elements of crimes, standards of proof, right to counsel, limitations on detention, rights of suspect and accused, basic phases of criminal investigation and proceedings)
- basic compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and other anti-corruption measures.

- 4.3. Outside Expert Assistance
The ability to identify complex legal issues arising in a factual situation which necessitate the involvement of other professionals (i.e. accountants, patent agents, etc.) or specialized advice, in regard to issues of tax, intellectual property, employment, environment, and compliance with anti-corruption measures.
- 4.4. Negotiation
The ability to prepare and conduct a basic negotiation (e.g. a contract negotiation or a resolution of a contract dispute).
- 4.5. ADR
The ability to advise clients on dispute resolution options, to evaluate pros and cons of various fora and choice of law provisions and methods of dispute resolution (courts, arbitration, mediation).
- 4.6. International Disputes
The ability to advise clients involved in international disputes on choice of forum (arbitration, litigation in foreign court) and on the enforceability of decisions of such fora.
- 4.7. International Relief
The ability to advise clients on availability of relief in international fora (e.g., ECHR) and under international law, as well as applicability of international law in RA.
- 4.8. International Best Practices
The ability to assess local practice in common situations in light of international best practice, identify differences and causes of differences, and explain differences to local and foreign clients, and policy and law makers.
- 4.9. Professional Ethics
The ability to identify situations involving professional ethics issues, including conflicts of interest, matters beyond one's competence, and unethical behavior by parties involved in a matter, to know when and how to document and disclose matters to colleagues, to seek specialized advice, and to advise clients in situations raising ethical issues.
5. Substantive Knowledge
 - 5.1. Procedural Law & Fairness
The ability to understand, to recognize elements and to identify violations of both criminal and civil due process.
 - 5.2. Substantive Law: Owing to sufficient familiarity with basic norms of substantive law, the ability to cite and/or paraphrase the major legal norms without special research and the ability to identify issues and to efficiently focus on the relevant details of these norms for closer examination.