

Welcome to JDEdge by AccessLexSM! We are eager to equip you with valuable academic skills and practical knowledge for a solid start to your law school journey.

This course will cover everything from reading and briefing cases to effective study, and so much more. In addition, we'll help you develop non-academic skills such as a growth mindset, critical reflection, and financial planning, all of which are essential to your success.

With a mix of pre-recorded videos, independent work, and live classes, you can fit JDEdge around your schedule. Plus, if you can't make it to a live session, you can always catch up by watching the recording later. We've also provided you with various resources that you can use throughout the semester to support your learning. We expect that the entire course should take you roughly 20-25 hours to complete.

The course is divided into five modules, each with its own set of topics and activities. While you can choose to follow your own schedule, we recommend adhering to the syllabus to ensure that you get the most out of the course.

Ready to sharpen your skills for law school? [Let's get started!](#)

Module One: Introduction to Law School

What's it all about? This first module will provide you with an introduction to law school. You'll learn about the resources available for assistance, effective time management strategies, an overview of the judicial system, and essential legal terminology. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to complete your first journal entry, a critical aspect of the reflective process that aids in developing a deeper understanding of the material covered throughout the course.

Topic	Format	Approx. Time (mins)	Notes
Welcome to JDEdge	Video	5	Join us as we introduce you to the goals of JDEdge.
The Role of Lawyers	Video	7	Learn more about the profession you are about to enter!
Getting Help at Your Law School	Video	7	You will have lots of nuts-and-bolts questions in the days ahead. Learn where to go for answers.
Welcome to Law School	Interactive Online Lesson	7	This lesson includes the <i>Learning the Language of the Law</i> "cheat sheet" and a <i>1L Glossary</i> .
Time Management	Video	8	Let's talk about one of the "secrets" to law school success!
Making the Most of Your Time	Interactive Online Lesson	15	Here you'll have the opportunity to complete a <i>Time Calculation</i> worksheet and a <i>Sample Schedule</i> .
A Primer on the Law	Interactive Online Lesson	15	In order to understand your coursework, it's helpful to have an understanding of the U.S. legal system. This quick lesson explains the basics!
First Year Classes Overview	Video	10	Let's talk about some of the courses you will take this first year of law school, affectionately known as "1L."
Journal Entry 1: What Are You Hoping to Get Out of This Course?	Individual Work	30	What do you hope to get out of this course? Early goal setting can help you become a better learner by guiding your choices regarding how to prioritize your time and focusing your questions on your learning objectives. You can reflect upon these goals as you move through the course.
Overview of the Judicial System	Video	6	As a 1L, you will be spending most of your time reading and discussing court opinions – cases. Understanding the structure of the judicial system is an essential first step.

Module Two: Preparing for Class – Before, During, and After

Wondering how a law school class is different from other classroom experiences? In this module, you will learn how to optimize your class experience — preparing before, actively engaging during, and reviewing after class. Lessons in Module Two include case reading and briefing, the Socratic method, notetaking, rule synthesis, and study material creation. You will also have an opportunity to attend a live case-briefing walk-through and a mock law school class to enhance your practical skills. As part of the coursework, you can submit a draft case brief and class notes to unlock model briefs and notes to use for self-assessment.

Topic	Format	Approx. Time (mins)	Links/Notes
<u>Preparing for Class</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	Effectively preparing for class is the first step in active learning. This lesson includes a case briefing template.
<u>Case Method: Case Reading and Briefing</u>	Video	15	Case reading is very different than any other reading that you have done. Learn how to closely read cases and how to take notes on them, i.e., draft case briefs, so that you are ready for class!
<u>Case Briefing Walk-Through</u>	Video	30	In this video, we will walk through how to brief a case using <i>Garratt v. Dailey</i> .
<u>Practice Case Brief</u>	Individual Work – Submitted	60	Practice briefing the <i>Garratt v. Dailey</i> case after we discuss it during the case briefing walk-through class. When you submit your brief, you will have access to our sample brief for comparison.
<u>Socratic Method: Engaging In Class</u>	Video	13	Unlike the lecture style of teaching, the Socratic method, used in many law school classes, requires students to participate in the conversation to drive the class discussions. We will help you prepare!
<u>Notetaking: What Am I Supposed To Write Down?</u>	Video	8	There's a lot going on during a law school class. This video will help you to focus on what you need to take away from class.
<u>Navigating Classroom Discussions</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	This lesson includes more information on the Socratic method, including the types of questions you may be asked, tips for how to respond when called on, as well as when to volunteer, and note-taking strategies. It also includes a handout with tips for how to navigate virtual classrooms.
<u>Prepping for Mock Law School Class</u>	Individual Work (Case Reading/ Briefing)	120	We're going to hold a mock law school class, so come prepared! Grab your case brief from <i>Garratt v. Dailey</i> and read and brief <i>Leichtman v. WLW Jacor Communications</i> . Also take a look at the rules regarding the intentional tort of battery in your Torts Mini-Outline.
<u>Mock Law School Class (With Debrief of Experience)</u>	Live	90	<p>NOTE: This is a live session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, July 1, 12:00 pm ET • Thursday, July 24, 3:00 pm ET • Wednesday, August 6, 6:00 pm ET <p>Participate in a simulated law school Torts class and learn the tort of battery. Come prepared to ask and answer questions! (If you'd rather hang back and observe, that's okay, too. This isn't a real class. You can pass on speaking.)</p>

<u>Take Notes in Class and Unlock Sample Notes</u>	Individual Work	Concurrent with above	Take notes during the mock class! When you submit yours, you will unlock our sample class notes. You can compare your notes to the sample to see what important information you may have missed. This can help you develop a plan for what to write down during your law school classes.
<u>Journal Entry 2: How Effective Was Your Class Prep?</u>	Individual Work	30	Take some time to reflect on the experience of attending your first law school class. Was it what you expected? In what ways was it different? In what ways was your preparation helpful? How can you alter the way you prepare in the future to make your pre-class work even more effective?
<u>Skim the Torts Mini-Outline</u>	Individual Work	20	Take a look at our Torts Mini-Outline to see how the various Torts concepts fit together.
<u>Rule Synthesis and Creating Study Materials</u>	Video	21	Once class is over, you move on to another step in active learning – synthesizing the rules you have learned today with those you’ve learned previously. This process will help you understand the rules you learn tomorrow.
<u>Class is Adjourned, Now What?</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	This lesson includes practical info on processing your reading and class notes, including tips on study aids and a fillable study group agenda.
<u>Outlining and Other Forms of Graphic Organization</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	Creating study materials as you go is another “secret” to law school success. Includes an <i>Outlining FAQs</i> worksheet and tips on other forms of organization.

Module Three: Preparing for Exams

It’s time to focus on exam preparation. You’ll engage in lessons covering writing for law school exams, effective study and memorization techniques, and the importance of taking practice exams. You will also have the opportunity to develop study materials and take a practice exam, allowing you to put these concepts into practice.

Topic	Format	Approx. Time (mins)	Links/Notes
<u>From the Case Method to the Exam Method: Legal Analysis and Analogizing/Distinguishing</u>	Video	12	Cases provide not only rules but examples of how the rules have been applied to fact scenarios. Legal analysis involves their application to a new set of facts, including the skill of identifying and comparing legally relevant facts from prior cases to those in a new fact pattern.
<u>IRAC: Writing for Law School Exams</u>	Video	13	Learn about this simple but essential structure for organizing legal analysis, which you’ll use in law school, on the bar exam, and as a practicing attorney.
<u>Metacognition: Figuring Out How to Study</u>	Video	5	What study techniques work best for YOU? Make time to evaluate as you go.
<u>Methods of Memorization</u>	Video	10	Here are some tips to get you started!

<u>Effective Study Techniques</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	This lesson includes the <i>Highly Effective Learning Techniques</i> worksheet, a quick reference sheet to brainstorm effective strategies to help you synthesize and remember what you've learned in the classroom.
<u>Journal Entry 3: What Memorization Techniques Have Worked Well in the Past?</u>	Individual Work	30	Although learning in law school is different than learning that you have done before, memorizing is largely the same. What techniques have you used in the past when you have had to memorize? Think back to elementary school spelling tests and college final exams. Write a journal entry to remind yourself of what has worked for you in the past, and what hasn't. Are there methods you want to try for the first time during law school?
<u>Practice, Practice, Practice</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	Here you'll learn how to get the most out of practice, including effectively using self-assessment to improve performance.
<u>Beyond the Essay: Other Types of Law School Exams</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	Multiple-choice questions in law school most often require you to apply the law to a set of facts. Dive deep into the process of approaching MCQs, and check out the <i>Dos and Don'ts on Multiple-Choice Exams</i> worksheet.
<u>Prep for Practice Exam – Make Outline</u>	Individual Work	60	Get ready to write your first essay!
<u>Practice Exam</u>	Individual Work – Submitted	60	This is pure gravy, no calories – just an opportunity try out what we've been discussing!
<u>Post-Exam Self-Assessment</u>	Video	6	This lesson includes tips for self-assessment to improve performance.
<u>Self-Assessment of Practice Exam</u>	Individual Work – Submitted	30	Use our self-assessment worksheet to review your practice exam alongside our model answer. What did you do well? What do you want to improve about your process for the next time you do a practice essay?
<u>Review of Practice Exam</u>	Video	30	Relax, let's review the practice exam together!
<u>Journal Entry 4: How Well Did Your Materials and Prep Set You Up for the Exam?</u>	Individual Work	30	Remember that the goal of the practice exam was to test drive your study process and exam strategies. What do you wish you had done differently, or more of?

Module Four: Preparing for Law Practice

Module Four emphasizes the essential skills required for law practice, including licensure, character and fitness, stress management, professional expectations, securing your first legal job, and financing the bar exam experience.

Topic	Format	Approx. Time (mins)	Links/Notes
<u>Overview of the Road to Licensure</u>	Video	14	You've probably heard about the bar exam. Learn more about it and about other requirements to becoming a licensed attorney. Find out where to get jurisdiction-specific information.
<u>Character and Fitness Evaluation</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	Learning about this licensure requirement now can save you a lot of time and headaches down the road.
<u>Funding Your Bar Exam Experience</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	The bar exam is years away, but early planning for how to fund the costs of bar study will maximize success and reduce stress.
<u>Managing the Stress of Law School</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	15	Let's face it, law school can be stressful for everyone. Here are some tips to manage that stress and get the most out of the law school experience.
<u>5 Tips for Landing Your First Law Job</u>	Video	6	Whether you know exactly what you'd like to do, or you have no idea yet, these practical tips will help you move forward.
<u>Professionalism Expectations: What Your Professors Expect You to Know</u>	Video	8	You have now entered the legal profession, but what does it mean to be a professional? Here are some concrete tips.
<u>Journal Entry 5: What Stress-Reduction Techniques Have Worked Well in the Past?</u>	Individual Work	30	Everyone manages stress differently. Some people like to run, others like to cook, play/listen to music, do yoga, knit, or something else. It is important to have activities that help you breathe deeply and reduce your stress. It's also good to have a plan for meals and snacks so that you aren't always running out to grab something fast. Developing a wellness plan is just as important as developing a study plan. Studying won't do any good if your mind is not in a good place to process the information. So, take some time to draft your own wellness plan. Think about stress reduction, exercise, and meal planning, doctor's appointments, and whatever else you need to keep you healthy.
<u>Self-Compassion Exercise: Write a Note to Yourself, Pretending That You are Writing to Your Best Friend, About How This Course Has Gone So Far.</u>	Individual Work	30	We are often far more compassionate towards others than we are towards ourselves. Write a note to yourself, pretending that you are writing to your best friend, about how JEDGE has gone so far. Think about what you have learned, and how the course is preparing you to tackle the 1L experience.

Module Five: Moving Forward

In this final module, learn how you can harness the power of mindset and reflection to get the most out of your legal education and even provide the opportunity for you to get some advice from the experts about all things law school!

Topic	Format	Approx. Time (mins)	Links/Notes
<u>Reflection: The Key to Unlocking Better Learning</u>	Video	8	Make efficient use of your study time by practicing critical self-reflection to improve skills, identify patterns in doctrine, and enhance memory retention.
<u>Don't Lose the Forest for the Trees: Transferring Knowledge and Skills Across Classes</u>	Video	7	Transfer essentially means making connections. Learn how to make connections across law school doctrines and skills to enhance your efficiency and understanding.
<u>Remembering Your Why: Law School is Hard, Remember Why You're Here</u>	Video	3	At various points during law school, you might just wonder why you're doing this whole law school thing. Here are some tips for grounding yourself when that happens.
<u>Remembering Your Why: Document It</u>	Individual Work	60	When you are in the midst of struggling to understand rules or prepping for your first exam, it can sometimes be hard to remember why you went to law school in the first place. Take some time to document this for yourself. This can take any form you'd like. It can be a letter to yourself, a poster, a video, a vision board, or a piece of art. Create something that you can look back at during those moments when you may have doubts or feel overwhelmed.
<u>Mindset Matters</u>	Video	5	Research has consistently shown that students with a growth mindset ultimately outperform their fixed mindset peers. Check out this video to see what this means, and how you can develop a growth mindset.
<u>Exercise: Create a Professional Development Plan</u>	Individual Work	60	As you begin law school, you will likely focus most of your energy on your coursework, as you should. But don't forget your professional development goals as well. Think about 2–3 professional development goals you want to accomplish such as polishing your resume, joining a bar association, getting a post-1L internship, or improving your writing skills. Make a plan for what steps you can take during your first semester towards achieving those goals.
<u>Welcome to MAX</u>	Individual Work	5	MAX by AccessLex® is the personal finance program created just for law school students. Take a look today!
<u>Financial Planning for Law Students</u>	Live	60	Register for an upcoming <i>Financial Planning for Law Students</i> webinar.

<u>Ask Us Anything: Get Advice from Law School Experts</u>	Live	90	<p>NOTE: This is a live session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, July 8, 3:00 pm ET • Monday, July 21, 6:00 pm ET <p>You have learned a lot during this course! We may have left you with more questions than answers. What burning questions do you have as you begin law school? Current law students will be ready to provide tips and answer your questions!</p>
<u>Journal Entry 6: What Are the Top 3 Things You Got Out of This Class?</u>	Individual Work	30	<p>Congratulations on making it through the course! Take a moment to reflect on what you have learned. What are your top three takeaways? Did anything surprise you?</p>

Additional Resources

We know this course has been packed with information, but yes, there's even more to explore! We recommend checking out some of our topic-specific videos and live webinars during your first semester. Be sure to keep an eye on our **Student Events** page for a complete list of upcoming webinars.

Topic	Format	Approx. Time (mins)	Links/Notes
<u>Sources of Authority</u>	Video	10	Every time you make a legal argument you will be asked to cite the legal authority that supports that argument. Learn about the different places the law can come from.
<u>Stages of Civil Litigation</u>	Video	11	This video will help you as you read civil cases, as it takes you through the basic steps of a civil lawsuit.
<u>Introduction to the Criminal Legal System</u>	Video	11	Here you will find a helpful overview for understanding criminal cases, specifically basic steps in a criminal prosecution.
<u>Separation of Powers</u>	Video	9	What does the phrase separation of powers mean? This video will tell you and will provide you with some basic information on the powers of the branches of government.
<u>How a Bill Becomes a Law</u>	Video	5	We'll take you step-by-step through how a bill becomes a law.
<u>How to Read a Statute</u>	Video	12	You will read a lot of statutes in law school. Here are some practical tips that are particularly helpful as you take courses such as civil procedure and criminal law.
<u>Financial Goals for Future Lawyers</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	10	Building a well-rounded financial plan for law school starts with committing to goals across five financial categories: earning, spending, borrowing, protecting, and saving.
<u>Building Your Law School Budget</u>	Live	60	Creating a budget that actually works will fuel your financial plan during law school and keep you informed and motivated along the way.
<u>Summer Financial Planning</u>	Interactive Online Lesson	10	Getting the most from your summer experiences starts with planning now. A little preparation can lead to big results when it comes to getting your foot in the door of potential employers.



Course Syllabus

Remember that you belong here, in law school, in this moment. You would not have been admitted if your law school didn't think you could succeed. Everyone stumbles and struggles in law school. But, you can do it. Remember why you started on this journey in the first place. Your future clients are waiting for you!

We are so glad that you have chosen **JDEdge by AccessLex** to help you begin your law school journey. As you move through law school and have questions, feel free to keep in touch with us at StudentSuccess@accesslex.org.