



# MSLAW Academic Support

## Checklist: Creating a Study Plan

To be successful as a law student, you must develop for yourself a clear study plan. The following checklist presents some of the factors you should consider:

- How much time, realistically, do you need to spend on the following:
  - Reading and briefing cases
  - Constructing your course outlines, flow charts, and other review materials
  - Revising and organizing your class notes
  - Working on course assignments
  - Reviewing and studying the material
  - Studying with peers or study groups
  - Attending academic support programs and workshops
  - Consulting outside review sources
- How much time per week can you block off for school work (outside of attending classes)?
- Are there any courses in which you know you need to spend extra time in order to master the material? Conversely, are there any courses in which you know you may not need as much time as in some of the others?
- Are there any weekly events that you will attend (such as review sessions, exam skills workshops, tutoring, or study group sessions) for which you can block off a specific time in your weekly schedule?
- Are there any upcoming tests or class assignments for which you might need to allocate extra time during a particular week?
- In what ways will you split up the remainder of your study time?

Make a detailed weekly study plan and schedule—rather than just blocking off times when you'll read, study, and review, block off times on your schedule for specific tasks, such as reading your assigned cases in Civil Procedure and making Constitutional Law flash cards. Although you should leave yourself plenty of wiggle room (so you can spend extra time on that tough Property case when you need to, for example,) having a clear and detailed study plan will keep you more organized, on track, and motivated to keep studying. As a starting point, take a look at the following sample weekly study plan—and remember that this is just a sample: your schedule

needs to be customized according to your own goals, commitments, study styles, and study methods.

### Sample Study Plan/Schedule:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
9-10:30	Civil Procedure Class	Legal writing reading	Civil Procedure Class	Legal writing reading	Civil Procedure Class	Civil Procedure outline/review
10:30-11	Organize Civil Procedure class notes; break	Legal writing course assignments	Organize Civil Procedure class notes; break	Legal writing course assignments	Organize class notes; break	Exercise
11-12:30	Legal Writing Class	Legal writing course assignments	Legal Writing Class	Legal writing course assignments		Property outline/review
12:30-1	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break
1-2:30	Make and review Civil Procedure flash cards	Exercise	Make and review Property flash cards	Exercise	Make and review Criminal Law flash cards	Criminal Law outline/review
2:30-4	Property Class		Property Class		Property Class	Errands
4-6	Criminal Law Class		Criminal Law Class			Errands
6-6:30	Dinner break	Dinner break	Dinner break	Dinner break	Dinner break	Dinner break
6:30-8	Organize Property and Criminal Law class notes		Organize Property and Criminal Law class notes		Date night	Time off with friends and family

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