

1 **Objectives of the Program of Studies**  
2 **School of Law**  
3 **University of Puerto Rico**  
4 Approved at a Faculty Meeting on April 27, 2016  
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6 In accordance with the *Statement of Purpose and Objectives of the School of Law*, the  
7 curriculum of the School of Law is designed to ensure that all students master certain  
8 minimum competencies throughout their academic career. The program aims to  
9 strengthen the following competencies in the areas of *knowledge, skills* and *values* of the  
10 profession–competencies that must be developed, in the aggregate of the experience of the  
11 Juris Doctor, from the first year to the culmination of their studies:

- 12 1. Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law. That is, the  
13 mastery of positive law, its development, as well as the ability to apply and  
14 manage knowledge in various contexts.  
15
- 16 2. The development of analytical, investigative, and problem solving skills and  
17 the ability to communicate orally and in writing in a legal context, in addition  
18 to other professional skills necessary for competent and effective  
19 participation as a member of the legal profession.  
20
- 21 3. The proper exercise of ethical and professional responsibilities vis-à-vis  
22 clients and the legal system.  
23

24 As for the first of these competencies–knowledge–the courses that comprise the  
25 compulsory program aim to provide students with the necessary educational experience  
26 to:

- 27 1.1 Understand the principal doctrines and the jurisprudence related to substantive  
28 and procedural law.  
29
- 30 1.2 Distinguish among the institutions of the legal framework, taking into account  
31 our mixed tradition and including a global perspective.
- 32 1.3 Reflect on the legal knowledge to understand its valuative and ethical content,  
33 as well as its functions and limitations to meet social needs.  
34

35 The second type of competencies, related to the skills of the profession, are acquired  
36 through the curriculum in courses, seminars, practical workshops, other educational  
37 experiences, such as simulations and debates, and, with greater focus, the required courses  
38 on legal research, legal writing, and the legal aid clinic. The curriculum is designed so that  
39 the student has a substantial opportunity to develop the following competencies:

- 1           2.1 Critically analyze the relationship between facts, context, and legal norm.
- 2
- 3           2.2 Perform legal research by incorporating different sources of reference and the
- 4           appropriate regulation.
- 5
- 6           2.3 Identify legal problems and design solutions for them.
- 7
- 8           2.4 Orally express legal arguments in an effective, coherent and clear manner,
- 9           according to the legal matter and the audience.
- 10
- 11          2.5 Draft legal documents in a clear, coherent and effective manner in accordance
- 12          with the legal matter and the audience.
- 13          2.6 Integrate legal knowledge.
- 14

15           Third, the curriculum aims at the development of values linked to the proper  
16 exercise of ethical and professional responsibilities. These competencies, or rather  
17 attitudes, can be summarized as follows:

- 18          3.1 Be sensitive to access to justice for economically disadvantaged groups.
- 19
- 20          3.2 Understand the norms and scope of ethical obligations.
- 21          3.3 Address and resolve issues that compromise ethical responsibility.