**University of Wisconsin Law School**

**Academic Self-Assessment\***

The goal of this academic self-assessment is two-fold: (i) to assist you in a **honest self-reflection** exercise about your academic performance from last semester, and (ii) to strategize a plan that will position you to perform better this semester and beyond.

Objectives of academic self-assessment exercise:

* Identifying obstacles from the previous semester that impacted your ability to attain your full potential.
* Evaluating current course load
* Create a plan for success for each class

**A.** Fill in the grid below. How do you plan to attain each desired grade?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Previous semester courses** | **Grade** | **Current semester courses** | **Grade Desired** |
|  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**B.** In reviewing your academic performance, what factors contributed to the grades you earned?

Check all that applies and **circle the top 3**.

**Academic: Exam-specific**

* Didn’t put in enough time studying for exams
* Put in enough time but it didn’t seem to help
* Knew the law but didn’t apply it to the fact situation on the exam
* Knew what I wanted to say on the exam but had trouble organizing it.
* Ran out of time and didn’t finish all questions
* Finished all the questions but felt I didn’t fully answer any of them
* Covered some issues well but missed some other major issues
* Didn’t expect the exam to be structured like it was
* Thought I did well on the exam but the grade was low
* Even though I know the material, I panic on exams and do poorly.

**Academic: General**

* Ineffective study/learning skills
* Poor basic writing skills
* What worked in college doesn’t work anymore
* Hard to concentrate/daydreaming
* Difficulty keeping up with reading assignments
* Unable to understand course content or find relevance in course material
* Unprepared for classes
* Failed to outline my course work
* Used peer-shared outlines exclusively

**Academic: General (contd.)**

* Did not attend/skipped (some) classes
* Uncomfortable classroom climate
* I read slowly and rarely get my reading assignments done.
* I don’t know how to take good lecture or reading notes
* I’m uncomfortable admitting to anyone that I need help to improve my study habits.

**Social Adjustment**

* Personal relationship issues
* Family situation
* Difficulty adjusting to the Law School
* Hard to make friends/ Loneliness

**Utilizing Available Resources**

* Did not go to faculty office hours
* Was not part of a study group
* Found it difficult to find a study partner
* Did not use Individualized Writing Inst. Services
* Did not take advantage of Academic Enhancement Workshops
  + Effective reading/note-taking
  + Time Management for law students
  + Outlining and Organizing Course Materials
  + Mid-Terms and the Relevance of Legal Analysis
  + Preparing and Studying for Law Exams
  + Taking and Writing Law School Exams
  + Last Minute Exam Taking Tips

**C. Learning and Study Skills Inventory**

Ten learning and study skills have been identified as

essential to strategic learning and academic success. *Identify areas you believe you need to improve based on your overall experience and performance last semester.* Note that there are self-help info sheets for each skill at the Academic Enhancement Program office.

**Skill** Component of Strategic Learning

* Information Processing
* Selecting Main Ideas
* Test Strategies.

The **Will** Component of Strategic Learning

* Attitude
* Motivation
* Anxiety

The **Self-regulation** Component of Strategic Learning

* Concentration
* Time Management
* Self-Testing
* Study Aids.

**D.** Now, explain in detail the **three most significant factors** that affected your academic performance last semester.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Significant Factors** | **Explain each obstacle’s impact on your success** | **How can you eliminate that obstacle?** |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |

**Action Plan for a More Successful Semester**

E. Think about a plan of action for getting the semester off to a strong start. Include meetings with faculty, and using other academic success resources at the Law School. Commit to following through with your action plan.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **GOAL** | **ACTION PLAN**  **(dates, follow-up meetings, etc.)** | **AVAILABLE RESOURCES**  **(improve learning or study skills, professors office hours)** |
| **1.** |  |  |  |
| **2.** |  |  |  |
| **3.** |  |  |  |
| **4.** |  |  |  |

\*You are encouraged to consult with Assistant Dean Moji Olaniyan to discuss your self-assessment and plan for success.