What does “1L” mean?

What will I be doing as a 1L?

“What” refers to someone who is in their first year of law school, and is a synonym for “first year law student.”

- After you finish 1L, you go to 2L and 3L.

As a 1L, you are learning the basics of learning and thinking as someone who will enter the legal sector (e.g.: as an attorney, someone in policy, or other law-related career).
# 1L Academic Year Timeline

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Welcome to law school!</td>
<td>- Enjoy Thanksgiving!</td>
<td>- Work on job and/or clinic applications, interview</td>
<td>- Continue job apps</td>
<td>- Prepare for exams</td>
<td>- Continue/end summer opportunity</td>
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<td>- Start settling in + meet folks</td>
<td>- Start thinking about exams</td>
<td>- Start 1L Spring Semester classes</td>
<td>- Prepare for Mock Trial/Moot Court</td>
<td>- Write on for journal(s)</td>
<td>- Start/apply for OCI</td>
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<td>- First student org meetings</td>
<td>- Take exams/write memo</td>
<td>- Hear about Journal, Moot and Mock Trial</td>
<td>- Finish 1L Year!</td>
<td>- Finish 1L Year!</td>
<td>- OCI</td>
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<td>- First memo likely assigned</td>
<td>Finish 1L Fall!</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Start summer job/clinic</td>
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<td>- Rest and get ready for 2L!</td>
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<td>- Enjoy break, start clinic/job apps</td>
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1L Classes + Grades

During 1L, your classes are chosen for you. These will be fundamental building blocks (sort of like general courses) that everyone takes.

Examples of 1L classes:
- Civil Procedure
- Property Law
- Torts
- Legal Research and Writing
- Contracts
- Elective

Law school classes are graded on a curve
- average grade for each class is calculated, and then the assigned grades to each student are curved around that average grade.
- Grades are important and strongly impact first career opportunities, but they’re not everything.

This can be stressful: reach out to professors or academic programing available on campus if you’re struggling with material: they are there for a reason!
Cold Calling, On-Call, Outlining

Classroom participation is a big aspect of law academics.

“Cold calling” is when a professor calls on someone in class even if the student hasn’t raised their hand.
- Each professor and/or institution is different

“On call”: a student is expected to thoroughly know the material assigned for that class.

“Outlining”: process of compiling everything someone has learned to create a large, master note-document that can be used for (most) exams
- Many student organizations have outline banks to utilize
- Everyone can outline differently
On-Campus Interviewing (OCI)

On-Campus Interviewing occurs twice during the school year (summer and fall).
- When is OCI? OCI usually occurs July-August after your 1L year, but applications open towards the end of 1L year or at the beginning of the summer.
- What is OCI? Students apply for opportunities and if selected, employers interview students on campus.
  - OCI Employers most often dependent on regional connections of the law school. Other options are available too.
- This is a major opportunity to secure employment for the first summer after your 1L, but is NOT the only way.
  - OCI accounts for a very, very small fraction of jobs and is not the only path for employment!
Journal, Moot Court, and Mock Trial are all 2-year commitments that students can get various class credit for.

- Moot Court and Mock Trial are great experiences to argue either at the trial level (Mock) or appellate level (Moot) for folks interested in litigation.
- 1Ls apply for Moot Court and Mock Trial in 1L Spring.

Journals publish various amounts of law review articles each year.

- No oral advocacy required. Journal is all writing.
- Journal members work on writing their own piece all year, and complete other editing on various publications.
Law School Involvement, Clinics/Internships + Networking

Take advantage of opportunities to get involved! This can help make law school feel less intimidating and more comfortable.

- Law school orgs are great to connect with folks with similar backgrounds and/or interests.
- Take advantage of affinity based law school orgs and pay attention if schools have them (e.g.: Black Law Students Association, QLaw, Women’s Law Student Association)

Keep an eye out for networking opportunities—they’re a huge part of the legal field.

- Many firms have networking opportunities during the year

Law school clinics are great experiences to do during 1L Summer (sometimes) or during 2L/3L. Students have their own clients under the supervision of a professor.

- 1L is also a great time to apply for internships with judges, law firms, or other legal sectors! These opportunities are usually available starting in 2L Fall.
Taking Care of Yourself

Find community and use your support system! Law school is hard and isn’t meant to be done alone.
- Friends + study groups
- Non-law community: friends, family, significant others, (pets, too!)

Prioritize taking care of yourself!
- Stay connected to your hobbies/means of decompressing
- Prioritizing mental, physical and emotional health
- Imposter syndrome is real – but you’re at the school for a reason.
- Ask for help if you need it or who to ask if you don’t know
  - Reality of high rates of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse

Don’t feel pressure to conform to what everyone else is doing – you know yourself best!
Question + Answer
ask away!