



Learning Outcomes Assessment 2018-19

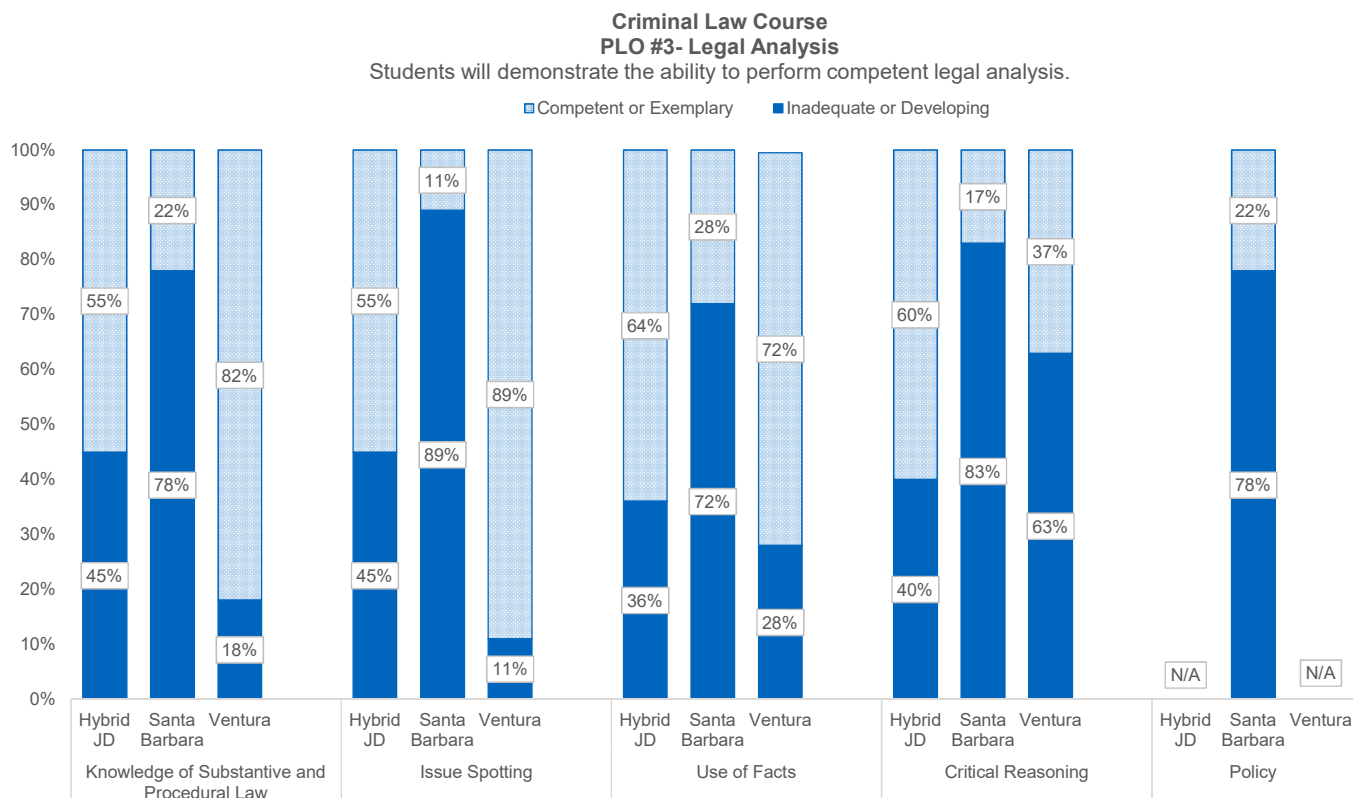
Assessment of Student Learning- Juris Doctor Programs

The law school has established three Institutional Learning Outcomes: Knowledge of Law, Practical Skills, and Ethical and Professional Values. Each program has separate program learning outcomes (PLO). The Juris Doctor (JD) programs have a total of nine learning objectives which apply equally to both the onsite and the hybrid JD programs. In the 2018-2019 academic year, COL began a new assessment cycle by assessing two of its nine PLOs: Legal Analysis and Legal Research. Legal Analysis was assessed in the Criminal Law and Torts courses; Legal Research was assessed in the Introduction to Legal Research course. COL uses the standards *inadequate*, *developing*, *competent*, and *exemplary* to describe its proficiency levels.

Juris Doctor PLO#3- Legal Analysis

Legal analysis was assessed in the first-year, doctrinal courses across both campuses (Santa Barbara and Ventura) and across both modalities (onsite and hybrid JD programs) to determine students' ability to perform competent legal analysis. Five distinct criteria were evaluated: 1. Knowledge of Substantive and Procedural Law; 2. Issue-Spotting; 3. Use of Facts; 4. Critical Reasoning; 5. Policy.

Assessment data from the Criminal Law course is summarized below. Assessment results indicate the Ventura onsite and hybrid JD Criminal Law students performed differently from and better than the Santa Barbara Criminal Law students. The law school's goal is that by graduation, all JD students will demonstrate skills at a proficiency level of *competent* or *exemplary* on all program learning outcomes.

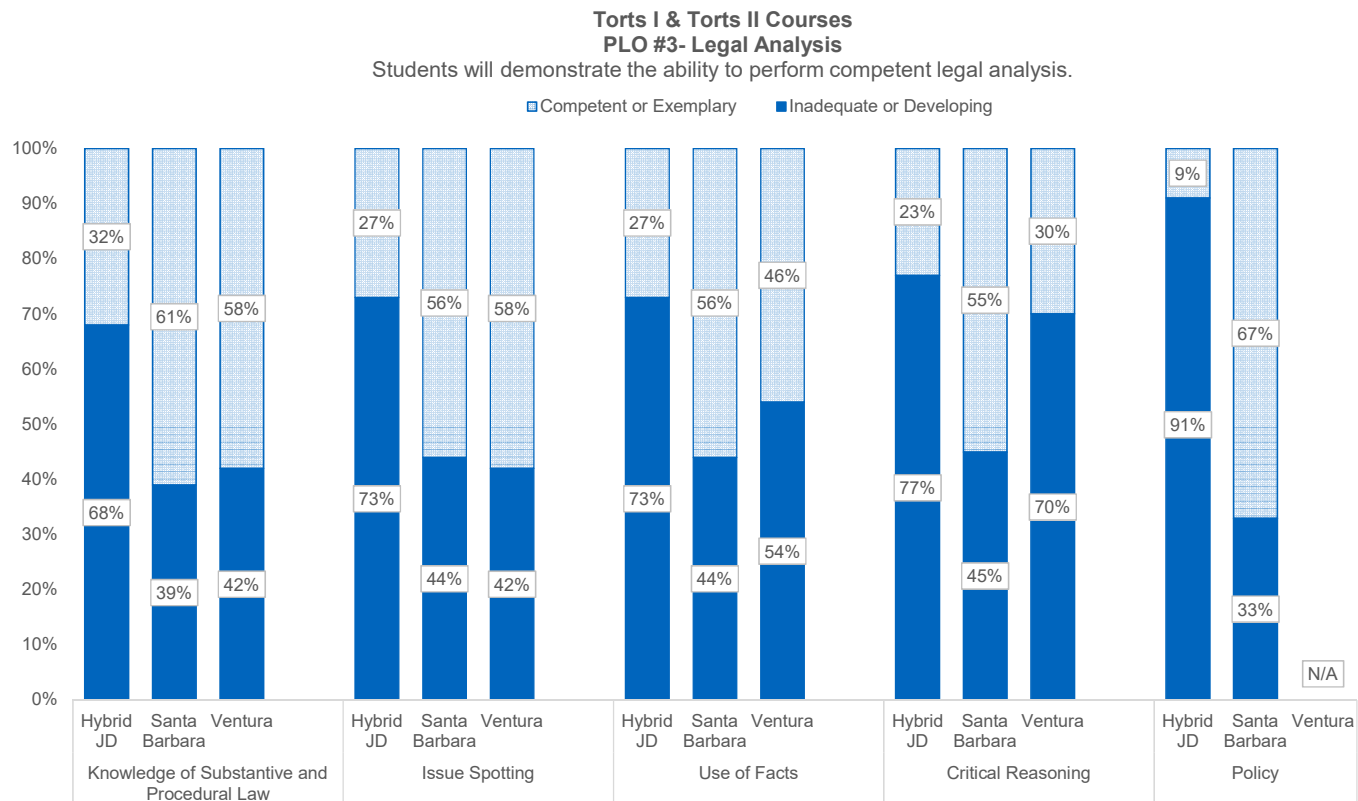


Colleges of Law

Assessment of Student Learning- Juris Doctor Programs

Juris Doctor PLO#3- Legal Analysis

Legal analysis was also assessed in the Torts courses across both campuses (Santa Barbara and Ventura) and across both modalities (onsite and hybrid JD programs) to determine students' ability to perform competent legal analysis. Five distinct criteria were evaluated: 1. Knowledge of Substantive and Procedural Law; 2. Issue-Spotting; 3. Use of Facts; 4. Critical Reasoning; 5. Policy. Assessment summary results are displayed below. The onsite Torts students performed differently from and better than the hybrid JD Torts students. The law school's goal is that by graduation, all JD students will demonstrate skills at a proficiency level of competent or exemplary on all program learning outcomes.

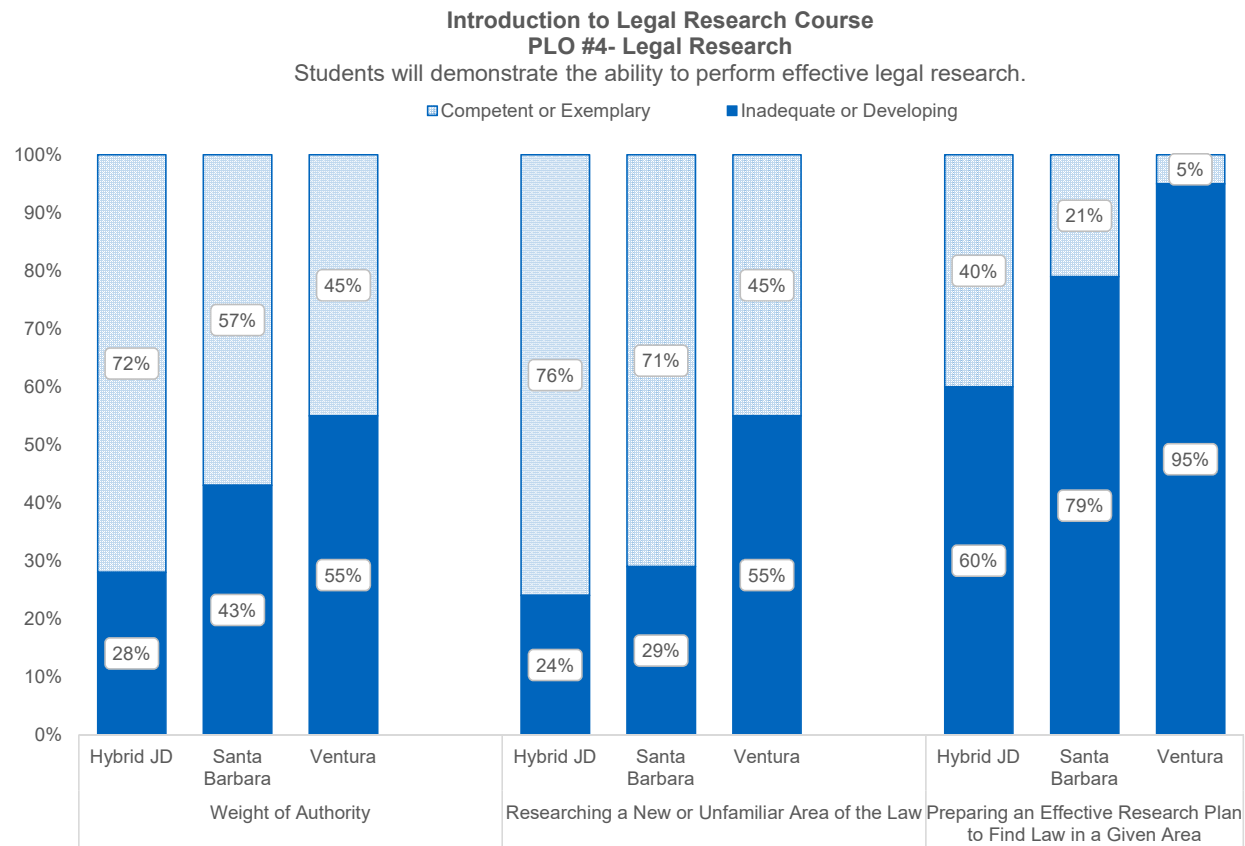


Assessment of Student Learning- Juris Doctor Programs

Juris Doctor PLO #4- Legal Research

The objective of the evaluation was to assess the performance of students enrolled in first-year legal research across both campuses (Santa Barbara and Ventura) and across both modalities (onsite and hybrid JD programs) to determine whether students demonstrated the ability to perform effective legal research. Three distinct criteria were evaluated: 1. Weight of Authority; 2. Researching a New or Unfamiliar Area of the Law; 3. Preparing an Effective Research Plan to Find Law in a Given Area.

Data was collected from the Introduction to Legal Research courses during the 2018-19 academic year. As this is an assessment of an introductory course completed during the first year of law school, it is not expected that all students will demonstrate at a proficiency level of *competent* or above. The results of our assessment show that the hybrid JD and the Santa Barbara onsite students performed differently from and better than the Ventura onsite students overall. On the first two criteria, the majority of the hybrid JD and the Santa Barbara onsite students performed at a proficiency level of *competent* or above, demonstrating an understanding of weight of authority as well as how to research a new or unfamiliar area of the law. On the third criterion, however, the majority of all students performed at a level that was either developing or inadequate. The law school's goal is that by graduation, all JD students will demonstrate skills at a proficiency levels of *competent* or *exemplary* on all program learning outcomes.



Assessment of Student Learning- Master of Legal Studies Program

Master of Legal Studies PLO#1- Legal Doctrine and PLO #2- Policy

The law school has established three Institutional Learning Outcomes: Knowledge of Law, Practical Skills, and Ethical and Professional Values. Each program has separate program learning outcomes (PLO). The summary below focuses on the Master of Legal Studies (MLS) program and two program outcomes for the 2019 year.

For the MLS program, nine specific program learning outcomes have been defined. In Summer and Fall of 2019, faculty assessed the upper-level, capstone course on two outcomes related to Knowledge of Law: 1. Legal Doctrine and 2. Policy. The assessment showed that 100% of the assessed students were performing at the proficiency level of *competent* or *exemplary* with 71% and 77% scoring at a proficiency level of *exemplary* in Legal Doctrine and Policy respectively. No students were performing at the lower proficiency levels of *inadequate* or *developing*. The law school's goal is that, by graduation, all MLS students will be at a proficiency level of *competent* or *exemplary* on all MLS learning outcomes.

