

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As with any academic program, admission is no guarantee of graduation, and Cooley's academic attrition rate – the percentage of students who leave Cooley based on academic factors – is higher than some other law schools, but consistent with its admission policy. Graduation from Cooley Law School requires a student to complete 90 credits of study with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.0 or C, as well as a 2.0 or C in required courses. Of the 90 credits needed to graduate, 63 credits come from required courses.

GRADING

The Thomas M. Cooley Law School grading policy is demanding, but fair. In most courses, grades are based on written final examinations, administered and graded under a system that assures student anonymity. Professors adhere to established grade definitions, but within that framework each professor may score the examinations differently and create a separate grading scale for each course.

Grades at Cooley are known for being hard-earned and truly indicative of a student's grasp of the subject matter. The Thomas M. Cooley Law School does not practice grade inflation. The grade definitions are closely associated with how students are expected to perform on the bar examination and in the legal profession.



Prepare yourself before starting law school

Cooley Law School provides its enrolled students with a unique, optional program to help improve law school success.

Cooley's online Introduction to Law School course is offered at introlaw.cooley.edu. No particular course of undergraduate study is needed for success in law school. However, certain skills which may be explored in a variety of undergraduate degrees are very helpful. In Phase I of Cooley's Internet-based prelaw program, students learn about law school in general, the American legal system, and some helpful study hints. In Phase II, students who pay a small fee will receive a password and will participate in a more extensive distance-education interactive course, introducing some of the skills necessary to succeed in law school. The course is offered entirely online, with posted materials. We recommend certain books, but none are required.

In this course you will:

- Boost the core skills that you will need for success in law school and in the practice of law, as recommended by the American Bar Association.
- Learn about the American legal system as it relates to your law school studies.
- Find out about law school, and specifically about Thomas M. Cooley Law School, before your first day of class.
- Discover some strategies and study methods that lead to success in law school.

- Practice how to read and brief (summarize) cases, so that you are ready for those first-day assignments.

Students work at their own pace, beginning two to three months before their first term. Students work with the text material posted online, and they take self-evaluated quizzes and brief cases. One of those briefs may be submitted for feedback. Students also engage in interactive discussions with professors, library services staff, and recent Cooley graduates. Best of all, they discuss concerns with other incoming students and "meet" some classmates before arriving on campus.

Among the skills covered are:

- Statutory interpretation
- Reading and briefing cases
- Synthesizing cases and introduction to outlining
- Deductive reasoning
- Reasoning by analogy
- Introduction to law school exam writing

All enrolled students who pay their tuition deposits by the stated deadline receive the Introduction to Law School-Phase II opportunity, which is optional.