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Stetson Law

Admitted Student Webinar: Academic Success and Advising

06/08/2021

12:00 p.m.

[Captioner standing by.]

(This Meeting is being recorded.)

>> Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to our admitted student Webinar. We are going to allow you to get in the room. We are not starting just yet and allow a few moments so everyone can join us and we'll be starting momentarily.

If you are just joining us, we are just waiting for everyone to enter the room, and then we'll start. So thank you for your patience.

All right we are going to go ahead and get started.

Again, welcome to today's admitted student Webinar. We are very glad that you chose to spend some time with us today. My name is Carla Davis jam son. I'm the assistant Dean for enrollment here at Stetson. I'm here with Alicia Jackson that's the director of the academic bar association services here at Stetson. I'm joined by my cohost Darren, director of admissions and -- our topic today focuses on Academic Success and Academic Advising.

Some of you have reached out to us to inquire about Academic Successes resources. Particularly those available for first-year students. Wanted to bring you the Webinar as an opportunity for you to meet the Academic Success and appropriations team. These will be your people. We want you to learn more about the various Academic Success and Academic Advising resources and opportunities that are available here at Stetson. The panelists today are assistant Professor Alicia Jackson that's the director of the Academic Success and bar appropriation office. And assistant director Ashley. And assistant director Beth Bennion. Assistant director Kelley Thompson. This is your team.

Again, I said you will meet your people. I'm going to stop here slowly. And allow each of them to give you a little bit of an introduction about themselves. A background of how long they have been be Stetson. Where they study law. And where they are in Law School. And what their expertise are within the team. Professor Jackson.

>> Hello everyone. We are excited to have you joining us. Welcome to Stetson. As the -- Stetson as the

director announced and who we love here, I am the director of Academic Success and bar preparation services. I'm a faculty member here at Stetson. I joined last year. I was the associate Dean at -- I have been teaching law for 20 years now. It's been interesting to say the least. I love whether an I do and it's -- what I do and it's the best career choice in the world. I studied law in Northern South Eastern University after attending -- graduate school. I teach her at Stetson, family law, juvenile law, and I also teach a plethora of upper law skills as well.

And again, thank you for joining us and we look forward to spending the next hour with you sharing the resources here to support you in your success.

>> Wonderful. Thank you. Next, is Ashley introducing herself.

>> Hello everyone let me be the second to congratulate you on the admission to Stetson. We are excited to have you. I'm the assistant director for Academic Success and bar preparation services and also an instructor in law here at the college of law. I teach a bar prep classes that's available to the students in the final year of Law School. I'm from Michigan quickly and a quick go blue. I studied law at the university of Miami at the school of law. I love working especially with the first year students to help you through the transition and help you do your best on the exams and get the most out of your first year of Law School. Thanks.

>> Go blue, huh, go Michigan. I'm sure we have some Michigan folks on the call. Next Beth, would you introduce yourself?

>> Yes, thank you. I'm Beth Bennion, I am Stetson alum. I'm a second career attorney. I came back to Stetson through their evening part time program to get my law degree. If any of you are in that boat, welcome again to Stetson and please come see me and let's talk, right? We have some things to talk about that are unique to the part time students. I'm happy to help you in any way with you know, the things that come up with in that process.

I have been at Stetson four years now. Prior to that I was an assistant state attorney locally here in clear water Florida. I teach multistate strategies also here at Stetson. We are thrilled to have you here today.

>> Thanks, Beth. I didn't realize you were in the part time program. Good to know. Kelley Thompson that I just met today. Excite to her. Go ahead.

>> Hey. Yes. Dean jam son just met me today. I'm the newest member of the team. I'm one of the assistant director as well. And a Stetson alum. I was in your shoes not that long ago. Feels like yesterday I was at orientation at Stetson. It was a long journey but I'm happy to be back on the team. After Stetson, I went to noter dame and got an LLN much to Professor cease's dismay I'll say go Irish. After that, I practiced for a little while and now I'm back. Excited to meet you all and hopefully get to work with you in the fall.

>> So this is our fabulous ASBP team as we shorten it and abbreviate it. You will get to know all of them today and of course once you are here at orientation and the fall. Just to give you a run down on what to expect today. The -- we are going to spend 22, 24 minutes or so doing a panel presentation.

And so we'll start that shortly. While they're presenting their presentation, if you have a question that pops up, please feel free to jot it in the Q and A feature. You should see at the bottom of the screen a Q and A button. Put your question there. We'll reserve the last 25 minutes or so of the hour to take questions. We look forward to engaging with you during that time for some Q and A response.

So with that, I'm going to go ahead and pause and hands it over to Professor Jackson and team. Thank you.

>> Thank you. To get started. We want to spend a few minutes talking about who we are and what we do. Hopefully, you can see the presentation, are we all set?

Awesome. Again, we are the Academic Success and bar preparation program. We start engaging with you now through the passing the bar exam. You know

>> Often Deans comment at orientation their proudest moment is seeing graduates graduate. For us as a team our proudest moment is seeing you taking the open attorney. Passing the bar for you is important to us. We want to help you to bring the very best out of who you are and what you bring to the table as a prospective law student. To get started, I'm -- we are going to talk about what the presentation will consist of and then move forward.

During the first part of the presentation, we'll start with introducing you to the program. Introducing you to the program, the team, the mission and the goals. Then we'll transition to how we can help you succeed. As Professor cease mentioned we are vested particularly in the first year class. This is when you will engage with us the most until the third year. We'll talk about the things we do to support you on the journey to success including the Academic Success workshops and Academic Advising and also the bar preparation program. At Stetson we don't teach the bar exam but our goal is for you to pass it.

Then, we are going to talk about the recipe for success and then conclude can next steps. So we'll talk about some things that you can do to prepare for your transition to Law School.

So who are we?

So this is a picture of the team. Certainly you had a moment to get to know everyone through the introductions. I'm going to mention everyone briefly. I'm Alicia Jackson, the director. I share with the three assistant director, Beth, Ashley and Kelley. Sharon is one of the nicest people on campus. You will have a chance to chat with her and get to know her. A lot of the e-mail communications start with her. She's fabulous. We are the Academic Success and bar preparation team. We are collaboratively vested in your success.

Our mission. Our mission is to provide academic support and guidance necessary to empower students to achieve personal and professional success. We take you as you are. Where you are, your starting point, that's where we begin. We meet you where you are and our goal is to support you on the road to success. There are going to be things we do in the 1st, 2nd and third year. We thought it was important to share it with you at the beginning of the process. The goal number one to help students develop self-confidence and learning skills necessary to chief success in Law School and the bar exam. First year Law School students are surprised with the volume of reading that comes with being a first year law student. We are there to help you and help you figure out the most efficient way and best practices for being a law student and how to learn the law. We are there to help you develop the skills.

We assist you in refining and learning those skills to help you to achieve your academic and professional aspirations. We know you all have different goals. Not everyone will take the bar exam, while most of you will, some may want to be a president of a nonprofit or work for the federal government. Whatever they are, we are here to support you. Finally, empower you to master the legal skills and knowledge to in your success -- we are there to help you and teach you the skills that are transferable through the all the courses.

So how can we help you to succeed?

>> Wonderful. Thank you so much, Professor Jackson.

I always say Law School is most similar to learning a new language. When you come in, you are learning a new way of thinking about the world. Of thinking about yourself, and the skills you are developing to really think like an attorney require practice and feedback. So unlike an undergraduate or even other master's degree program you might have studied in, where class time really is a big you know, the main component of the learning, in Law School, your class time is one piece of the puzzle. There's an expectation that you are doing a lot of work outside of the class. A lot of thinking and learning, and organizing and synthesizing information.

So this is a new style of learning. And that's really what Academic Success is here for in your first year. To guide you through that. If it feels stressful or overwhelming or if you have a question that you free to raise your hand and ask in class. We are here. Our offices are located in the library. We are here to help you. You can stop by any time or e-mail for an appointment. We are here to help.

One of the biggest ways we support you throughout the first year is the one L workshop series. We put on a series of workshops throughout the fall and spring semester that are timed and cued to the skills you should be developing along the way. We begin with talking about things like case briefing. I don't know how many of you have heard of case briefing already. And you have been reading how to prepare for Law School books. You will be reading tons of legal cases. When you first start it's a new skill and new way of reading information. We use a system called case briefing and creating a brief to keep track of the information. To begin to really understand and impact how the court came to its decision. And so we do it a workshop on -- a workshop on case briefing to help you with that skill.

We talk a lot about organization, different study tools that might work for you. Things like you know, outlines, charts, flow charts, flashcards, anything that might help you master all the information in a way that works best with the way you learn. You got here because you are smart and you have done really well up to this point. And learning is probably natural to you. You are really going to be thrown in and have more work than you are used to juggling in a semester. Sometimes, I find Law School is the time we start developing those study habits that this will serve you through -- that will serve you throughout Law School and into the profession that's about continuing your education. We'll talk about that and help you figure out what study tool works best for you.

We move on through the semester and we start talking about exam prep. How do you get ready for a Law School exam and what does it look like? Different than any other exam you have taken. We unpack it and how you will be tested. What's expected of you and how the Professors will grade you. So you go in feeling prepared and like you can perform your best on the exams. We focus on essay writings. So many Law School exams are all essays or mostly essays, we work on essay writing and how to organize those for the ones that have heard the acronym IRAC, you will soon know it well. It stands for issue, rule, analysis conclusion. It's the style we use to write our Law School essay exams. We focus on things having to do with wellness. Law School can be stressful. It can be a stressful time. So we really do focus on tips to juggle that stress.

Meditation, we talk about things imposter syndrome and really just ways to manage

the stress of Law School to stay balanced and healthy. A lot of times that's having someone remind you it's okay to take a break and do the things that recharge you and that really you know, make you feel like your best self. So we touch on some wellness things as well.

And finally, some of the workshops will deal with the science of learning. Again, many of you are here because learning has just been completely natural to you. You have never had to think about how you learned before. So we'll dive in and really talk about some of the science behind the -- the brain science behind how you learn things, memorize things, so you can really optimize your learning.

Next slide, Professor Jackson. Perfect. Academic Advising. So this is another big part of how we work with you. This is more individual, so the workshop series, you will get tons of e-mail reminders and save the dates. We also meet with you all on an individual basis. So sometimes, you know, you have specific questions to you, your learning style, a particular trouble spot or stressful issue that's coming up for you. You can always schedule an individual meeting with any of the advisers and we are here to help you in that way as well.

We also help with course advising. Your first year courses are selected for you. You just show up, get your books and do your best. You don't have to worry about selecting classes. As you may trick cue late up to the years, you have a lot of selection to make about the law you want to practices and make sure you are getting the graduation requirements. We'll help you with that.

We are here to give you feedback. That's one of the most important things. If you are learning a new language, learning the law is like learning a new language, you can't learn it in a vacuum. You can't sit in the apartment alone and learn a new language and expect to be able to speak fluently. You have to get out and practice speaking with someone else that's in need of a speaker. That's -- you can come on in and show us your study tools that you are making. What's working about your outline. What's not working about the outline.

What have you used in the past that worked well for you. How can we customize that so it fits what you are studying today. And then exam feedback. As you continue through the semester, as you are preparing for midterms or final exams, you should be writing practice exams, practice essays, and you can bring them in, we'll look at it together and figure out where we can improve your organization and analysis. Where can we make sure you are getting all the points you deserve for the hard work you have put in. So this is just some of the individual help that we provide.

And our doors are always open. We are always excited to talk with you and help make sure that you have success throughout the semester and that you are -- you have a good strategy and are prepared for taking all of your final exams.

>> Thank you, Professor Cease. I'm going to talk to you about bar preparation. And you might think as a newly admitted law student that's it's too early to think or talk about the bar exam. But there are reasons it's worth thinking and talking about when it comes to the important milestone in your legal career. One important reason, that we talk about the Florida bar exam early on is because Stetson offers a big incentive for you to apply early. Stetson will pay your application fee to the Florida bar if you apply to the early deadline of June 15th in our one L year. Which can really add up. But it can take several months to pull together all the information and the documentation that you might need to complete your application. So it's going to be important for you to start early. That means, in your upcoming fall semester or perhaps

before you begin Law School. We'll provide a separate presentation on this topic in the weeks leading up to the orientation. Rest assured you don't have to do it alone. We are here to help you.

Our -- just for Stetson students and bar takers and on the portal, we have a bar prep tool kit. That walks you through the steps for completing your Florida bar application. We'll be hosting a presentation for you by the Florida board of bar examiners during the fall semester. So you know what they are looking for in the application. And any questions you might have. It will be available for you any time during the advisement process if you have unique questions that pertain to your own circumstances. In addition to the -- you will receive from taking Stetson up on the offer, applying early in Florida, also opens the door for you to participate in clinics and many internship opportunities at Stetson. You need to be cleared by the Florida board of bar examiners for the character and fitness before you can participate in clinics. The early application gets the process rolling and in motion for you.

Next slide.

In addition to the early filing incentives, Stetson offers a wide range for the students to prepare for the bar exam. We told you about the portal where you can access that once you receive your Stetson e-mail address and log in credentials. Even after you have applied to the Florida bar, things come up and we'll be available to answer questions you encounter along the way. Alternately if you decide to nit a jurisdiction besides Florida, we can help you with that process. No matter the stage you are at in the Law School journey, we'll be available to help you and answer these questions.

Finally, when you are ready to sit for the final hurdle, the bar exam, you need to research the bar review courses that are available to you and choose one that's a good fit for you. In addition to your commercial bar course, Stetson provides a number of additional resources for all graduates to maximize their success on the bar exam. We have published a prep plus study guide which is designed to help you customize your bar studies in the way you learn. It's filled with tips and strategies and ways you can be successful on the bar exam.

We also offer individual coaching through the that ten weeks of bar prep. If you are someone that's working while studying for the bar, you need to start earlier and we'll work with you through the process.

You'll get to work and meet with your coach weekly or biweekly whatever is best for you. Our coach measures your progress and makes sure you are on track to succeed. Stetson offers free essay grading for the folks sitting in Florida. We have a professional grader that used to grade for the Florida bar. She will be grading your essays in advance and give you customized feedback on your performance. Then of course we complement your bar studies with a plethora of simulated exams and workshops to make sure your final hurdle, passing the bar exam is a successful experience and a capstone for launching your career as a licensed attorney.

Next slide.

Okay. Thank you. Oh, Professor Jackson, I think you are muted. Okay. All right. Thank you, Professor Bennion and Professor Jackson. So I'm presenting next on putting all this together and what it looks like from the perspective of someone who was a recent grad. Next slide, please Professor Jackson.

Perfect.

So as I told you at the beginning of this workshop, I am actually a very recent graduate. I graduated in May of 2019. So I was in your shoes recently. And I'd like to share with you

all how you utilized a lot of the services both as a student and as a graduate preparing for the bar exam. The first semester is unlike anything else you have ever experienced as a student. You were likely all really great undergrads getting good grades, doing what you needed to. And Law School is just very different. All of you will probably experience a time when you want practice materials. You want multiple choice questions or essay questions because you want to practice for your exams. As you should. That's a great idea. And when that happens, Academic Success has materials for you to practice with.

I remember going to our department several times during the first and second semesters for the one L classes and asking for practice materials. There are commercial materials we have available to you as well as preparation materials from the law Professors or some of the law Professors at Stetson. We can also provide you with advice on how to prepare for certain types of exams.

You would prepare differently for a multiple-choice exam than you would for an essay exam. I remember talking with Academic Success and bar prep about my property class. Property was one class I was very worried about as a one L. I remember having a conversation with someone in Academic Success and bar prep and getting advice about that. I found that extraordinarily helpful.

I also utilized ASBP services for help with my bar application just as Professor Bennion was explaining. I attended that mandatory one L bar application session where the Florida board of bar examiners attended and answered questions. That was really helpful. The bar application is a rather lengthy process, as Professor Bennion explained. That mandatory session was really really helpful to hear from the source what you need to do to go through the process without any hiccups. I also actually spoke with ASBP on several occasions about my particular circumstances. I had questions about my application. And was able to go to the department to speak about that. Finally, I really utilized ASBP's services when I was studying for the bar exam.

As Professor Bennion said we do the individualized coaching. I took advantage of that as a student. I actually had Professor Bennion as a coach when I was a graduate and she was awesome. So just a plug for Professor Bennion, she's great. Stetson's provided resources were very helpful. All the extra resources in the portal made a difference for me. I took advantage of the simulated exams as well and read the newsletters and update emails from Professor Bennion when she sent them every week. I felt supported and someone to go to with questions. And I knew I had extra resources Stetson provided. I know they did make a difference in my ability to pass the exam the first time. That's my experience. It was great. It's a great team and I think you all will really find we are here to answer your questions.

>> Let's talk about next steps.

Academic Success starts today, you guys. Let's talk about some things that you can do to prepare for the journey. You often hear us to refer to it as awe journey because that's what it is. It is a -- it can be certainly an amazing journey. But with every journey, you have to prepare for it. Here are the tips to get ready for it. Stetson to prepare for your arrival. There are many ways you can prepare for Law School. One of the things I think is beneficial is preview what Law School will be like. There are multiple texts and I'll share some books that provide an introduction to Law School and the language Professor Cease mentioned. It's like being emersed in a different country and learning a new language. Start familiarizing yourself with the material.

First year are called one L that's the common language. Practice reading. It

doesn't require you to read law books before you arrive to Law School. Every day pick the New York Times or whatever publication you want to read. But wake up every morning and practice reading. You want to strengthen your reading skills. It doesn't have to be anything legal but certainly you want to start honing in on reason.

What's your study plan. August will be here before you know it and start thinking about what your study plan will look like. Not just a study plan but a life plan. You need to incorporate your work schedule and class schedule and obligations you have with family. Including preparing your family is equally important. Excuse me.

Seek advice from current and former law students. Certainly we are sharing quite a bit of advice and Professor Thompson shared her experience as a recent law student they are tons of law student eager to share experience. You can contact an office of admissions to see if there are any students you can reach out to ask specific questions about their experience. Enjoy your last taste of freedom. I would be like when did that show start and it's in season seven and I'm like what happened and my husband said Law School happened. So certainly, enjoy your taste of freedom this summer before you start Law School. That's not a bad thing. It's a really really cool thing to experience. Also make sure your laptop meets Stetson requirements. You will get lots of information from Stetson about what to do as far as technology requirements and things of this nature. That's to make sure you pay attention to the communications you receive in the e-mail.

You want to make sure that you are constantly staying engaged with the Law School and you don't want to miss the opportunity to engage with us outside of academic things. Certainly, we'll be available to support you. Stay tuned to the Stetson e-mail and all the notices you receive this summer. What are some of the books I mentioned. These are some of the titles that I like. These are titles that I have been recommending for a long time. Students seem to love them. They are short reads. They are difficult and essentially designed to help you transition from being an undergrad to a law student. Each title does that exact thing. It recognizes you are new to the process and teaches you the language of being a law student. It also helps you navigate the rest of vocab. What's the -- Googling it does no justice to what it means, right? These titles speak to how to prepare for class so when you do encounter the Professor that uses the pragmatic method, you are fine. How to prepare yourself for the next few years.

The second one is one L of a ride. The third title is called reading like a lawyer. Time saving strategies for reading like an expert. This book is critical. This book actually teaches students a method called empower. It's a strategy for learning how to read more critically. The next book is succeeding in Law School and the final is expert learning for law student. Each of the titles are found on the portal. Before you get access to the portal, I have provided the titles to the office of admissions. Purchase one from the list. Read the reviews. Always read reviews. Consider picking up one of the titles and familiarize yourself and it will be easier for you to transition if you have an overview of what to expect.

We want to thank you again for your attention and we wanted to provide enough time for you to ask questions before we end the session. So we are actually going to turn it over to the office of admissions to moderate the questions and answers session. We don't bite. We encourage you to please, please, please ask questions. We are excited to be here and look forward to the questions. Thank you, and again, welcome to Stetson.

>> Wonderful. Thank you so much to all of you. I learned a lot actually.

(Laughing.)

I was taking notes and learning myself.

And I love the -- enjoyed the last taste of freedom comment. Even though it sounds cruel, it's really the truth. So enjoy it. Enjoy your summer. At this point, we are going to welcome Darren Kettles, director of admissions, he's going to moderate the questions for the panelists. We have about 25 minutes to take questions. If you have not posted a question and you have one, remember to drop it in the Q and A. That's the button at the bottom of the screen. We'll take as many questions as we can as we draw closer to 1:00.

I wanted to mention, and I forgot earlier, we are recording the session. So we'll make the link available to you in an e-mail in a few days. If you heard something quickly and you want to go back to it or see the list of summer reads that Professor Jackson just shared, you will have an opportunity to review the Webinar again. I just wanted to mention that as well. Darren, take it away.
>> Great. Thank you, Dean Davis. Thank you all for your presentation. As Dean Davis did mention, there's also something to learn. This will be my 15th class to bring in here at Stetson. Every time I learn more of what we do to help you succeed here at Stetson. It's such a great time because you are coming in -- I'm waiting for a few more questions to come through so please, post them now.

Literally I have seen it transform people's lives. It's nice to see the testimony of Kelley Thompson and I remember your application. It's nice to see this and in a place where this education helped you get where you wanted to go.

And even Professor Jackson talked about how there's such utility to a -- whether you want to practice law or do something where a nonprofit, you want to go into elements of public service. Whether you want to you know, run your own business or go into political life. I mean, it's a problem solving degree and a powerful degree, a leadership degree. I have literally seen it transform people's lives. And I think Stetson does a tremendous job. If I didn't think it was the real deal, which I do, we are all here because we believe this is the real deal.

So anyway, thank you for the very thorough overview of how we can prepare you to succeed in Law School. Every one of you have been admitted and we believe you have every right to be here and you will succeed when you are here. I would like to say that everyone here on the campus on the community will care about you and take an interest your life and help you get to where you want to go but we have to know about it. Use our resources. Everyone is here just for the law students. You are not competing with the under graduates. The library is 24 hours a day 7 days a week. They are not here 24/7. I'm sure they'll work with your schedule if you have variables in that. Be aware of that. Don't think everyone is here 9:00 to 5:00 and goes home and you have to figure it out on your own. That's not the case. We want you to be successful.

The first question, Jill, thank you for that. Let's start it off with this. What separates an A students from the rest of the class? Everyone wants to be the top of the class. Maybe Professor Jackson, if you don't mind talking about that your experience in Law School your 20 years of teaching, what are the things you have seen with students that allowed them to excel at the level they want. I mean, who doesn't want this in maybe you can talk about it from your experience?

>> Thank you. I'm going to put it in three points. I love takeaways. The first is commitment. You have to prioritize Law School. You have to make it a goal and then prioritize. If your goal is to do well

in Law School, you have to have objectives. How do you get there. You don't have a goal without objectives. It's like a table without legs, it falls. If the goal is to do well, you need to set the objectives. That's the first point. Commitment which means setting the goal and allowing for the objectives to get there.

The second thing is preparation. You have to be prepared to put in the work. It's not something that happens serendipitously. You have to do the work. That's okay. The work prepares you to be the wonderful lawyer or professional. That's the point of it. You are lawyers in training. Whether or not you want to practice law or not, you are being trained. The preparation helps get you ready.

The final most important thing, students that get A's leverage resources. They are the ones that ask questions and show up to office hours. They are the ones saying can you look at this question for me. They are the ones saying I hit a plateau I'm not doing well, how do I get out of the situation. The three things again, commitment, preparation and being proactive of leveraging resources. Those are the strategies of being an A student in Law School.

>> Great. I think we get this in the office of admissions. Is there something else I can do to make sure I'm in the position to succeed as you have outlined Professor Jackson. So that's helpful. Over the years, I have also observed students that have come in and they were all sort of wily and ready and I have seen where some students get into a panic mode, right? Where students sometimes like, oh, my God I'm feeling overwhelmed and I have the feeling too. We have all been that too before. It's how you manage through that. You know, maybe Professor Cease can you talk about you know, what the importance is of making sure not getting behind. Staying ahead, or staying on your reading. And if you are reading, like what -- I have had people tell me I have read the reading ten times and I still don't even know what I'm reading. So I'm showing up in class and I'm like I don't know what I'm supposed to know here. Can you talk about the importance of that and can a faculty member, can your Professor know if you have tried to do the work but you are like I don't even know how to even tell you what I read. Maybe talk about that a little bit. I feel I can relate to students like that. I'm kind of slower reader. What about people that are slower readers too, so?

>> Definitely. There's two things. The first part was not falling behind. Keeping up with the reading and keeping on track with it. My biggest advice for that is especially if you are a student that is joining us straight from undergrad. Law School is a professional training ground. It is professional education. And so treating it like an under graduate student schedule is going to be do you a disservice. If you are used to having free time and you know, doing tons of reading in one day and reading late at night or cramming before an exam, that's not going to cut it here and serve you. The students that are the most successful here treat Law School like a job.

From day one. They keep regular hours. When they go to the first class in the morning, they bring homework with them. They do class, a little reflection after it. Take a nice lunch break. Hang out with people at the fountain by the cafe and grab a coffee. And then hit the library and do work during regular work hours and stay on campus until the work is done. If a different location works well for you, that's okay too.

But get your work done on a workday schedule. And you have a really nice repeatable schedule where you have preblocked out how you are going to get 40 to 50 hours of work done each week.

We have an example schedule on the website as Professor Bennion was talking about. The bar prep portal and the Academic Success portal with the Academic Success schedule. We'll talk about it more at orientation as well. It's about planning it out and sticking to the schedule and you don't fall behind and you are not playing catch up. You have to let the student schedule go. This is really is about getting on a workday schedule. You are going to be so much happier and less stressed and your homework will feel like a breeze compared to if you are trying to treat it like a regular schedule in undergrad where you go home after class and take a nap. Tut can you tell that -- cut that out.

The second part if you are doing the reading and all the homework and it feels like a foreign language. That's going to happen. There's especially one class where the reading doesn't click with you. You feel lost, that's okay. We have resources for you. The worst thing to do is sit there rereading the same thing over and over. Come into Academic Success. We are going to hook you up with the right commercial resources to help you better organize yourself and work through the case. You are going to have access to things like Westlaw and talk about prereading at orientation to you have a way to use key sites. None -- of it make sense now but it will.

Use the key sites to know what you are looking for the in the case. Use contents to know what's the purpose of reading the case and why did they assign it. Talk about adverse position. That's what I need to hunt for and look for. He will help you -- we'll help you with all the skills you need to hunt through and sort the material. Talk to your classmate, get in the study group. Go to the Professor's office hours. They are expecting you to come in muddling through in the beginning. They are happy to talk to you about what you didn't understand in the case. They are a wonderful faculty. That's some of my advice about how to make it through.

>> No. That was really helpful. I do know that as the incoming students, we match you up with a 3L student coming in. So you have that mentorship along with Academic Success and the amazing team we have here. We also match up with an alumni. It's somebody in your area of interest if you specify that in coming. So we do try and match that up. So you just have multiple resources.

Sometimes, you connect better with some people more than others and they can understand you better. Sometimes, you know, people don't always understand me but there's other people that understand me more. Hopefully, you can find that sort of mentor as well. That's helpful. Before we move on Ashley, can a faculty member tell that you have actually read it? I think some of them give you a pass. Don't they have an option where some faculty members will if you tell them at the beginning of the class, don't call on me because I'm not ready for this, is that such a thing?

>> So each Professor has a different style. You'll get -- they'll set the expectations from the start of class. Some Professors will have a system where you know the days that you are on call. There's only certain days they will call on you. Other Professors it's a little more free form and sometimes yeah, some Professors give you a pass. If for some reason, you are having a bad day not concentrating, you can take a pass. It might exist with you in your class with the Professor, and might not. I know for myself, I can be shy sometimes, and so you know --

Actually is great if you have a lot of nervous about being called on. Go to your Professor's office hours one-on-one when you are comfortable and tell them you are nervous about that. Work through it with them. Then, they might work with you to give you a little bit more of a heads up. Even ask them to call on you more often and you are nervous and want to participate more but nervous to raise your hand, you can work with the Professor on that. They are kind, regular human beings, they are

not here to torture you are or be cruel or mean. So don't be intimidated. I think the more you get to know them one-on-one, the less scary and intimidating it becomes.

>> Good. Good. Thank you for that. Excuse me. I always think about you know, what I would be like too. I'm trying to maybe ask questions that maybe speak to you that are in attendance today. Professor Bennion, a question for you came up. You know, can you talk about how difficult it was to balance sort of work life, home life, and Law School studies and you know, do you have any advice for students that have lots of demands on their time?

Whether it's a part-time job or working and going to Law School? What are some of these things you can offer up to some of the students that are worried about? A lot of students that we have incoming breezed through undergrad and did really well and time commitments, they could read and ascertain things quickly. In this incidence, I don't think it's going to be like that? Can you share anything that people can relate to?

>> I gosh. I would love to. Anything I tell you isn't necessarily the way you should do it. I can tell you the way I did it and what worked for me and what didn't work well. When I attended Stetson, I had a full time job. I was a single parent and I had two preteens actually at home.

So it was a huge juggling act to be sure. I really wasn't sure if I could even pull it off. But you know, it's about getting back to basics. Right? I pulled out my calendar, as soon as I had a schedule and I knew what my fall schedule looked like, I plugged in the class times. Then of course, I had to plug in my work times, right? Some people have flexibility at work and can ad JSU their work schedule. I had the basic 8:00 to 5:00 job. That was my situation. Once I plugged in my 40 hours a week, plus my class time, it didn't leave a lot left over for -- for life. Right?

And I was trying to -- I think I had read somewhere that if you have a three credit class, you should expect to spend twice that time preparing for that class. So that meant, for my three hour class, I had to do six hours of preparation. So I tried to block that time whenever I could. Let me tell you, it's not easy. I recall driving to the movie theater and sending my kids in with cash to go watch movies on their own and I sat in the car and read contracts or torts. I don't recommend this, I'm guilty of reading at stop lights. If I could get one more page under my belt, that was an accomplishment. When your schedule is that crazy.

I think if you plan and if you utilize the resources that you are available to you, through our department, you can be a lot more efficient with your preparation time for class.

I know that in the beginning, I had to time myself. Because it felt the reading took forever and I did time myself and I was reading an average of ten pages per hour. When I looked at the syllabus that said I had to read a hundred more pages before class, you know, it didn't take long for me to figure out I probably wasn't going to make it.

So getting your reading skills down and figuring out what you are looking for in those early days is important and we can help you with that. Efficiency in time is critical. I'm going to throw this out. You are not a machine. Nobody can simply go to work and school and do nothing else. I still had to find time for my children. Despite, that might be one advantage of having preteens, they didn't necessarily, want all my attention at that time. But I still had to plug in with them and check in on them regularly. Make sure they were okay.

You know, whether it was just cooking a meal together maybe that was the together time for that day or whatever. Also, stress relief. Boy, can't stress that enough when you are working and

going to school. You need an out -- need an outlet for the energy and adrenaline. I would run early in the morning. As soon as the sun came up, I would get in a 30-minute run two or three days a week. I needed that just to say sane. So I just say don't neglect your wellness and well-being. Because you are -- you are human not a machine.

The only thing I found, as I was pushing the midnight oil trying to prepare for tomorrow night's class late tonight, I finally just remember throwing down my highlighters and saying I'm not absorbing and I went to bed. I went to bed early and got up early and after doing that I was able to go through the material faster and I retained it more. That was a plus for me and a win. I have a few other tips and tricks up my sleeve. So come and see us and we'll talk. I can help you get there.

>> Okay. Good. Thank you, Beth for that.

Yeah. So if you have not felt it already, they want to see you. They want to know you. They want to care about your journey in Law School as Professor Jackson said. Do take advantage of the resources. Kelley, as a recent grad or fairly recent, so can you talk a little bit about you know, outlines and study groups? So I know people have talked about outlines and people have talked about sharing outlines. I know Gregg and Michael I'm just trying to do the two questions together. You know, what are your thoughts on people sharing outlines? I sometimes think that not everyone comes to the same realization of how they actually will recall it. Outlines are there to help I in exam time or to help you retain and build on your foundations of law. Can you talk about what you did and your thoughts regarding the sharing of outlines? Is it better to go through and -- I say the heavy lifting pays off in the long run and doing your own makes a difference. Can you talk about that? And what about study groups as well?

Sometimes we can really benefit from having someone there, what did you do and what have you seen people do that have been really effective and seen them have success?

>> Sure. So I can talk about them in tandem, I think. Because I experienced both of the same questions my first semester. So a when do you start outlining and how do you make one? C do you have a study group or on your own?

My experience with outlining, I think it's better to make your own or make them with a classmate if your Professor allows that. So be clear on your Professor's expectations. Some Professors prefer that you work on it individually. They might have guidelines on if you can make them with someone else. Talk to the Professor and make sure you know their expectations. It is always better in my opinion to make your own. Not to use some preformulated commercial outline or one from a previous student. I don't think that's a good idea. A the Professors probably don't like it and there might be regulations against it in the classes. B if you use a preformulated outline have the same learning process you go through if you create your own. Making an outline is about synthesizing all the material and bring it together in something that you can use to study for the exam.

Keep in mind, a lot of the Professors will let you use outlines during the exam. Some Professors have open outline exams. Some don't and are totally closed book and closed outline. Make sure at the beginning of the semester you know whether the Professor will let you bring the outline into the exam. That affects how much detail you put into the outline. It helps knowing going in because it may affect how you structure it. When I have an open outline exam, I like a table of contents with the outline so I know what page everything is on. You don't want the outline to be too long but knowing this topic is on this page was helpful because you don't have a lot of time during the exam. So knowing quickly how you can get to something is helpful.

Back to the question, about should you make your own or one with somebody else? I think if your Professor is fine with it and you want to make one with somebody else, that's fine. But you do want to keep in mind that study tools tend to be pretty individual too.

So if you are going to make them with somebody else, I would say you know, once you have kind of collaborated and made an outline, go back through it and kind of do any reorganization and rewording so it works if you. Have it personalized so it's helpful to you. I remember my first semester making individual outlines and doing them in study group. Both were helpful. But even when I made one in a study group, I went back and personalized it and made it my own. That was a class where the Professor was fine with us doing it as a study group.

That's to the question of study groups. I think study groups are very very helpful. You need to make sure that you set expectations of the process of creating a study group. So that you know what your goals are, how long you are going to study. And kind of what rules you are going to set up for yourself. It can really really easy to start talking about other things. When you are supposed to be studying. So just kind of set expectations at the beginning, and make sure that the people you are studying with are your people that you study well together and your styles work well together. You are may find they become your study people throughout all of Law School. If it works well for you. I don't know if that helps, Darren.

>> Well, it helps me. I think the idea of setting goals at the beginning of the study group make sense too. You don't want to be talking about TV series and things. Maybe for a few minutes there's unwind time but then we get to the business. Professor Jackson I know we are getting to the end here too. If people can still stay on there's a few more questions. I know Eddie talked about a few things. I want to throw a few things at you too.

He asked about is it worthwhile and getting purchasing what he called examples and explanation books. He talks about that.

Does it defeat the purpose of enjoying life before you start one L? And then I want to get the out-of-state question too. I know you talked about your selections and they seemed very throw row. So I don't know if you know anything about this particular book that Eddie speaks about?

>> Yes, it's a supplement we use in Law School. It's a series. There's one more each of the major Law School courses. Is it something to purchase now, no. I think the most important thing is to start by beg an overview -- getting an overview of Law School and learning the legal language. Purchasing for example a contacts E and E before the contracts course is not useful at that stage.

In addition, you will have access to Stetson students to a plethora of free supplement resources NEE and things like that. First you want to start the process of getting textbooks and things like that. For some Professors their courses come with a free subscription to examples and explanation. As well as with your Westlaw account as Stetson student, you will have access to additional free resources.

Everybody used to go spend \$800 the first week before Law School and we realized why were we doing that. Wait before you make that investment and see what's available to you. First focus on transitions to law school and what that looks like using the titles I suggested.

>> You called that ENE's if you hear that that's what that means. Good I know questions came up should you be buying things ahead of time, et cetera. Nobody has a schedule yet so you don't know what books to buy. Once you get the class schedule, you will get the readings and the text books assigned to the class.

You will have it in July sometime. I don't think you will get before that. If you attended, I know Dean -- most likely won't be until July. If you were questioning regarding picking up textbooks and reading ahead. Just enjoy or read Professor Jackson's selections too.

Professor Jackson, I wanted to ask because I know Raquel, talked about what advice do you have for out of state students that want to utilize the early application bar discount but not sure if they want to take the Florida bar. We are thrilled about the fact that people are coming to Tampa bay to start their education. People may plan to double bar maybe or take their education back to somewhere else. Can you talk about that for the students coming in from out of state?

>> Sure. As it relates to the bar application. Each process is ewe phonemic to the jurisdiction. Not every jurisdiction does an early bar application. Some states you can't apply until third year Law School. Because Florida is such a large state with 3,000-bar takers a year, we encourage students to apply early. We have the early application process that's not in most jurisdictions. That's why the process is only available to Florida takers because the jurisdictions differ. The second thing I want to talk about and you will learn more about it I encourage every graduate to attend the Florida graduate workshop. Although you may intend to go back to somewhere else, you might be interested in interesting a certified legal intern or in a clinic that requires you to be certified through the Florida court. If it's something you are interested in doing you need to apply to the Florida bar. We cover the initial cost. You start the bar application process and you have character and fitness clinics to do certain internships. They are amazing assets when you enter the job markets. Again, bar application processes are unique to the jurisdictions. I want to encourage you if you want to do clinics and things of that nature, to consider at least completing your initial Florida bar application. It doesn't hurt you to do it. I will encourage everyone to complete the application if they want to do a clinic or COI.

>> Thank you. Carmen can also be as a graduate of 2012. She is another person that can talk about that too. That is really great advice to make sure.

So I know we are getting -- maybe just one more question. Do you all have time for one more question? I know people probably have appointments and stuff too. There are a few more. I don't know, this again, will be recorded. If you can't remain here, we'll be sending it out to you shortly. So maybe, you know, Professor Cease Isabel asks will we receive any assignments or readings before the first days of classes? If so, how much work is this normally compared to the regular workload? She comments and she's eager to start the fall. She wants to see your thoughts on that and is it a reflection for what it is for the other four -- three or four classes they would take? So okay?

>> Sure. Yeah. Your first semester, you will have four classes in you are in the full time program or two classes if you are part time. And the regular full time schedule you have a research and writing class. And then three -- classes which will have quite a bit a reading and learning a particular area of law. And all, as Darren was letting us know you get all the information through the orientation process. Which classes and sections you are in and what times and the Professor. And there's also a web page where all the Professors keep their syllabus. So you'll be able to open them up ahead of time and look at the reading assignments.

It is really important unlike sometimes in undergrad, drop outs going on and maybe you don't have to read for the first class. It's a big lecture hall and you are not being called on. In Law School you definitely need to have your first assignment done for the class. And if you, you know, if you are very eager, you might get a little bit ahead. It's good to be a bit ahead of what's assigned on the

syllabus in case the class moves quickly that day and get into an extra case or other material. I wouldn't recommend reading far ahead. If you do that, you have not developed -- like going back it's like learning a new language. It is a skill to read legal cases. And your Professors will be helping you to develop the skill in the first few weeks.

The idea in the beginning is really you are reading what's -- what's assigned and a little bit ahead. The extra work you do is make sure you have the black's law and dictionary online pulled up and there are a lot of terms that have legal significance in the cases. So the case might make sense but there are terms you could be skipping over. Take extra time to look over any words that have a legal significance or new and start to develop did skill of understanding the legal terminology. That is the biggest, most important thing that you can do to really amp up the early reading assignments.

But you don't want to get too far ahead because you will end up redoing it.

>> Okay. Good. Great advice. I have one question left. Maybe I'll throw it to Kelley. Just a general one regarding just office hours, of faculty and you know, do -- do faculty give out their phone numbers and expect you to make a scheduled appointment or can you just -- we always like to talk about an open door culture here. Can you just talk about a little bit about what it was like for you and what you do and how successful it was?

>> So I think you know, faculty's policies on office hours will vary by the faculty members. Some -- faculty members. Some will tell you to drop by. Usually they have office hours but some prefer you make an appointment and some prefer you drop by. I remember doing both at various points during Law School. And definitely during my first year.

(Laughing.)

You will probably take advantage of office hours during your first a lot. As you should.

I would like to echo what was said earlier our faculty are awesome. They are real people. They want to get to know you. Your first year faculty are used to working with first year students too so they know exactly what you are going through and they know this is all really new and they want to help you. I would say you know, just talking to them. Go up to after class or end an e-mail and say what's your policy office hours. Usually it's on the syllabus or they talk about it in the first class. Fur not clear -- if you are not clear, just talk to them after class or in an e-mail. I remember being really really nervous to talk to the faculty hopefully that evaporates after a while when you start talking to them and realize they are there to help you. They are brilliant but really great people. I promise you will really like them.

>> Excellent. I think I have exhausted the questions. I know I went over a little bit. I wanted to make sure because there are a lot of questions too. I want to thank Professor Jackson and Professor Cease and Professor Bennion and Kelley Thompson. This has been illuminating for us and I hope the students know they feel supported here and their faculty will care about them. I certainly think our faculty is tremendous. If anyone wants to connect with a faculty member or to any of these women here on the panel, they have a wealth of information for you. So we can easily connect you to them. I'm going to turn it over to Dean Davis jam son to do the wrap up. I'm sorry I went over 13 minutes. So.

>> It's quite all right. Quite all right. Thank you, Darren for moderating the Q and A. Great job. Lots of depth and content there. So thank you so much. Thank you, I echo Darren's gratitude to Professor

Jackson, Professor Cease and Professor Thompson. Thank you so much. This was so helpful and rich in content. We hope that admitted students found it a good first step as they plan for their own academic steps before on campus. Thank you so much.

To admitted students, great questions and thank you for the engagement. Glad to see a variety of different questions. So thank you for hanging in there with us. And also thanks to the ones that stayed the additional 13 minutes. We appreciate you. As a reminder again, we recorded the session and we'll make it available to you by e-mail in a few days. So you will have a chance to go back and listen or pick up information that you may have missed.

And then, lastly, I want you to just be on the lookout for some upcoming Webinars. We actually have on June 17th, a Webinar we are hosting with your assistant director for residential life Tracey Rich, where she will discuss housing options on campus and off. If you have questions about housing, at this point, you want to tune in for that. On June 29th, we'll focus on financial aid and the business offices resources. If you have any questions about your financial aid package or how to get your refund check or setting up direct deposit, you want to tune in for that one. Lastly, on June 30th, we'll host a part time student chat.

I know Professor Bennion mentioned she was a part-time student and some of the experiences she had sort of generally, work, family and school. And the part-time students from the part-time students society will be on hand during that session to talk about their experiences and give you tips and advice and sort of what they learned along the way that might be helpful for you as a part time student. So watch your inbox for details on the upcoming Webinars. We hope you will register and continue to engage with us.

At this point, we'll do a hard stop at 1:15 and say enjoy the rest of your day. Thanks again for joining us. Stay safe and take care. Thank you.