Self-Assessment Toolkit: Before You Begin

What is Self-Assessment?

Self-assessment is a useful tool to help you more clearly identify your values, interests, and skills. It is a personal reflection process designed to help you get the most from your law school education. It can assist you in identifying a pathway best suited to your strengths, making your law school experience more successful, well-defined, and rewarding.

By asking fundamental questions and honestly evaluating your needs, wants, strengths and weaknesses, you will be better equipped to succeed in law school and eventually in your legal career.

Why is this relevant?

The most successful student is oftentimes the most prepared student. Completing the self-assessment will help you determine what it is you want out of law school and how to pursue that avenue. Identifying your core values and skills will prepare you to be flexible about your law school experience and future career. Use it as an opportunity to shape your legal education in a way that enhances your life.

How to Utilize Self-Assessment to the Fullest

The most important thing is to take time out of your already busy schedule to complete the attached exercises. Go someplace quiet where you will not be disturbed and focus on the task at hand. There are two different exercises to complete 1) Clarifying Your Interests and Values (included below) and 2) Law School Academic Motivation Scale questionnaire (available at this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ugalawams). When completing these exercises, do not worry about the “right” answers. Be assured there are no “right” or “wrong” answers! Simply answer the questions asked truthfully. It may be a good idea to answer the questions, then put the exercises away for a while, then re-read your answers. Do the answers still “fit”?

How Self-Assessment is Used

You will be asked to refer to these self-assessments at the Georgia Law Class of 2019 Orientation. Your Georgia Law Mentorship team, which includes your peer mentor, your alumni & professional mentor, your faculty mentor, and Career Development Office staff will also have access to your self-assessment information. Revisit these self-assessments at any time to reflect on your values, skills, needs, and areas for potential improvement.
### PART 1

**Clarifying Your Interests & Values: What is Most Important to You?**

For each section below, put the values in order of importance to you, 1 being the most important and the last number being the last important. It is very likely you will value many things in each category. This exercise is meant to help you focus on their relative importance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Relationships</th>
<th>Intrinsic Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Challenging</td>
<td>1. Teamwork</td>
<td>1. Integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Leading</td>
<td>2. Trust</td>
<td>2. Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Risk</td>
<td>5. Competition</td>
<td>5. Respect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Knowledge</td>
<td>15. Client/people contact</td>
<td>15. Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Setting | | |
|---------|-------------------|
| 1. Flexibility | 1. Integrity |
| 2. Deadline pressure | 2. Status |
| 3. Surroundings | 3. Prestige |
| 4. Time freedom | 4. Achievement |
| 5. Security | 5. Respect |
| 7. Action oriented | 7. Power |
| 8. Structured | 8. Influence |
| 11. Quiet | 11. Belonging |
| 15. Predictability | 15. Contributing |
| 16. Location | 16. Service |
| 17. Public contact | 17. Authenticity |
| 18. Comfortable income | 18. Commitment |

| Intrinsic Values | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 20. Honesty | 20. Honesty |
| 22. Fairness | 22. Fairness |
| 23. Adventure | 23. Adventure |
The following questions are designed to help you look closely at why you chose to go to law school, what other interests you have, what types of classes you like, what challenges you have overcome, and what jobs (paid or unpaid) you’ve had during your previous education or work experience.

Take time to review each question carefully and answer it as honestly as you can, in writing.

1. How and why did you choose your college major?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

2. What classes fascinated or absorbed you in your previous educational experiences? Why?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

3. When did you first entertain the notion of being a lawyer?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

4. At the time that you applied, what were your reasons for applying to law school?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

5. Who were the people who supported or influenced you in your decision to attend law school? What did they see in you they thought would suit a legal vocation?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
6. Did you seriously entertain the ideal of a different profession? If so, what?
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___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
7. In your previous educational experiences, what were your study habits and attitude toward grades?
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___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
8. In your previous educational experiences, have you ever seriously considered dropping out of school? If so, what was the turning point that changed your mind?
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___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
9. What are your analytical strengths and weaknesses?
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___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
10. How have your permanent or summer jobs influenced your self-image and career plans?
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___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
11. What are your five most significant accomplishments? These do not need to be limited to academia, but rather achievements you know to be privately and personally significant.
a. _______________________________________________________________________
b. _______________________________________________________________________
12. Long and short term goals:
   a. Lifestyle
   b. Financial Objectives
   c. Personal Objectives
   d. Career Objectives

1 Year
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________
   d. __________________________________________

3 Years
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________
   d. __________________________________________

5 Years
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________
   d. __________________________________________

10 Years
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________
   d. __________________________________________

13. What would you go out and do if you were absolutely guaranteed you would not fail?
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________
14. If you won the lottery, what might you do (after the obligatory party and vacations!)?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

15. Think of the people in your life you respect and admire. What is it about their lives that you would like to emulate?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

16. How would you like to be remembered?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

PART 2

Law School Academic Motivation Scale

Available at this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ugalawams