

**The Academic  
Success Program:**  
UDSL's  
Comprehensive  
Academic Support  
Program

*The Academic Success Program (ASP) is UDSL's comprehensive academic support program that provides academic assistance to any student who needs it from the time students enter law school until they transition to the Road to Bar Passage Program during the third year. Every semester, the ASP sponsors workshops on class preparation, case synthesis, outlining/flowcharting and exam writing and will provide individual academic assistance to any student when needed. The ASP encompasses the Summer Skills Institute (for entering summer starters) and the Academic Excellence Program (for entering fall starters).*

The Academic Success Program  
University of Dayton School of Law  
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# THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM



A Learning Community  
Committed to  
Excellence

## It's a Different World...

Whether you come to law school directly from undergraduate school, or it has been several years since your last educational experience, law school is probably unlike anything you have ever experienced. The teaching and testing methods employed in law school differ drastically from most undergraduate and graduate programs, resulting in a lot of stress and anxiety for some first semester students. The Academic Excellence Program provides you with the tools to make the transition to law school easier.

*"The Academic Excellence Program was the most important law school 'class' I ever had. It taught me how to be a successful law student, and that set the stage for everything else."*

*Stephen Schilling  
Class of 2010*

### 2012 AEP Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Required Statement of Interest:**

*Based on your individual background and experiences, please explain why you think you would benefit from participating in AEP, a learning community committed to excellence. Because AEP seeks to build and support community, students in under-represented populations at the law school, such as first-generation college students, students of color, and non-traditional students, have particularly benefitted from AEP participation. We define "non-traditional students" as students who have been out of school at least seven years and/or students with non-traditional undergraduate majors (i.e., music). Perhaps you do not fit within any of these groups, but your past academic experiences indicate that you need to improve your test taking, time management, stress management and/or study skills and habits. Please be specific in articulating your reasons for wanting to participate in AEP. Your statement should be no longer than two typewritten pages.*

# What is a Learning Community?

Generally, a learning community is a group of people with shared values and beliefs actively engaged in learning together from one another. The Academic Excellence Program (AEP) is a learning community committed to excellence and to helping participants maximize their academic performance during the first semester of law school. As a law school learning community, the AEP

- ❖ respects and values diversity;
- ❖ includes an integration of knowledge and learning;
- ❖ promotes active learning;
- ❖ provides opportunities for meaningful reflection and assessment; and
- ❖ supports community development.

*"The friends I made in AEP remain my closest friends in law school. They are my study group, my lunch buddies, and my cheering section. It felt wonderful when I walked into Keller Hall for 1L orientation, after having already completed a week of AEP, and saw a big group of familiar faces. It was an added benefit that we all shared the same work ethic and were willing to invest in ourselves through AEP to help achieve our personal best."*

*Dianne Weiskittle  
Class of 2013*

## AEP ORIENTATION

AEP begins with an orientation program, which will be held on the law school's campus August 6-10, 2012. During AEP Orientation, faculty, staff and upper-level students will introduce participants to the methods of instruction and testing employed in law school. Participants will attend sessions on effective class preparation, critical reading, case briefing, legal writing and time and stress management.

## DURING THE SEMESTER

Once the regular school year begins, AEP participants will attend weekly small group sessions facilitated by successful upper level students. The small group sessions will focus on the development and improvement of legal analysis and exam writing skills through handouts, practice problems and practice exams. Throughout the semester, participants will receive extensive feedback on their class preparation strategies, course summaries and practice essay exam answers.

*"I enrolled in AEP because I wanted to learn how to achieve academic excellence in law school. Because of my participation in AEP, I gained many new academic skills that have been critical to my overall law school success. Now that I look back to my first year, I can honestly attribute all of my success to AEP. AEP taught me how to use my own intellect to maximize my academic performance and, without guidance from AEP, I never would have realized my full academic potential."*

*Micha Hall  
Class of 2012*



## APPLICATION PROCESS

There is no cost to students for AEP participation. Any student who thinks he or she would benefit from participating in AEP is invited to apply for admission to the program by completing the attached application, including the required Statement of Interest, and submitting it to Professor Rucker at [staci.rucker@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:staci.rucker@notes.udayton.edu) or by fax at (937) 229-4769 no later than **July 27, 2012**.