

Widener University Delaware Law School

Date: July 1, 2026

To: First Year (1L) Students in the Juris Doctor Program

From: Assistant Dean Gardner and Professors Maatman and Scheuer, Orientation Coordinators

Re: Orientation 2026 JDEdge Assignments

This memorandum provides your [Orientation](#) assignments from the JDEdge online program, which you should complete during the month of July. These materials are designed to help you get the most from your legal education from day one and onwards. We think they are very useful, and we are assigning them because they are so helpful.

As the Introductory Orientation memorandum explained, we've partnered with AccessLex Institute®, the largest nonprofit organization focusing on access, affordability, and the value of legal education for aspiring lawyers, to bring you JDEdge by AccessLex SM, an online, asynchronous program with some live sessions, designed specifically for rising 1Ls. JDEdge will remain available to you throughout your first semester.

Registering for JDEdge: To access the JDEdge program, you'll need to register for an account. [Visit AskedNA.AccessLex.org and click on the "register" button at the top of the page.](#) Your name, email address, school and class year are all you need to log in to the program, personalize your experience, and track your progress. No other personal information is required, and all information remains confidential. Once you're registered, you can bookmark the landing page for easy access for the rest of the summer and through the end of the fall semester.

JDEdge Assignments: JDEdge includes over 20 hours of videos, classes, and exercises designed to introduce key concepts for the study and practice of law. We've curated these materials to create a tailored list of assignments that you should complete in July, before Orientation. You will need approximately four hours, which you can break up as you like, to complete the assigned program components. These components will complement and support your other Orientation assignments and programming. You are of course free to participate in all additional aspects of the JDEdge program at your preference – we encourage you to explore all the offerings to see what interests you!

As you'll see, the program is divided into modules further divided into components; however, we are assigning only these specific module components:

Module 1: Introduction to Law School

These components will give you tools that will help you to understand and manage your reading assignments, and your day-to-day life in law school.

- Getting Help at Your Law School (video) - 7 mins
- A Primer on the Law (reading/interactive lesson) - 15 mins
- Overview of the Judicial System (video) - 6 mins
- Professionalism Expectations: What Your Professors Expect You to Know (video) – 8 mins
- Reflection: The Key to Unlocking Better Learning (video) – 8 mins

Module 2: Preparing for Class - Before, During, and After

These components will help you prepare for your classes by explaining what to expect in the classroom, and how to empower yourself for participating in class discussions.

- Case Method: Case Reading and Briefing (video) - 15 mins
- Socratic Method: Engaging in Class (video) - 13 mins
- Rule Synthesis and Creating Study Materials (video) - 21 mins
- Class is Adjourned, Now What? (reading/interactive lesson) - 15 mins

Module 3: Preparing for Exams

It may seem early to be thinking about exam preparation; however, knowing what is expected on exams will help you to study, and to practice essay writing, in ways that set you up for success. In law school, you need to study in a way that prepares you for exams from day one onwards.

- From the Case Method to the Exam Method: Legal Analysis and Analogizing/Distinguishing (video) – 12 mins
- IRAC: Writing for Law School Exams (video) – 13 mins
- Methods of Memorization (video) – 10 mins

Module 4: Preparing for Law Practice

Law school is challenging. Managing your learning and remembering your purpose for being in law school will help you meet the challenges on the road to becoming a lawyer. Exploring employment opportunities is also an important part of the process.

- Managing the Stress of Law School (reading/interactive lesson) – 15 mins
- Time Management (video) - 8 mins
- Mindset Matters (video) – 5 mins
- Remembering Your Why: Law School is Hard: Remember Why You're Here (video) – 3 mins
- 5 Tips for Landing Your First Law Job (video) – 6 mins

Module 5: Preparing for Licensure

Completing your legal education is one part of becoming a lawyer. To practice law, you need to become licensed by passing a bar exam and meeting your jurisdiction's character and fitness requirements. Clearing these hurdles is easier when you understand licensure requirements, and you manage yourself and your budget in ways that will help you meet these requirements.

- Overview of the Road to Licensure (video) – 14 mins
- Character and Fitness Evaluation (reading/interactive lesson) – 15 mins
- Funding Your Bar Exam Experience (reading/interactive lesson) – 15 mins

Additional Resources

These additional videos will give you context for your reading assignments.

- Sources of Authority (video) – 10 mins
- Stages of Civil Litigation (video) – 11 mins

As noted above, your Orientation assignments for Delaware Law Engages and the Orientation Reading Supplement will be provided in the coming weeks via email and on the Orientation web page.

In the meantime, feel free to contact Dean of Admissions Gardner at cagardner@widener.edu if you have any questions about Orientation or these assignments. We look forward to meeting you next month!