

Annual Academic Assessment Report
LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law
University of Arkansas School of Law
June 2020

Report annually to the Dean of the college/school the following:

- **Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes and Changes Made**

The LL.M. Program incorporates the following programmatic learning outcomes that reinforce the core knowledge, skills, and values of a lawyer. Assessments and actions taken to improve outcomes are indicated for each.

- Understand the framework of the law that applies at each level of our food system;

We continued to reevaluate our curriculum, relying on input from faculty and students.

Improvements made include: developing of higher standards for our online course delivery; adjusting the credits awarded for our urban agriculture course; redesigning and increasing the credits for our food justice course, and re-creating our agricultural finance and credit class.

- Use advanced legal research skills to keep up with changes in agriculture and food law and identify new issues as they arise;

We continued to reevaluate ways to assist our students in completing their final article requirement, relying on input from faculty and students.

Improvements made include: creating a new course structure for our advanced legal writing class and assigning a special adjunct to work with our students.

- Apply the correct ethical standard to complex situations that arise within the food system, understanding and appreciating the perspectives of all those along the food chain, from farmer to consumer;

Relying upon input from faculty and students, we participated with law school student groups to develop a black land loss speaker series to address issues of discrimination in agriculture, addressing inequities in our food system.

- Effectively communicate an understanding of agricultural and food law to other members of the legal profession as well as those outside the profession, demonstrating leadership skills and professionalism in the practice of agricultural and food law;

We continue to encourage all of our students to become actively involved in professional organizations related to agricultural and food law. Our professors provide excellent examples for our students, holding leadership positions, speaking frequently at conferences, and publishing scholarly works.

Our hosting of the National Food Law Student Leadership Summit at the law school in February 2020 provided an example of leadership shown

- Advocate effectively for agricultural and food law policies that reflect the interests of their clients and/or their own personal perspectives.

Faculty and students continue to report the value of policy discussions found throughout our curriculum.

- **Any changes to degree/certificate planned or made on the basis of the assessment and analysis**

As part of our seven-year program review, this fall we were visited by two external reviewers. We received their report shortly after their visit and responded to it. We will be undertaking strategic planning next Fall 2020.

- **Any changes to the assessment process made or planned.**

We hope to improve our evaluation process for students to formalize and better encourage their participation.

- **Plans for the 2020-21 Academic Year**

Over the course of the summer, we are gathering research regarding other programs similar in nature to ours. We are also evaluating our market and our outreach. Based on this information as well as all of the information gained from our program review, we will embark on a strategic teaching planning process for 2020. We hope this process will conclude spring 2021.