

Teaching: Strategies to Success for Minority Teachers
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“All That Advice About Law Teaching”

This presentation shares general, practical advice about law teaching. For the presentation, the advice is organized by three points in time: before the semester begins, during the semester, and at the end of the semester.

Before the semester begins:

- negotiating the teaching package
- selecting a text
- seeking assistance from colleagues
- finding a mentor outside of your institution
- deciding what material to cover
- preparing a syllabus
- evaluating one's own experience as a student
- choosing a “motto”
- thinking and learning about teaching and learning

During the semester:

- preparing for class
- being comfortable in the classroom
- choosing effective teaching techniques
- focusing on learning
- managing the classroom and setting standards of professionalism
- seeking feedback from students
- using technology in and outside of the classroom
- dealing with difficult students
- dealing with difficult colleagues and administrators
- handling controversial issues
- structuring the time period for the class
- giving feedback during the semester
- bringing the “outside world” into the classroom
- balancing teaching, service, and scholarship
- maintaining a personal life
- finding joy in the experience

At the end of the semester:

- choosing a method of assessment
- drafting the exam
- grading the exam or the paper
- reviewing student evaluations
- determining and acknowledging areas in need of improvement
- finding the energy and enthusiasm to go back into the classroom next semester