

## **FIRST GENERATION FAMILY & FRIENDS FAQ**

### **Grades:**

*Q: When will you get grades?*

**A:** Unlike in college where we got our full grades relatively fast, in law school we usually get them in mid-January. Our exams usually take longer to grade because they are longer than my college ones were. Professors usually take several weeks or up to a month to complete their grading.

*Q: Why are you so worried about grades? You've always done well.*

**A:** In the legal profession, our grades matter more than they did in college. Many employers ask for your transcript to make hiring decisions. While I have always done well, so has everyone else in law school. This means it's overall a higher achieving group of students I'm compared with. Also, this is all new to me so the stress of taking different kinds of exams makes me worried about how I did.

### **Studying and Exams:**

*Q: Why are you studying so much?*

**A:** The amount of knowledge I'm required to know for my classes is so much more than I had to know for my college classes. These are very different classes and this makes me worried about how I'm doing. Being in law school is a full time job and part of that is making sure I keep up with my reading for class and preparing other tools for when I have to study for finals.

*Q: What is an outline?*

**A:** An outline is something I create based on the notes I took all semester. This study aid keeps me organized and helps me make connections between different topics we've covered in class. My classes move fast and there is a lot of information so this is a way to manage all of that.

*Q: It's only one exam, why are you so concerned about your final?*

**A:** Because my entire grade is based on this one test, it is very stressful. Unlike in college, I don't have many opportunities to make up my grade outside of the final.

### **Work and Internships:**

*Q: Why can't you work your first year?*

**A:** I am working, as a law student. The amount of time that I need to have to study and learn how to learn the law takes up a lot of my time. This is all new to me and I need to approach it carefully and make sure my study skills are correct now to carry me through to the Bar exam. After my first year, I hope to have a handle on how to manage my classes and can take up part-time work in my second or third years.

**Work and Internships (Con't):**

*Q: Why is an internship important?*

**A:** Internships are important because employers look favorably on having experiences in the legal field. Since I haven't had the chance to work in the legal field yet, this will give me skills that I won't learn in the classroom. Also, internships are great opportunities to learn about the kinds of work and which kinds of employers I want to work for after I graduate.

**Miscellaneous:**

*Q: What are you majoring in? (What law are you studying?)*

**A:** Unlike in college, we don't actually pick a specific area of law to learn. My first year classes are all the foundations I would need for any area of law. In my second and third years, I can take electives for areas of law that I might become interested in.

*Q: Why are you calling/visiting less? We miss you.*

**A:** I wish I could call or visit more. Law school is a very different experience than anything else I've done in my life and it requires a lot out of me. Know that I still love you and knowing that you love and support me keeps me going when this gets really hard. I recognize that my choice to go to law school also affects you as well and thank you for being patient with me.