"Valpo Law’s new curriculum surprised me because it gave me such an edge at my first legal internship. The curriculum provided me with various practical legal skills that set me apart from law students under a traditional curriculum."

- Justin Campes, second-year law student

"Mock client interviews may help prepare our 1Ls for their first real client meeting, but hearing a client’s unique story is the game changer. If a client tells you that she needs a power of attorney because she has just been diagnosed with cancer, you understand, as never before, just how much law matters. That’s the real value of the 1L Live Client Pro Bono program.”

- Linda Whitton, Louis and Anna Seegers Professor of Law

"Valpo Law School’s new curriculum and its emphasis on writing and practical skills is giving students the training necessary to succeed in the increasingly competitive job market. As a former managing partner of a small law firm responsible for hiring new lawyers, I can confidently say that Valpo’s new offerings and focus are exactly what legal employers would dream up. With more skills and writing courses, Valpo has truly restructured itself to make its program responsive to the changing realities of the legal market.”

– Assistant Professor Faisal Kutty

"The new curriculum makes many things about law school explicit that the traditional curriculum leaves implicit or overlooks. For example, students learn critical problem-solving skills and methods in a separate course in their first seven weeks. In their second seven weeks, students have a course focused on professional legal communication.”

- Associate Professor David Cleveland

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– Assistant Professor Faisal Kutty

"I had a great experience in Professor Kutty’s Contract Drafting course. The practical skills I learned have been very helpful at my internship. I have drafted, reviewed, and revised many contracts, and the class has made this process much easier. Professor Kutty made a point in class to teach us the real-life implications of drafting errors, which I often remember as I review documents.”

- Ashley Bullock, second-year law student

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In 2013, Valparaiso University Law School began a new chapter in legal education by immersing first-year law students in a law school curriculum that has been completely rethought.

The innovative new curriculum starts with courses on legal analysis, legal communications, and practical legal skills, including live client contact starting in the very first semester.

Now in its second year, the new curriculum is continuing to change the face of legal education to reflect the needs of today’s legal marketplace.

**FIRST YEAR**
- Seven-week sessions expedite assessment and feedback
- New courses on the foundation of legal analysis and professional communications taught by senior faculty
- Students engage in live-client contact in the first semester of law school.

**LEGAL WRITING AND RESEARCH**
Rigorous training in legal writing begins in the first year and extends into the second and third years at Valpo Law. This includes not just traditional seminars but courses on appellate advocacy, legal drafting, legal journalism, and subject-matter specific advanced legal writing and drafting courses. Valpo Law graduates have a reputation for strong legal writing and research skills, and the new curriculum has embraced and enhanced that strength.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Focus is on foundational courses including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Evidence, and Trust and Estates
- Students are prepared to take a practice bar examination at the end of the second year

**PRACTICAL SKILLS**
Valpo Law has long been a stronghold of clinical and externship training. Our practical skills training extends from the beginning of the first semester to third-year practicums, nationally recognized externships, and nine live-client clinics in one of the oldest clinical programs in the country.

**THIRD YEAR**
- Students engage in clinical and practicum experiences that integrate courses into specific practice areas
- Advanced study in writing and research expands practical skills
- Valpo Law graduates are practice-ready from graduation day

**PRO BONO: TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION**
Valpo Law students are required to perform 60 hours of pro bono work before graduation, but most Valpo graduates exceed that requirement. Pro bono opportunities are available for Valpo Law students from the beginning of their first semester, reflecting the mission of Valparaiso Law School, which embraces law as a calling to leadership and service.