



*The Keystone Program provides a platform for students to crystallize the practical wisdom they've gained at William Mitchell. This sets the stage for lifetime achievement, creating an enduring advantage in an increasingly complex world.*

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## Keystone Courses

Keystone Courses, generally taken in the final year of law school, add substantial value relative to traditional doctrinal courses by requiring students to take active responsibility as professionals addressing real-world challenges and to produce substantial, concrete manifestations of their learning. They add value relative to early years of law work by ensuring students' work is subjected to cycles of reinforcement and evaluation, including self-evaluation. A Keystone Course thus serves both as the culmination of law school learning and as a transition to a lifetime of more self-directed learning.

The Keystone Program serves the Mitchell Mission to “sustain students’ intensity and enthusiasm beyond the first year” and “propel students to achieve at a high level throughout their careers” so as to give our graduates “an enduring advantage as they meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world.”

A Keystone Course is one that does all of the following:

1. Builds on previous law school learning.
2. Requires students to take active responsibility as professionals educated in law.
3. Requires students to consider questions relating to legal ethics or professionalism.
4. Reflects real-world framing in subject matter, organization, content and methods.
5. Integrates multiple facets of law-related doctrine, skills or theory.
6. Requires students to work on developing one or more skills at an advanced level.
7. Requires students to produce substantial, concrete manifestations of their learning.
8. Provides repeated cycles of reinforcement and evaluation, including student self-evaluation.
9. Is offered for sufficient credits to accomplish these requirements.

Courses meeting these criteria may be designated as Keystone Courses via the normal course approval process. Pilot Keystone Courses will be offered during the '07-'08 academic year, and the Keystone Program will be officially rolled out for the '08-'09 academic year.

If you have questions or ideas about Keystone Courses, please contact:

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