

Perspectives from the First Year of Teaching
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AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers
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Congratulations and welcome to a wonderful new profession!

My suggestions focus on three areas: (1) teaching; (2) scholarship; and, (3) expectations.

Teaching

1. Ask other professors who have taught your class for their syllabus and/or class notes.
2. Obtain a copy of the teaching evaluation that students will be completing.
3. Take the time to get to know your students. They truly value time with you.
 - a. Related point: Seek feedback from your students during the semester.
4. Don't be afraid to have fun with the class and try something new, particularly if you are covering dull material.
5. Once you have a sense of your teaching strengths and weaknesses, visit the classes of other professors, particularly those who have won awards for their teaching, and observe what makes them effective.

Scholarship

6. Allow yourself no less than one month and no more than two months to take a break from writing.
7. Learn how to use research assistants effectively.
8. Develop a writing schedule.
9. Take the time to develop contacts at other institutions who are willing to review your drafts, including attending conferences where you can meet other scholars.
10. Find the important conferences in your subject area and submit proposals to speak at these conferences.

Learn What Is Expected of You

11. Find out how your faculty reports to each other what you have been doing during the school year.
12. Plan to attend evening and mid-day receptions and other events for faculty, alumni and students (both current and prospective).
13. You will have to serve on a committee. Ask to be on a committee with a minimal time commitment.

Best wishes and have fun!