



## WHY FOCUS ON RESEARCH SKILLS?

Effective research skills are vital to all students engaged in any type of legal writing, as well as those who are clerking, participating in internships, or entering legal practice. To prepare for the research demands of practice, it's critical to learn how to effectively find the legal material needed for interpretation and analysis. NYLS offers upper-division research courses designed to build upon the skills learned in the first year of law school. These courses present students with opportunities to become more effective, efficient, and confident researchers.

Students may take up to five credits of research skills classes. In addition, The Mendik Library's Reference Librarians offer a variety of short research workshops throughout the year.

### Legal Research: Practical Skills (1 credit)

Reviews and builds upon the first-year research program to help students refine their skills, learn shortcuts, and develop research strategies. By the time they complete this course, students will know how to find statutes, legislative materials, administrative regulations, and related cases and effectively use citator services to enhance and update their research. Students will also learn about a variety of important secondary sources and gain familiarity with electronic research using Lexis, Westlaw, Bloomberg Law, and other databases, as well as reliable and free or low-cost legal sources. In other semesters, we also offer **Legal Research: Corporate and Business Law, Legal Research: Family Law, Legal Research: Intellectual Property Law, Legal Research: Labor and Employment Law, Legal Research: Criminal Law, and Legal Research: Real Estate Law.**

### Legal Research: Skills for the Digital World (3 credits)

Reviews and builds upon fundamental research skills as described in the Legal Research: Practical Skills course. This course allows students to concentrate on more advanced techniques using both electronic legal research and, where appropriate, print resources, to maximize research effectiveness and efficiency. The course provides detailed instruction in developing appropriate research strategies and evaluating various electronic and print materials to choose the best source for particular projects. Students will pursue research assignments that may be geared to their individual subject interests. Students will complete take-home assignments that test and enhance their understanding of research tools, their understanding of important process and strategy considerations, and their ability to perform various research tasks.

### Research Skills Workshops

**Register for any of the following Zoom workshops on our [calendar](#).**

#### Staying Current With the Law

As an attorney, you will need to stay up to date on what's happening in your area(s) of practice. Find out how you can always ensure you're staying current with the law.

#### Researching New York State Law

What is the NYCRR? What's the difference between McKinney's and the CLS? What are Jurisdiction and Authority, and why are they vitally important? Get a quick overview of the major sources used in researching New York legal questions.

#### Researching New York City Law

Learn how to navigate the basics of New York City's statutes, regulations, and administrative law decisions.

#### Is All Your Research Up to Date?

You've found the perfect case, statute, or regulation—how do you determine whether it's still good law? What else can a citator do for you? Find out how to ensure that your research is valuable and up to date.

#### Free and Low-Cost Legal Research Tools

You may not always have access to Bloomberg Law, Lexis, and Westlaw. Learn more about valuable free and low-cost legal research tools that will save you time and money.