



June 16, 2023

Dear Class of 2025,

Welcome to Elon Law! I expect that you will have a busy summer as you prepare for the beginning of your legal studies in August. Incoming law students often ask how they can use the summer to prepare for law school. One way to prepare is to start working through the online program called Core Grammar for Lawyers (Core Grammar), a required text for your first-year Legal Method & Communication (LMC) courses. You will purchase a subscription and create an account for the Core Grammar program, which is available at <http://www.coregrammarforlawyers.com/>. When you register, please include the class code for the **Elon Law Class of 2025** Core Grammar course (**323-138-5172**).

The Core Grammar program begins with the pre-test, a baseline assessment tool that will help you identify areas of strength and opportunities for growth in your core writing skills. This **pre-test must be completed** before the end of the Elon Law Orientation program in August (i.e., **no later than August 4, 2023**). After completing this assessment, you will work through the Core Grammar modules, which include online exercises designed to improve your writing skills. Based on your pre-test results, you may “test out” of a module(s); you may (but are not required to) skip that module(s).

When all modules are completed, you will have access to the program’s post-test, which is a comprehensive evaluation of the topics covered in the modules. Your post-test score will be part of your LMC I grade, and your LMC I professor will specify the deadline for completing the program and the post-test. You can get ahead on this required course assignment by purchasing your Core Grammar subscription, taking the pre-test, and working through the modules this summer.

Experience has shown that even students with strong writing skills benefit from an early start to this program. Some of the writing conventions favored

Core Grammar Information
Class of 2025
June 16, 2023

by American lawyers will likely be new to you, and mastery of core writing skills is an important part of your success as a legal writer. Please do not be concerned about the questions that test legal citation (i.e., the formats for citing to or attributing legal research sources). Legal citation will be covered in class, and you are not expected to know those formats until they are covered in class.

Please do not be unduly concerned about a low pre-test score. While Core Grammar may be a component of your LMC I grade, the pre-test will not have any impact on your grade. Students' writing skills consistently improve using the Core Grammar program, and the Core Grammar component of the LMC I grade will be based on your highest post-test score. Core Grammar will record and maintain your highest score, and students who complete the modules well before the deadline should have time to repeat the post-test or modules if needed to improve their scores.

Your Core Grammar subscription provides access to the program for a full year. During the LMC courses, your professor may ask you to return to certain exercises in the modules for more practice. You also may want to repeat exercises or refer to the Rules Index in the program when you have writing skills questions related to your LMC assignments.

Writing is the core skill for lawyers. Your future supervisors in law offices, the judges in court, and your future clients will expect effective, professional writing in everything you write. Because students arrive at law school from a wide variety of undergraduate majors and previous jobs, you also arrive with a wide variety of previous writing experiences. The exercises in the Core Grammar program will help all of you proceed effectively through your legal work. You will use what you learn in these exercises throughout your time in law school and throughout your legal career.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the e-mail address or phone number below. I am available to answer questions during the summer. I look forward to meeting you in August!

Sincerely,

Caroleen M. Dineen

Caroleen M. Dineen, Interim Director
Legal Method & Communication Program
Assistant Professor of Law
Elon University School of Law
(336) 279-9352
cdineen@elon.edu