Estate planning specialists work with individuals and families and help them to make decisions about the distribution and use of their wealth and to create the legal framework that makes those plans a reality. The estate planner therefore needs information about the law applicable to trusts and estates as well as a firm understanding of taxation. Lawyers in this area also need good drafting and client counseling skills.

This handout helps you plan your path to an estate planning law career, covering essential competencies for clients and legal employers. As you plan, ensure you incorporate all three sides of this triangle.<sup>1</sup>

This guide is arranged by the three crucial sides of the triangle.

Enroll in foundational courses during your first and second year, such as:

- Property I & II
- Trusts & Estates
- Income Tax
- Estate, Gift & Income Tax

\_\_\_\_\_\_: Estate planning lawyers work within a highly varied legal environment that places a premium on a broad knowledge base beyond substantive estate planning law. Of particular relevance to an estate planning practitioner are the courses listed below:

- Estate Planning & Practice
- Corporate Tax
- Partnership Tax
- Business Enterprise
- Employee Benefits & ERISA Litigation
- Family Law
- Law Practice Management
- Oil & Gas

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•	Commit yourself to relevant, on-campus organizations and actively pursue leadership, project management, and teamwork opportunities within the organization.			
•	These pre-approved placements at 501(c)(3) organizations and government offices may provide you additional perspectives that a			
	valuable to your career development			
	o Legal Hospice of Texas			
	<ul> <li>Advocates for Community Transformation Wills Project</li> </ul>			