

Designing and Implementing Research Competency

By Nicole Downing, Anupama Pal, & Theresa Tarves. AALL SPECTRUM, Mar.-Apr. 2019, at 15.

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Reviewer's Summary:

Downing, Pal, and Tarves first state the five broad Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competencies (PSLRC) and how they interact with ABA Standard 302. They then describe how some firms broadly assess legal research skills at the end of an orientation in ways that align with the PSLRC. Law schools can, in turn, use different assessments to judge whether students are meeting the PSLRCs in class. While the first and second PSLRCs lend themselves to quizzes and research logs respectively, PSLRCs III and IV require more in-depth analysis. The authors posit that using rubrics for assessment will keep an instructor organized, fair, and on-topic for the learning objectives (namely, the PSLRCs). They provide several options for where to find rubrics, including the RIPS-SIS website, and remind the reader that rubrics should be viewed as a starting point rather than a “perfect assessment tool.”

Summarized by: Savanna L. Nolan, Georgetown University Law Library, in 2019.