Section 520.18 of the New York Court of Appeals Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law establishes bar admission requirements regarding skills competencies and professional values. Rule 520.18 is applicable to all students who began their J.D. program of study in August 2016 or later. Rule 520.18 provides five pathways by which J.D. recipients can satisfy the skills competency and professional values requirement for admission to the New York Bar. The first pathway (“Pathway One”) consists of two main requirements. First, the law school must develop “a plan identifying and incorporating into its curriculum the skills and professional values that, in the school's judgment, are required for its graduates' basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession, as required by American Bar Association Standards and Rules of Procedure for the Approval of Law Schools Standard 302(b), (c) and (d).” Second, the school must make this plan publicly available on its website and certify that each J.D. graduate who applies for admission to the New York Bar has attained the requisite competencies, skills and professional values. The Florida State University College of Law (“FSU Law”) anticipates that all its J.D. recipients who seek admission to practice law in New York will be able to satisfy Rule 520.18 through Pathway One.

FSU Law has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of its J.D. curriculum to ensure that all new graduates have developed the core “skills and values necessary to provide effective, ethical and responsible legal services.” After careful review and evaluation of our curriculum, and approval by the entire faculty, FSU Law has identified a set of learning outcomes that all FSU Law
students will fulfill upon graduation. In accordance with ABA Standard 302, these learning outcomes are the following:

1) Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law;

2) Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication in the legal context;

3) Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system; and

4) Other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession. These will vary depending on each student’s individual educational program but may include one or more of the following: interviewing, counseling, negotiation, fact development and analysis, trial practice, document drafting, conflict resolution, organization and management of legal work, collaboration, cultural competency, interdisciplinary analysis of law and policy, knowledge and understanding of the workings of the regulatory state, and self-evaluation.

Consonant with Rule 520.18, FSU Law is committed to preparing well-rounded graduates who will demonstrate competence and professionalism consistent with the legal profession’s values and standards. FSU Law’s J.D. program integrates legal doctrine, skills learning and professional identity throughout the curriculum, to instill in students the attributes and competencies that are essential to meet their responsibilities as members of the legal profession. The courses that compose our mandatory first-year curriculum furnish the foundation for these core competencies. First-year students must complete courses in Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Contracts, Property, Torts and Legislation & Regulation. These courses offer a comprehensive introduction to substantive legal doctrine, procedural law, and legal analysis. In addition, all first-year students enroll for two semesters in a legal writing and research program taught by specialized full-time faculty. The legal writing curriculum allows students to develop the foundational competencies of lawyering, predicated on legal analysis and research, problem-solving, and effective communication in the legal environment.

Certification of Competence in Skills and Professional Values for Applicants for Admission to the New York Bar
When students transfer to FSU Law after completing the first year of law school at another institution, the dean’s designee reviews each individual transcript to ensure that each incoming transfer student has fulfilled similar requirements by completing comparable courses elsewhere and has attained in those courses a final grade that meets or exceeds our applicable grade requirement. Transfer students who have not completed the required first-year coursework at their previous institution, or who have obtained grades that fail to meet our grade requirement, must retake the relevant 1L class or classes.

The substance and structure of FSU Law’s upper-level curriculum allows students to further develop the core skills and competencies that animate our learning outcomes. As part of the upper-division curriculum, all J.D. students must complete an ethics and professionalism requirement, six credits of experiential learning coursework, and a scholarly research and writing project produced under close faculty supervision. To graduate, all J.D. students must also fulfill a pro bono requirement. In addition, our upper-division clinical programs play an essential role in complementing and extending opportunities for experiential learning and skills development. All FSU Law students may apply up to 18 clinical and experiential credits toward their J.D. degree, and have the opportunity to pursue this curricular option in a variety of subjects or fields, in areas that include business, public interest, private practice and government settings, among others. This option is available to all J.D. students, regardless of their chosen field(s) of emphasis, and provides curricular flexibility for students to hone their lawyering skills in more specialized areas. Also, all FSU Law students who elect to complete certificates in business, environmental or international law are required to fulfill a practical experience component, which may be satisfied by skills-based coursework, pre-approved externship placements, relevant co-curricular activities, or an additional

Certification of Competence in Skills and Professional Values for Applicants for Admission to the New York Bar
pro bono requirement. Diverse opportunities to engage in simulation-based learning experiences, clinics, externships, and co-curricular programs complement and enrich a curriculum that has been carefully designed to support the learning outcomes FSU Law has identified as essential to our graduates’ basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession.

In sum, through FSU Law’s rigorous J.D. curriculum and wide array of clinical and experiential learning offerings, students are able to complete an academic program that, as a whole, satisfies the intent of Rule 520.18. Accordingly, as permitted by Rule 520.18 (a)(1)(ii), the College of Law will rely on its grading system to determine whether each individual J.D. graduate has fulfilled the skills competency requirement necessary to qualify for admission to the New York Bar, and if so, will certify compliance with the aforementioned requirement under Pathway One.