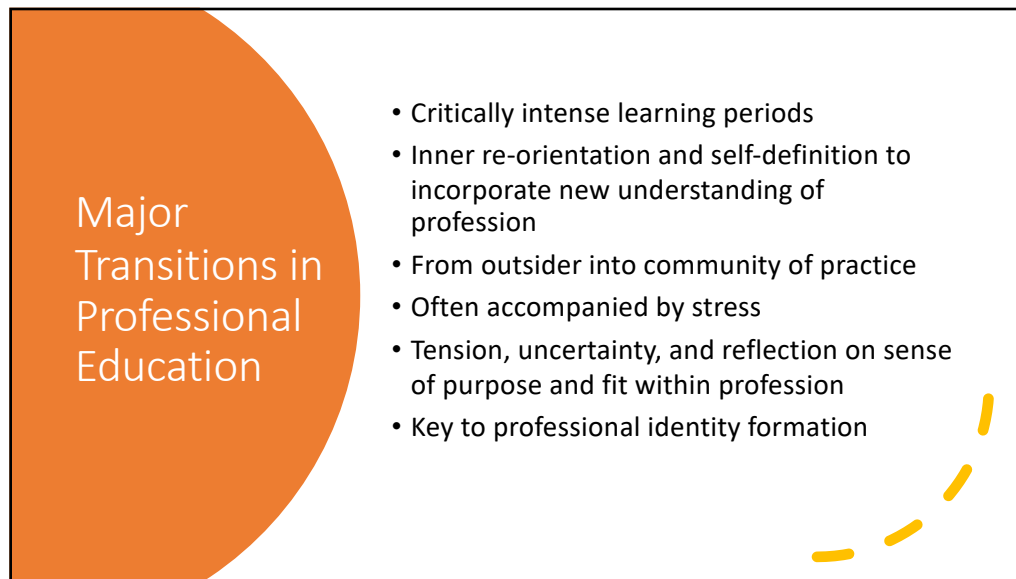




Professional Identity
Formation in Transitions:
Externship Pedagogy as a Tool

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1



Major
Transitions in
Professional
Education

- Critically intense learning periods
- Inner re-orientation and self-definition to incorporate new understanding of profession
- From outsider into community of practice
- Often accompanied by stress
- Tension, uncertainty, and reflection on sense of purpose and fit within profession
- Key to professional identity formation

2

Neil Hamilton's Research on Transitions

- Impact of 1L experiences on transition from thinking/acting like a student to thinking/acting like a lawyer
- Great, substantial, or moderate impact
- 89%: summer employment after first year
 - 59% said great impact
- "Paid or unpaid summer employment experience after the 1L year is a singularly important professionally authentic transition."

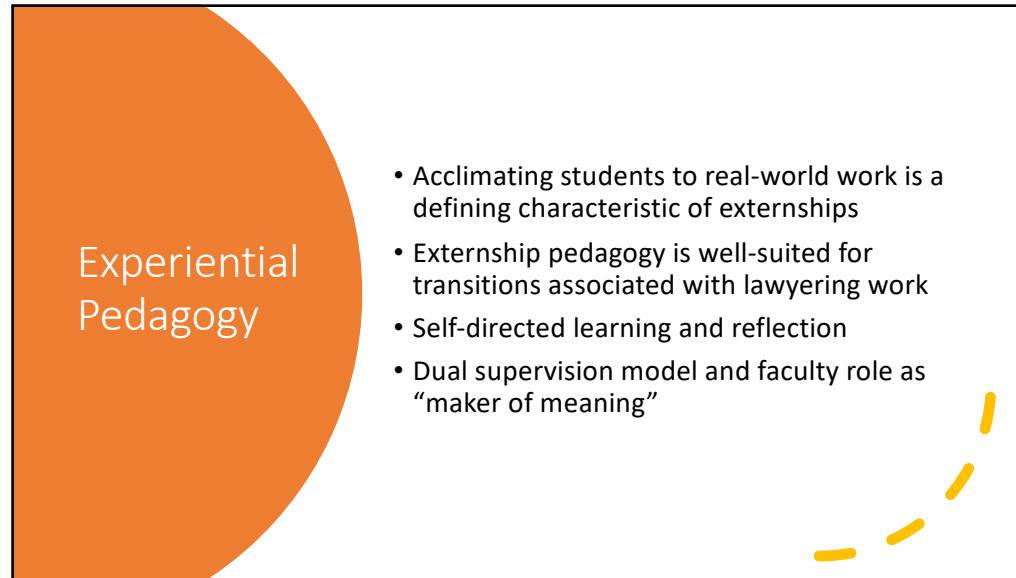
Neil Hamilton, The Major Transitions in Professional Formation and Development from Being a Student to Being a Lawyer: Present Opportunities to Benefit the Students and the Law Schools 73 BOSTON U. L. REV. 109, 112 (2011)

3

Medical Education's Approach

- Strong support during transitions that include real-life professional experiences
- Acknowledge stress and help students manage
- Four stage model for developing an internalized commitment to professional development (dependent, interested, involved, self-directed)

4



Experiential Pedagogy

- Acclimating students to real-world work is a defining characteristic of externships
- Externship pedagogy is well-suited for transitions associated with lawyering work
- Self-directed learning and reflection
- Dual supervision model and faculty role as “maker of meaning”

5



Externship Pedagogical Tools

- Orientation/Training
- Self-assessment of skills
- Goal setting
- Reflection
- Journaling
- Dual supervision
- Feedback
- Meetings
- Rounds

6

A Proposal
for Summer
After 1L Year

- Course or program for all students
- Orientation/training
- Goals
- Guided reflection