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Boston College Law School

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Graber '10 Article on Gender-Neutral Legal Education Shows BC Law Defies Trend

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Newton, MA--While a third-year student, Lauren Graber '10 was puzzled by the perceived gender performance gap at national law schools. According to repeated studies, male law students consistently outperform females with similar credentials, but that hadn't been her experience as a student at BC. She wondered whether the students at Boston College Law School followed the national trend, or if something else might be going on.

In an article that was recently published in the Boston College Journal of Law and Social Justice, Graber's extensive research shows a surprising result: unlike many other schools, women at BC Law perform as well or better than their male counterparts.

Graber conducted an empirical study with the help of various administrators and analyzed the performance of men v. women. "I was thrilled to find that women at BC perform just as well as their male classmates on nearly every important metric," she says. Graber believes that BC Law's collegial and collaborative atmosphere may have something to do with the findings, although she can't be sure. And while she was gratified by the results and thinks women "are well served by BC Law," her article also proposes some changes that can be implemented by BC and other law schools around the country to help level the playing field.

A former Law Student Association president, Graber clerked for Judge William G. Young of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts following graduation, and then joined the law firm Ropes and Gray.

Read Graber’s article