

Program Outcomes and Assessment

Degree Program: Legal Studies

Contact Person: Matt Cornick and Mara Mooney

Program Mission Statement:

The mission of the Legal Studies Program is to educate students about the procedural and substantive aspects of the legal system and legal ethics, and to provide students with the analytical and practical skills that are necessary to perform specifically delegated, substantive legal work under the supervision of an attorney.

Program Objectives:

- To provide students with fundamental knowledge of legal principles and terminology
- To improve students' critical thinking and reasoning skills
- To emphasize the development of students' legal research and writing abilities
- To help prepare students for careers in the legal field or in other fields that are impacted by the law

Learning Outcomes:

Graduates of the program will be able to:

1. Perform manual and computerized legal research
2. Examine rules of legal ethics and substantive and procedural law
3. Identify and analyze practical and theoretical legal issues and prepare legal documents
4. Utilize technology to prepare legal documents (B.S. degree, A.A.S. degree, and Certificate)
5. Apply course content to an occupational learning experience (B.S. degree)

Assessment Methods/Type of Evidence:

Data Collection 1: Legal memorandum assessed by rubric/70% meet or exceed expectations in specific areas

Data Collection 2: Standardized questions on PARA 1101 exams/70% meet or exceed expectations in specific areas

Data Collection 3: Legal documents assessed by rubric/70% meet or exceed expectations in specific areas

Data Collection 4: Utilization of technology to prepare legal documents assessed by rubric/70% meet or exceed expectations in specific areas

Data Collection 5: Internship paper graded by rubric/70% meet or exceed expectations in specific areas

Data Collection Overview:

Learning Outcome	Assessment Method/Type of Evidence	When/Where will Data Collection Take Place	Who will collect data
1. Perform manual and computerized legal research	Legal memorandum assessed by rubric/ 70% meet or exceed expectations in specific areas	Fall & spring semesters/PARA 2205	PARA 2205 instructor(s)
2. Examine rules of legal ethics and substantive and procedural law	Standardized test questions/70% meet or exceed expectation in specific areas	Fall & spring semesters/PARA 1101	PARA 1101 instructor(s)
3. Identify and analyze practical and theoretical legal issues and prepare legal documents	Prepare legal documents assessed by rubric/70% meet or exceed expectations in specific areas	Fall & spring semesters/PARA 2203	PARA 2203 instructor(s)
4. Utilize technology to prepare legal documents	Assignments assessed by rubric/70% meet or exceed expectations in specific areas	Fall & spring semesters/PARA 2211	PARA 2211 instructor(s)
5. Apply course content to an occupational learning experience	Internship paper graded by rubric/70% meet or exceed expectations in specific areas	Fall & spring semesters/LGST 4098	LGST 4098 instructor(s)

Discussion of Results and Changes:

The Legal Studies Program, in its current form, has been in existence for one year. The program has evolved from a two-year paralegal studies program to a four-year legal studies degree with a post-baccalaureate paralegal certificate and a two-year paralegal studies degree. In that time, we also sought and obtained American Bar Association (ABA) approval of our program and have recently developed a minor in legal studies. We have worked closely with our advisory committee, surveyed graduates and contacted members of the legal community to identify the most important proficiencies that our graduates should exhibit. We utilized this feedback to revise the outcomes for this program from purely technical outcomes to a blend of applied and cognitive skills. In the years leading up to the creation of the Legal Studies Program in its present form, student outcomes were measured by course grade. However, the student outcomes for this program are now aligned with specific, measurable assessments, including rubrics that have been developed to measure outcomes 1, 3, and 4, and a 4000-level Practicum course to enhance the experiential learning component of the program.