

Course Outcomes Guide

Directions: Please complete this form to document your progress toward improving student learning. For each item, indicate your progress and your anticipated next steps. Thank you!

Course/Program Title: PLS 101 Introduction to Paralegal Studies

Date: Fall 2009

Course/Program Team: Loretta Thornhill and William P. Young, Jr.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of terms and facts of this subject
(These include knowledge of the legal field and the paralegal profession; the court system; the legislative system; the Constitution; case briefing; and a survey of real estate law, business organizations, wills and estates, and litigation.)
2. Apply basic knowledge to new situations
3. Solve problems
4. Communicate solutions
5. Demonstrate professional and ethical behavior

Assessment (How do or will students demonstrate achievement of each outcome?)

Students demonstrate achievement of the outcomes through quizzes and exams. In addition, the outcomes are assessed through the production of homework assignments which include billing, drafting legal documents and drafting pleadings. The assignments are to be corrected and included in a professional portfolio of the semester's work. Outcomes are also assessed through class discussions and class projects.

Validation (What methods have you used or will you use to validate your assessment?)

To be determined

Results (What do your assessment data show? If you have not yet assessed student achievement of your learning outcomes, when is assessment planned?)

Learning outcomes assessments indicate that students are weak in writing skills.

Also, assessments indicate that students are not prepared for the workplace through a lack of professional attitudes and behaviors.

Follow-up (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)

It has been recommended by the Paralegal Studies Advisory Committee that we re-instate ENG 101 as a pre-requisite or concurrent registration. In addition, more assignments will be given for additional practice in writing as well as in translating instruction into practice. Also, all instructors in all Paralegal courses should incorporate discussions and exercises to focus on the need to dress professionally, demonstrate good manners, and demonstrate self-motivation and initiative. Finally, the speaker series should be continued to expose our students to working professionals to focus on expectations and realities in the legal field.

Budget Justification (What resources are necessary to improve student learning?)