

Course Outcomes Guide

Course/Program Title: PLS 207 Real Estate Law

Date: Spring 2014

Course/Program Team: Loretta Thornhill

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate knowledge of terms and facts of this subject
- Apply basic knowledge to new situations
- Solve problems
- Communicate solutions
- Demonstrate professional and ethical behavior

Assessment:

1. Students demonstrate achievement of the outcomes through graded homework assignments as well as graded projects. The common assessment was applied to a deed assignment in this class. There are quizzes, test, case briefs, other assignments as well.

2. The Paralegal Studies program has an active advisory committee which meets at least once annually. One of the topics of discussion is always an assessment of our students, the courses and the program. The following are a constant topic for discussion:

- *a deficit in writing skills
- *a deficit in proofreading skills
- *lack of professionalism

3. In the Fall semester 2012 we launched a pilot assessment tool. Each paralegal professor was asked to select at least one major assignment which would demonstrate skills and knowledge offered in the course. The course outcomes assessments consisted of three parts:

- *a common grading rubric
- *a common grading sheet
- *a common data collection sheet

Based on the data we are able to assess whether students have successfully met desired outcomes. The data also indicates where we need to modify course content to improve achievement of learning outcomes.

OUTCOME Spring 2014

	Element 1	Element 2	Element 3	Element 4	Element 5	
# of students w/ 5 pts	10	7	11	12	12	
# of students w/ 4 pts	2	5	1			
# of students w/ 3 pts						

# of students w/ 2 pts						
# of students w/ 1 pts						
# of students w/ 0 pts						

Validation: Approximately 1/3 of all quiz and exam questions come from the review materials at the end of the text chapters.

Results: Students have difficulty adapting forms. They have difficulty applying new facts to examples. There are punctuation, grammar and proofreading problems. Students also have difficulty meeting deadlines and following instructions.

Follow up: More assignments should 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. Students should be sent to the LSC for help with writing and proofreading problems. They might be encouraged to purchase a manual to help with their writing skills also.