

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-203 Domestic Relations

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 a focus on the practice of family law in the state of Maryland. The rights of parties as to custody, visitation, support, alimony, marital property are included. The preparation and conduct of divorce is included. The role of the paralegal in preparing documents and assisting counsel in fact finding is also included.)
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 short assignments which may range from reading/reaction papers to writing case briefs to drafting pleadings.

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 practice writing

assignments will be given. 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?)