

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-207 Real Estate Law

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 the role of the paralegal in routine real estate transactions; lease and sales contract requirements; title work; mortgage financing; the preparation of settlement statements and documents; and the coordination of closings.)
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 graded homework assignments, a mid-term and a final examination. In addition, students are required to prepare briefs of judicial decisions focusing on real estate principles. Finally, students are required to create a portfolio of writing samples and documents demonstrating proficiency in basic real property principles.

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 oral and written skills.

Also, assessments indicate that many students are not prepared for the workplace because they are not motivated, they do not understand what is expected of a professional, and they cannot apply what they have been taught.

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. 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. 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?)