

Legal Studies Program  
School of Business and Liberal Arts  
Fall 2016 Assessment Report



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# What was assessed? Legal Studies Program Learning Outcomes

## PSLO

## Defined

- 1 **Demonstrate ability to effectively and professionally communicate in writing.**
- 2 **Demonstrate ability to effectively and professionally communicate orally.**
- 3 **Understand and explain the structure and functions of the American legal system, including the interplay of constitutions, statutes, common law and administrative law.**
- 4 **Understand and explain the roles of judges, attorneys, mediators, legal assistants, and others who act within the legal system.**
- 5 **Understand and explain the jurisdictional requirements of federal and state courts.**
- 6 **Understand and articulate the role of common law in the American legal system, including the concepts of mandatory (stare decisis) and persuasive authority.**
- 7 **Identify the ethical implications inherent in a particular situation, and evaluate the particular course of action to be taken in the face of countervailing pressures.**
- 8 **Understand the impact of existing and emerging technologies on the legal system.**
- 9 **Demonstrate Specialized Knowledge of the Law**
- 10 **Apply Overall Understanding of the Law**



# What Outcomes [PLO] Were Assessed in Fall 2016 Courses:

PLO	Courses	Defined
1	BSAD 201 and 202; LEST 330, 350, 360, 375, 410, 429, 480	<b>Demonstrate ability to effectively and professionally communicate in writing.</b>
2	BSAD 201 and 202; LEST 330, 350, 360, 375, 410, 429, 480	<b>Demonstrate ability to effectively and professionally communicate orally.</b>
3	BSAD 202; LEST 330, 350, 360, 375, 410	<b>Understand and explain the structure and functions of the American legal system, including the interplay of constitutions, statutes, common law and administrative law.</b>
4	BSAD 202; LEST 330, 350, 360, 375, 410	<b>Understand and explain the roles of judges, attorneys, mediators, legal assistants, and others who act within the legal system.</b>
5	BSAD 202; LEST 330, 350, 375, 410	<b>Understand and explain the jurisdictional requirements of federal and state courts.</b>
6	BSAD 202; LEST 330, 350, 360, 375, 410	<b>Understand and articulate the role of common law in the American legal system, including the concepts of mandatory (stare decisis) and persuasive authority.</b>
7	BSAD 202; LEST 330, 350, 360, 375, 410, 480	<b>Identify the ethical implications inherent in a particular situation, and evaluate the particular course of action to be taken in the face of countervailing pressures.</b>
8	LEST 330, 480	<b>Understand the impact of existing and emerging technologies on the legal system.</b>
9	BSAD 202; LEST 330, 340, 360, 375, 410	<b>Demonstrate Specialized Knowledge of the Law</b>
10	BSAD 201 202; LEST 330, 350, 410, 480	<b>Apply Overall Understanding of the Law</b>

# How was the assessment accomplished?

## Assessments Utilized:

- Written Assignments
- Mentor Evaluations
- Reflective Journal Writing
- Pre and Post Tests



# How was the assessment accomplished?

## Measurement Strategy:

- AACU Written Communication rubric used for BSAD 201 and LEST 330
- AACU Critical Thinking rubric utilized for the final research paper in LEST 340, 360, and 410
- Traditional Grading Rubric used for BSAD 202 and LEST 350, 375, 429, and 480
- Questions/Responses on Pre and Post-Tests that include true/false and multiple choice questions



# PLO Assessment Findings



## PLO 1: Demonstrate ability to effectively and professionally communicate in writing.

2.

Results	Measures	Not Met	%	Met	%	Exceeded	%
All Courses	55	11	20%	5	9%	38	69%
BSAD 201	3	1	33%			2	67%%
BSAD 202	10	4	40%			5	50%
LEST 330	5					5	100%
LEST 350	5					5	100%
LEST 360	3	3	100%				
LEST 375	4					4	100%
LEST 410	2	1	50%	1	50%		
LEST 429	4					4	100%
LEST 480	3					3	100%



## PLO 2: Demonstrate ability to effectively and professionally communicate orally.

2

Results	Measures	Not Met	%	Met	%	Exceeded	%
All Courses	48	10	20%	6	13%	31	65%
BSAD 202	10	4	40%			5	50%
LEST 330	3					3	100%
LEST 340	4					4	100%
LEST 360	3	3	100%				
LEST 375	4					4	100%
LEST 410	2	1	50%	1	50%		
LEST 429	3	1	33%			2	67%
LEST 480	3					3	100%





**PLO 3: Understand and explain the structure and functions of the American legal system, including the interplay of constitutions, statutes, common law and administrative law.**

9.

Results	Measures	Not Met	%	Met	%	Exceeded	%
All Courses	32	6	19%	5	16%	21	66%
BSAD 202	6	3	50%			3	50%
LEST 330	2					2	100%
LEST 350	2					2	100%
LEST 360	1	1	100%				
LEST 375	2					2	100%
LEST 410	3	1	33%	2	67%		



**PLO 4: Understand and explain the roles of judges, attorneys, mediators, legal assistants, and others who act within the legal system.**

2

<b>Results</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Not Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Exceeded</b>	<b>%</b>
All Courses	27	8	30%	3	11%	16	59%
BSAD 202	6	3	50%			3	50%
LEST 330	1					1	100%
LEST 350	3					3	100%
LEST 360	2	2	100%				
LEST 375	2					2	100%
LEST 410	4	2	50%	2	50%		



**PLO 5: Understand and explain the jurisdictional requirements of federal and state courts.**

2

<b>Results</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Not Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Exceeded</b>	<b>%</b>
All Courses	22	6	27%	3	14%	13	59%
BSAD 202	6	3	50%			3	50%
LEST 330	3					3	100%
LEST 350	2					2	100%
LEST 375	2					2	100%
LEST 410	4	2	50%	2	50%		



**PLO 6: Understand and articulate the role of common law in the American legal system, including the concepts of mandatory (stare decisis) and persuasive authority.**

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<b>Results</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Not Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Exceeded</b>	<b>%</b>
All Courses	39	8	21	5	13	25	64
BSAD 202	8	3	38%			4	50%
LEST 330	3					3	100%
LEST 350	2					2	100%
LEST 360	2	2	100%				
LEST 375	3					3	100%
LEST 410	4	2	50%	2	50%		



**PLO 7: Identify the ethical implications inherent in a particular situation, and evaluate the particular course of action to be taken in the face of countervailing pressures.**

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<b>Results</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Not Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Exceeded</b>	<b>%</b>
All Courses	26	7	27%	7	27%	12	46%
BSAD 202	4	2	50%			2	50%
LEST 330	1					1	100%
LEST 350	1					1	100%
LEST 360	2	2	100%				
LEST 375	1					1	100%
LEST 410	5	3	60%	2	40%		
LEST 480	3					3	100%



**PLO 8: Understand the impact of existing and emerging technologies on the legal system.**

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<b>Results</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Not Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Exceeded</b>	<b>%</b>
All Courses	10					10	100%
LEST 330	5					5	100%
LEST 480	5					5	100%



## PLO 9: Demonstrate Specialized Knowledge of the Law

2

Results	Measures	Not Met	%	Met	%	Exceeded	%
All Courses	40	8	20%	5	13%	27	68%
BSAD 202	2	1	50%			1	50%
LEST 330	3					3	100%
LEST 360	3	3	100%				
LEST 375	4					4	100%
LEST 410	5	3	60%	2	40%		



## PLO 10: Apply Overall Understanding of the Law

2

Results	Measures	Not Met	%	Met	%	Exceeded	%
All Courses	1	4	24%			13	76%
BSAD 201	3	1	33%			2	67%
BSAD 202	4	2	50%			2	50%
LEST 330	4					4	100%
LEST 350	1					1	100%
LEST 410	1	1	100%				
LEST 480	4					4	100%





# Course Outcome Assessment Findings



## BSAD 201: Business Law I

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
1: Write and understand the process of writing case briefs.	<u>Section A:</u> Using the AACU VALUE Rubric for Written Communication, students will be assessed on their ability to write a case brief on Miles v. City Council of Augusta, GA.	80%	Exceeded
	<u>Section B:</u> Using the AACU VALUE Rubric for Written Communication, students will be assessed on their ability to write a case brief on Beverly Glen Music Inc. v. Warner Communication.	90%	Exceeded
	<u>Section C:</u> Using the AACU VALUE Rubric for Written Communication, students will be assessed on their ability to write a case brief on People v. Hadfield, 119 A.D.3d 1217, 990 N.Y.S.2d 683 (3rd Dept. 2014).	55.3%	Not Met



## BSAD 202: Business Law II

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
1. Understand and apply principles of Bankruptcy Law and Reorganization to various factual scenarios.	Mandatory pretest questions are randomly selected from the same pool of questions as the final examination. Score on the pretest taken in first week of class is then compared to final examination to measure effectiveness of the course. The class average, using those students who completed both the pretest and the final examination will be at least 25% higher for the final examination than for the pretest.	61.98%	Exceeded
2. Demonstrate understanding of Labor Law including various job benefits, unionization, and equal opportunity.	Same as above.	14.67%	Not Met
3. Understand and explain Administrative Law, its function, and its procedures.	Same as above.	61.98%	Exceeded
4: Understand and explain the rules of bailment of personal property.	Same as above.	14.67%	Not Met
5. Understand and explain the formation, termination, and liability issues surrounding agency.	Same as above.	61.98%	Exceeded
		14.67%	Not Met



## LEST 330: Legal Writing

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
1. Create legal documents such as client letters, memoranda of law, and pleadings.	AACU value rubric will be used to score Chapter 15 writing assignment. Students will score between 10-15 points on the AACU Written Communication Rubric.	85.7%	Met



## LEST 340: Constitutional Law

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
1. Discuss recent and important Supreme Court cases on contemporary issues such a gun control, health care, right to privacy and other modern constitutional issues.	Using the AACU VALUE Rubric for Critical Thinking, students will be assessed on their ability to write a research paper analyzing the Supreme Court's treatment of an issue relating to substantive due process and fundamental rights. 70% of students will score 10 or higher on the AACU VALUE Rubric for Critical Thinking.	60%	Not Met



## LEST 350: Civil Litigation

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
1. Understand and explain specific requirements for cases and litigants to enter the legal system including concepts of jurisdiction and standing.	Mandatory pre-test is given at course start using questions taken from final exam pool. The pre-test score is compared with the final exam score to gauge improvement. The class average should be 25 points higher from pre-test to final exam.	67.6%	Exceeded
2. Explain what remedies are available to litigants and determine the appropriate remedy in a given situation.	Same as above.	67.6%	Exceeded
3. Prepare pleadings, motions and responses to motions that conform to specific procedural requirements.	Same as above.	67.6%	Exceeded
4: Explain pre-trial and trial procedures.	Same as above.	67.6%	Exceeded
5. Discuss and critique the functions and limitations of judges, juries, and other workers in the legal system.	Same as above.	67.6%	Exceeded



## LEST 360: Family Law

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
1. Understand and apply the meaning of, and legal issues surrounding marriage, civil unions and divorce.	Using the AACU VALUE Rubric for Critical Thinking, students will be assessed on their ability to read and analyze the United States Supreme Court case of Obergefell v. Hodges. 70% of the students will achieve a score of 10 or higher on the rubric.	45.83%	Not Met



## LEST 375: Immigration Law and Border Control

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
1. Analyze and explain the concept of sovereignty and the powers of the Federal branches of government related to sovereignty, immigration and border control.	Students will take a mandatory pre-test using question sets taken from the final exam. These scores will be compared to the student's final exam score to measure effectiveness. The student will score 20 points higher on the Final Exam than on the Pre-Test.	43.4%	Exceeded
2. Understand and explain United States immigration policies from a historical perspective prior to the attacks of September 11, 2001.	Same as above.	43.4%	Exceeded
3. Understand and explain post September 11, 2001 immigration policies, the role of the Department of Homeland Security, and present restrictions on visitation and entry.	Same as above.	43.4%	Exceeded
4. Understand and explain present methods for obtaining and losing US citizenship and the immigration process and requirements.	Same as above.	43.4%	Exceeded





## <sup>2</sup> LEST 410: American Indian Law and Federal Indian Policy

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
4. Compare the current legal and cultural issues faced by Indian Nation throughout Indian Country.	AACU value rubric will be used to score Final Research Paper. Students will score between 10-15 points on the AACU Critical Thinking Rubric.	87.57%	Met



## LEST 429: Orientation to Culminating Experience

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
1. Prepare an appropriate resume for job searches and interviews.	Students will prepare a resume that meets professional standards for grammar, spelling, content and format. 85% of students participating in the course will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded
2. Successfully complete a job search interview.	Students will successfully complete a job/internship interview, either with an employer or with an instructor. 85% of the students will meet this goal.	50%	Not Met
3. Identify appropriate mentorship opportunities in law firms or similar organizations that are commensurate with the student's area of interest.	Each student will identify and list 20 organizations, with address and telephone number, and contact person, where he/she is interested in performing an internship. 85% of the students will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded
4: Complete sample (similar) internship agreement with a law firm or similar organization.	Students will complete a sample internship agreement. 85% of students will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded
5. Discuss and assess the criteria necessary to successfully complete the culminating experience or senior project	Students will exhibit an understanding of the criteria necessary for successful completion of their internship either through discussion or written report. 85% of the students will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded



## LEST 480: Internship

Course SLOs assessed	Target / Measure Utilized	Actual %	Outcome
1. Identify and explain discipline specific knowledge and skills required for success in a legal setting.	Weekly and final reports submitted by the student and the student's internship site. 85% of students participating in the course will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded
2. Operate and/or use specialized equipment, software and tools required within the environment.	Weekly and final reports submitted by the student and the student's internship site mentor. 85% of the students will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded
3. Draft and revise documents used in various legal settings.	Weekly and final reports submitted by the student and the student's internship site mentor.. 85% of the students will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded
4: Perform legal research required within the environment.	Weekly and final reports submitted by the student and the student's internship site mentor.. 85% of students will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded
5. Identify how the organization uses technology to create a positive work environment and to handle conflicts.	Weekly and final reports submitted by the student. 85% of the students will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded
6. Work with others to accomplish specific goals in a legal environment.	Weekly and final reports submitted by the student. 85% of the students will meet this goal.	100%	Exceeded



# Legal Studies Course Level Assessment

## “Problems” Identified - General

- High amount of variability in the results of the 3 sections of BSAD 201, possibly indicating a high amount of subjectivity in the way the ACCU rubric is applied and/or interpreted.
- In some courses, students were less successful with assignments requiring critical thinking. The course structure may need to be modified to include more assignments that require the skills identified in the AACU rubric.
- The rubrics we use for grading are not the same as the AACU rubrics, which then required time to regrade assignments using the AACU rubric for the purposes of this assessment reporting.
- The pre-test/post-test model does not yield specific enough results.



# “Closing the Loop”



# Data-driven decisions: How the department has or plans to “close the loop” based on these results.

- Given these findings, what will the department do differently?
- General categories:
  - Utilize the AACU rubrics to develop/modify assignments.
  - Use the AACU rubrics as the grading rubrics across the curriculum.
  - Meet as a department with the assessment team to clarify the application of the AACU rubrics to different course levels; i.e., should we apply the rubric differently to students in a 100 level course versus a 400 level course?



# What resources were used or have been requested to close the loop?

- Potential resources identified:
  - Individual faculty time revising within all courses.
  - Department faculty time spent making revisions to assessment artifacts.
  - Course and/or skill specific tutoring services for students.



# What changes to propose in the assessment process?

- Use the AACU rubrics for all courses to assess one SLO per semester rather than all course SLOs.
- Training with all Legal Studies faculty together (presumably by Kirk) so that we can fine-tune our assessment process and use uniform methods and measures to generate meaningful data.

