

LEGAL STUDIES

Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Criminal Justice and Legal studies is to inspire and challenge students, faculty, and staff through a variety of opportunities to achieve personal and professional growth for a lifetime.

Student Learning Outcomes

UWF Legal Studies graduates should be able to do the following:

Content

- Recognize and apply concepts in legal studies, specifically in the core substantive areas including tort law, contract law, evidence law, and probate or real estate law
- Recall, identify, and describe the major theoretical principles relating to the American legal system
- Identify and define legal research methods and sources

Critical Thinking

- Analyze and solve legal studies problems
 - Analyze and categorize key facts, factual omissions, and inconsistencies in a legal situation
 - Identify and evaluate alternative solutions
 - Construct logical arguments to support specific position
- Identify interrelationships among cases, statutes, regulations, and other legal Authorities;
 - Determine which areas of law are relevant to a particular situation.
 - Identify appropriate exceptions to general legal rules
- Identify, locate, and appropriately use and evaluate both electronic and print resources to solve legal studies problems
- Prepare and execute a legal research plan
- Identify and prepare the necessary pleadings to pursue a civil case from inception to trial

Communication

- Convey legal theory in a clear and concise manner
- Draft various communication formats (e.g., legal documents, client correspondence, standardized forms, databanks) in keeping with professional standards including writing conventions

- Make oral presentations of research findings
- Communicate solutions to legal dilemmas in a clear and concise manner

Integrity/Values

- Articulate the legal and ethical principles that guide attorney and paralegal conduct
- Apply principles of professional ethics to complex ethical situations
- Promote increased access to legal services
- Identify how professional associations contribute to the legal and paralegal profession
- Identify and resolve ethical dilemmas that may be confronted in the workplace
- Justify the importance of continuing legal education for attorneys and paralegals

Project Management

- Explain the professional obligations and responsibilities of members of the legal team
- Develop plans for completing projects on time and other dimensions of self-management
- Collaborate effectively with peers and others
 - Develop planning skills for performing group projects
 - Provide leadership to facilitate project completion
 - Evaluate individual and team member performance

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Throughout the legal studies program, students demonstrate what they have learned through traditional classroom assignments and examinations, as well as applied research and creative activities. The program's curriculum emphasizes both collaborative and individualized projects that engage students in synthesizing their knowledge and skills from across the curriculum.

Jobs Prospects for Legal Studies

Paralegal or legal assistant positions in a variety of settings including:

private law firms, government agencies and departments, corporations and non-profit organizations.

Court Clerk

Human Resource Officer

Judicial Assistant

Law Librarian

Law Firm Administrator

Find out more about the Legal Studies program at:

<http://uwf.edu/justice/>