

## Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies Integrated Program Matrix

(updated Thursday, December 23, 2004)

University Student Learning Goals & Outcomes	Core Competencies	Program Student Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Measures	Continuous Improvement
<b>Florida Gulf Coast University</b>	<b>College of Professional Studies</b>	<b>Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies</b>	<b>Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies</b>	<b>Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies</b>
<p><b>Aesthetic Sensibility:</b> know, understand, analyze, and evaluate the variety of aesthetic frameworks and principles at work; collaborate in projects involving aesthetic awareness/analysis.</p> <p><b>Culturally Diverse Perspective:</b> know and understand diversity in local/global communities; analyze and evaluate the impact of cultural differences; and participate in projects involving interaction with diverse people, ideas and values (through program outcomes i, k).</p> <p><b>Ecological Perspective:</b> know issues of ecological/economic sustainability; analyze and evaluate local &amp; global ecological issues; participate in ecological/ environmental projects (through the University Colloquium IDS 3920).</p> <p><b>Effective Communication:</b> know principles for effective communication; organize thoughts and compose ideas; and participate in collaborative communication projects (through program outcomes b, c).</p> <p><b>Ethical Responsibility:</b> know and understand ethical issues; analyze and evaluate ethical issues in a variety of contexts; and participate in collaborative projects involving ethical analysis and/or (through program outcome g).</p> <p><b>Information Literacy:</b> identify and locate sources of information; analyze and evaluate information in a variety of contexts; and participate in collaborative analysis/application of information (through program outcomes b, j, m).</p> <p><b>Problem-Solving Abilities:</b> Understand multi/interdisciplinary nature of knowledge; apply critical, analytical, creative and systems thinking; and work individually and collaboratively to recognize and solve problems (through</p>	<p>All programs in the College of Professional Studies link students' learning experiences to the needs of communities and their members.</p> <p>These programs are all designed to meet the College goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare students to respond in innovative ways to the evolving social, political, economic, and natural environments in which policy-making and service delivery are carried out.</li> <li>• Cultivate an ethic of public integrity and civic engagement in professional, political, and community activities.</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of the multi-cultural and increasingly global contexts within which public problems emerge, as well as an ability to formulate interdisciplinary strategies for their identification and resolution.</li> <li>• Cultivate the knowledge, skills, and personal attributes required for life-long growth and development.</li> <li>• Integrate multiple, state-of-the-art technologies into the learning environment and develop students'</li> </ul>	<p>FGCU students earning a B.S. degree in Legal Studies will develop:</p> <p>a. a working knowledge of the law and its impact on the legal system and society</p> <p>b. mastery of those technical skills required for legal document drafting</p> <p>c. written and verbal communication skills, with particular emphasis on the development of effective and persuasive oral and written arguments in the legal arena</p> <p>d. business, professional, and office management skills required to succeed in the legal profession</p> <p>e. mastery of those skills required to pass national certification examinations such as The National Association of Legal Assistant's (NALA) Certified Legal Assistant (CLA) Examination and/or The National Federation of Paralegal Association's (NFPA) Paralegal Advanced Competency Examination (PACE).</p> <p>f. mastery of computational, computer and organizational skills required of legal assistants/paralegals in the legal</p> <p>g. competency to effectively handle ethical issues through an understanding of those conflicts between components and individuals involved in the legal environment</p> <p>h. an understanding of environmental, economic and ecological issues as each relates to law making and law enforcement through interdisciplinary learning experiences</p> <p>i. a working knowledge and understanding of the relationships between individuals and their communities; individuals and the legal system; and the community and the legal system and the role diversity plays in the system</p>	<p>Objective accomplished through all coursework*</p> <p>Instructor of PLA 4116 and PLA 4850 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper and/or written examination).</p> <p>Instructor of PLA 3700, PLA 3763, PLA 3433, PLA 4940, PLA 3236, PLA 4565, and PLA 4850 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).</p> <p>Instructor of PLA 3763, PLA 3433, PLA 4940, PLA 4565, and PLA 4850 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).</p> <p>Instructor of PLA 4565 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).</p> <p>Instructor of PLA 3763, PLA 3433, PLA 4940, and PLA 4850 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).</p> <p>Instructor of PLA 3700 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).</p> <p>Objective accomplished through all coursework*</p> <p>Instructor of PLA 4850, PLA 4940 and PLA 4933 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).</p>	<p>Legal Studies faculty agreed to begin program assessment with communication skills. Students in a spring 2005 Legal Studies core capstone course, <i>American Jurisprudence, PLA 4850</i>, were scored on a direct measure of communication skills based upon submission of a midterm portfolio. A class passage rate of 70% or better was determined to be indicative of favorable results. The median grade was 93.32. All 22 students (100%) met the criterion; this goal was achieved.</p> <p>All 22 PLA 4850 students were invited by email to participate in a survey assessing the extent to which PLA 4850 affected their communication skills. Students were asked questions to describe their beliefs regarding the course in relationship to being successfully taught written and verbal communications skills; particular emphasis was on the development of effective and persuasive oral and written arguments in the legal profession. There were responses from 6 out of 22 students (27%). Students were also queried about whether or not the capstone portfolio project aided in the learning process and achievement of said goals. Out of students responding 2/3 strongly or moderately agreed that such skills were taught in the course. There were 83% who agreed that the midterm portfolio aided in the leaning process of achievement of goals previously mentioned. Finally,</p>

<p>program outcome 1).</p> <p><b>Technological Literacy:</b> Develop knowledge of modern technology; process information through use of technology; and collaborate with others using technology tools (through program outcomes b, d, f, m).</p> <p><b>Community Awareness and Involvement:</b> Know and understand relationships between individuals and their communities; analyze, evaluate and assess human needs and practices; and participate collaboratively in community service projects (through program outcomes i, n).</p>	<p>abilities to use technology creatively in their work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop comprehensive field-based experiences linked to individual and community development.</li> </ul>	j. an understanding of how the access, control and dissemination of information determines and shapes law and policy making	Instructor of PLA 4116 and PLA 4850 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).	<p>students were also asked background questions concerning their geographic location, age range and gender.</p> <p>During the 2005/06 academic year, the division chair will meet with faculty teaching core courses to discuss student performance and evaluate program effectiveness based on these outcome measures, as well as next steps to move toward assessing all student outcomes. Where need is identified, program outcome measures will be modified.</p> <p>Division chair and/or program coordinator will meet annually with faculty teaching core courses to discuss student performance and evaluate program effectiveness based on these outcome measures.</p>
		k. the ability to appreciate diversity among cultures and different legal systems	Instructor of PLA 4850 and PLA 4940 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).	
		l. techniques for problem solving through fictional and factually based scenarios	Instructor of PLA 3700 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).	
		m. the ability to locate and interpret data through both text-based and electronic based sources of information	Instructor of PLA 4116 and PLA 4850 will keep records of successful completion of these skills (as a research paper, oral presentation, and/or examination).	
		n. an appreciation of life-long learning, professional excellence and community service	objective accomplished through student internships, participation in service learning/volunteer opportunities, employment and/or attendance at law/graduate school	
		Critical thinking skills: see program objectives f, g, h, i, j, k above.		
		Communication skills: See program objectives b, c, m above.		

\*NOTE: Core Courses are: CCJ 4215 Constitutional Criminal Law, PLA 3203 Courtroom Techniques, PLA 3700 Ethics for Legal Assistants, PLA 3763 Law Office Management, PLA 3803 Family Law Issues, PLA 4116 Research & Document Drafting, PLA 4603 Florida Trusts, Estates & Probate, PLA 4612 Commercial & Residential Real Estate Transactions, PLA 4850 American Jurisprudence Seminar.

## Program Description

The program of study leading to a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Legal Studies prepares graduates for career advancement in legal assisting, paralegal, and other law-related professions. The American Bar Association defines a paralegal or legal assistant as "a person qualified by education, training, or experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency, or other entity, and who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible."

The program is designed to provide in-depth understanding of the legal system as it relates to the law, the courts, clients, and lawyers. The curriculum encompasses both generalist and specialist courses as recommended by the American Bar Association. The core curriculum provides a solid foundation of legal, ethical, technical, and communication skills. Subsequent to completion of the core, students have an opportunity to focus on specific areas of interest by taking elective coursework in the areas of litigation, probate, family law, criminal law, and international law.