

**MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LEGAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

COMPETENCY STATEMENT

PLA 2273 - Torts

Course Description:

This course provides an examination of the theories governing tort law and the use of various pre-litigation tools. Topics covered include intentional torts, negligence and strict liability. The course also provides students with practice in drafting the documents employed in practice.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites and Co-requisites: The student must have completed PLA 2003, Fundamentals of Law; PLA 2104, Legal Research; PLA 2114, Legal Writing; PLA 2203, Trial Preparation.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will develop a working knowledge of basic negligence law.

The student will be able to:

- A. Describe the elements of negligence theory such as duty, breach of duty, standard of care, proximate cause, defenses to negligence, and damages.
- B. Explain the theory of products liability.
- C. Identify and apply the theories of joint and several liability.
- D. Apply comparative and contributory negligence theories to given fact patterns.
- E. Discuss the measure of damages.
- F. Classify a claimant as a trespasser, licensee or invitee.
- G. Describe the basic duties owed to trespassers, licensees and invitees.

Competency 2: The student will understand how to identify and analyze the elements of the various theories upon which non-contractual liability is predicated.

The student will be able to:

- A. Identify the elements of various causes of action based on tort theories such as fraud, conversion, defamation, unfair competition, wrongful interference and misrepresentation.
- B. Discuss the principles of strict liability.

Competency 3: The student will understand how to identify and analyze the elements of different intentional torts.

The student will be able to:

- A. Compare and contrast the basic substantive laws of intentional torts such as:
 - 1. Battery and assault
 - 2. Slander and libel
 - 3. Trespass
 - 4. Conversion
 - 5. Fraud
 - 6. Intentional interference actions

Competency 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of tort law by completing tasks required in a traditional tort practice.

The student will be able to:

- A. Apply knowledge of legal research and tort law to given fact scenarios.
- B. Draft pleadings appropriate to the tortious conduct claimed in given fact scenarios.
- C. Draft office memoranda, interrogatories, complaints, answers, defenses, counter or cross-claims, motions for summary judgment, and memoranda of law.
- D. Summarize a deposition.
- E. Discuss ethical concerns.