



Course Description

PLA2114 | Legal Writing | 3.00 credits

This course provides knowledge and understanding of how to present legal research and analysis in proper written format. As legal research is an integral part of legal writing, the course will reinforce the skills used in legal research. It will also cover basic writing skills, the process of legal analysis, the methodology involved in drafting a Memorandum of law, practice in drafting pleadings, and various types of specific law office correspondence. Courses must be met with a grade of "C" or higher. Prerequisites: ENC1101, PLA2003, PLA2120C, and PLA2931

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will understand the nature, scope, and rationale of basic legal writing by:

1. Creating a persuasive thesis paragraph
2. Writing a topic sentence
3. Identifying correct transitions
4. Organizing the subject matter
5. Providing details for paragraph development
6. Developing the material in a coherent form
7. Utilizing grammatically correct sentence structure
8. Designing a tone appropriate for the audience

Competency 2: The student will understand the mechanics of basic legal writing by:

1. Drafting Legal Memoranda
2. Writing case briefs

Competency 3: The student will understand how to draft samples of law office correspondence by:

1. Preparing a letter to a client requesting information
2. Preparing a letter to a client concerning the plaintiff's interrogatories to the defendant
3. Preparing a letter to a client regarding the defendant's interrogatories and Request to Produce
4. Preparing a letter to a potential client declining representation

Competency 4: The student will understand how to analyze a case by:

1. Explaining methodologies such as IRAC, CRAC, and ARAC
2. Distinguishing between facts and legal facts
3. Identifying and phrasing the legal issues in a case
4. Stating the holding in a legal conclusion
5. Explaining the legal reasoning established in a case
6. Discuss any dissenting opinions and the importance of such a decision in establishing precedent
7. Writing a case brief using the preceding techniques

Competency 5: The student will understand how to write a Memorandum of Law by:

1. Explaining the purpose of a Memorandum of Law
2. Selecting a tone that is appropriate for the audience
3. Stating the facts and identifying the relevant legal facts
4. Identifying and correctly phrasing the issues
5. Conducting legal research using primary and secondary sources to find the law that applies to the facts and the issues
6. Shepardizing
7. Correctly citing the applicable law
8. Citing the general propositions of law determined from the research

9. Discussing the elements
10. Using precedent and specifying the controlling cases including the citation, facts and holding
11. Arguing the facts and analyzing the controlling cases cited
12. Presenting an argument in rebuttal of the cases that are not "on point"
13. Presenting a summary and conclusion

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Use computer and emerging technologies effectively