

Family Law Assessment Report

Fall 2017

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1 INTRODUCTION

Florida SouthWestern State College's Business Department gathers a multitude of data from various courses as assessment tools. One of the courses included in assessment is PLA 2800 *Family Law*. The assessment outcomes are intended to provide a baseline and measurement of achievement moving forward as well as investigate the strength and performance of items in the exam. The assessment plan also provides comparisons between dual Enrollment and non-dual enrollment students, online versus traditional students, and by site, where possible. Where data is sufficient, additional analyses are provided including distribution studies and longitudinal studies.

For additional detail or further analysis not provided in this report, please contact Dr. Joseph F. van Gaalen, Director of Assessment & Effectiveness, Academic Affairs (jfvangaalen@fsw.edu; x16965).

2 PLA 2800

2.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

The FSW Business faculty defined one area of interest for evaluation in support of the state framework outcome in which students will identify variety of legal terms and concepts relating to family law, list requirements for a valid marriage in the State of Florida, and cite grounds needed to obtain a dissolution of marriage and an annulment of a marriage in Florida. The SLO and the measure of success related to PLA 2800 is:

- SLO 1 – The Divorce Petition Draft from the Family Law course (PLA 2800) will be used to demonstrate student knowledge in this assessment. Benchmark for this assessment method specifies that 85% of candidates will achieve a score of 85% or higher on this assignment for the 2017-18 academic year.

During the fall 2017 semester, 21 artifacts were scored tallied from 2 of 2 sections of PLA 2800 with an enrollment of 22. Of the 21 artifacts, 17 scored 85 or higher (max = 100) resulting in a percentage achieving 85% or higher of 81%. Note that two artifacts scored a 0 and the mean was 82.3. Results are shown in Table 1.

	n	# Scoring 85% or Higher	% Scoring 85% or Higher
Divorce Petition Draft	21	17	81%

Table 1. Divorce Petition Draft assessment percentage of scores achieving score of "85% or higher".

2.2 EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS AND SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

Multiple comparisons of artifact scores across varying formats, campuses, and student types were made, where possible, in order to add depth to the causes of the distribution of the artifacts. Each course was divided into the appropriate subgroups to perform the analysis. In cases where a subgroup is not represented in the course comparisons were not conducted and are noted for comprehensiveness.

2.2.1 Dual Enrollment to Non-Dual Enrollment Comparison

No dual enrollment sections of the course were run during fall 2017 so no comparison study between dual enrollment and non-dual enrollment could be completed.

2.2.2 Online to Traditional Comparison

To maintain compliance with American Bar Association approval standards, Family Law must always be taught in person as a ground class and not online. As a result, no comparison study between online and traditional could be completed.

2.2.3 Comparison by Campus/Site

Both sections of the course were taught on the same campus (Thomas Edison) and so no cross-campus comparison study could be completed.

2.3 LONGITUDINAL STUDY

As further data is collected in coming terms, this section will track achievement through time and highlight strengths, weaknesses and any long term trends.

3 CONCLUSIONS

FSW's Business Department has employed a common assignment for PLA 2800 to assess achievement in the course and measure the outcome in which students will identify variety of legal terms and concepts relating to family law, list requirements for a valid marriage in the State of Florida, and cite grounds needed to obtain a dissolution of marriage and an annulment of a marriage in Florida. The results are intended to provide a baseline achievement moving forward.

3.1 PLA 2800

A drill-down of PLA 2800 results are as follows:

1. In a study of outcome objective, "The Divorce Petition Draft from the Family Law course (PLA 2800) will be used to demonstrate student knowledge in this assessment. Benchmark for this assessment method specifies that 85% of candidates will achieve a score of 85% or higher on this assignment for the 2017-18 academic year.", the results exhibit the percentage of artifacts meeting expectations is 81%. Of the 21 artifacts, 17 scored 85 or higher (max = 100) resulting in a percentage achieving 85% or higher of 81%. Note that two artifacts scored a 0 and the mean was 82.3.
2. No dual enrollment sections of the course were run during fall 2017 so no comparison study between dual enrollment and non-dual enrollment could be completed.

3. To maintain compliance with American Bar Association approval standards, Family Law must always be taught in person as a ground class and not online. As a result, no comparison study between online and traditional could be completed.
4. No cross-campus comparison study could be completed because both sections of the course were offered at the same campus during fall 2017.