

# Litigation Assessment Report

## Spring 2019

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### 1 INTRODUCTION

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Florida SouthWestern State College's Paralegal Studies Department gathers a multitude of data from various courses as assessment tools. One of the courses included in assessment is PLA 2200 *Litigation*. 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 (concurrent) 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, Asst. Vice President of Institutional Research, Assessment & Effectiveness, Academic Affairs ([jfvanqaalen@fsw.edu](mailto:jfvanqaalen@fsw.edu); x16965).

### 2 PLA 2200

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#### 2.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

The FSW Paralegal Studies faculty defined one area of interest for evaluation in support of the state framework outcome in which students will cite and re-create litigation techniques & procedures in the Litigation course. The SLO and the measure of success related to PLA 2200 is:

- SLO 1 – The Litigation Project from the Litigation course (PLA 2200) will be used to demonstrate student knowledge in this assessment. Benchmark for this assessment method specifies that 80% of candidates will achieve a score of 80% or higher on this assignment for the 2018-19 academic year.

During the spring 2019 semester, 11 artifacts were scored tallied from 1 of 1 sections of PLA 2200 with an enrollment of 14. Of the 11 artifacts, 5 scored 352 or higher (max = 450) resulting in a percentage achieving 80% or higher of 46%. The mean score was 359.1. Results are shown in Table 1.

	<b>n</b>	<b># Scoring 80% or Higher</b>	<b>% Scoring 80% or Higher</b>
Litigation Project	11	5	46%

Table 1. Litigation Project assessment percentage of scores achieving score of "80% 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 (Concurrent) to Non-Dual Enrollment Comparison

No dual enrollment (concurrent) sections of the course were run during spring 2019 so no comparison between dual enrollment and non-dual enrollment could be completed.

### 2.2.2 Online to Traditional Comparison

Only one section of the course was offered during spring 2019 so no comparison study between online and traditional could be completed.

### 2.2.3 Comparison by Campus/Site

Only one section of the course was offered during spring 2019 so no cross-campus comparison study could be completed.

## 2.3 LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Description of achievement over time in PLA 2200 is presented in Figure 1. Both mean score and percentage achieving goal has increased over time until spring 2019, in which both dropped to similar numbers seen in the beginning of the longitudinal study. Note that comparison from fall terms to spring terms is less useful as assessment reports across multiple course level and program level assessments at FSW typically exhibit substantial differences from fall to spring term and are better interpreted from fall-to-fall and spring-to-spring (see <http://www.fsw.edu/facultystaff/assessment/history> for further details).

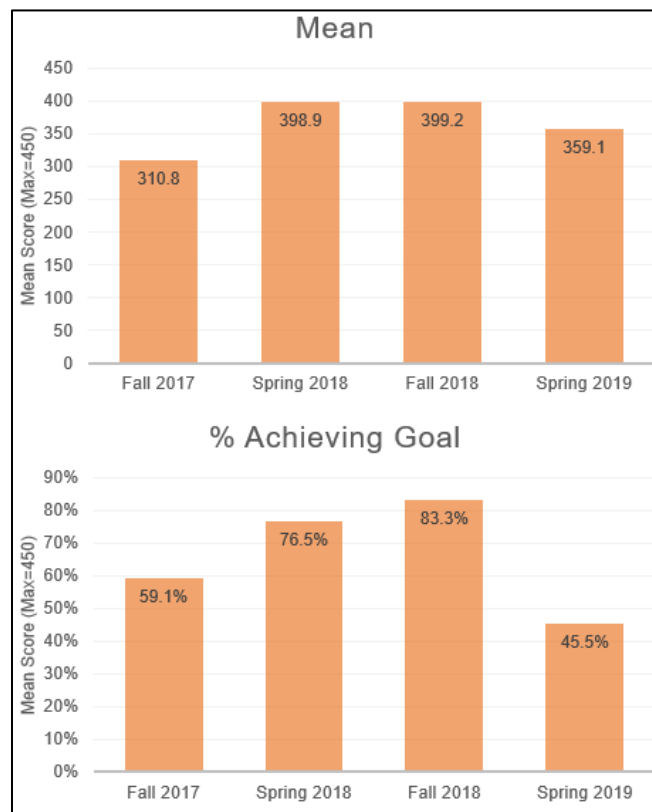


Figure 1. Comparison of mean score (top) and % achieving goal (bottom) over time (longitudinal study began Fall 2017).

## 3 CONCLUSIONS

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FSW's Paralegal Studies Department has employed a common assignment for PLA 2200 to assess achievement in the course and measure the outcome in which students will cite and re-create litigation techniques & procedures in the Litigation course. The results are intended to provide a baseline achievement moving forward.

### 3.1 PLA 2200

A drill-down of PLA 2200 results are as follows:

1. In a study of outcome objective, "The Litigation Project from the Litigation course (PLA 2200) will be used to demonstrate student knowledge in this assessment. Benchmark for this assessment method specifies that 80% of candidates will achieve a score of 80% or higher on this assignment for the 2018-19 academic year.", the results exhibit the percentage of artifacts meeting expectations is 46%. Of the 11 artifacts, 5 scored 352 or higher (max = 450) resulting in a percentage achieving 80% or higher of 46%. The mean score was 359.1.
2. No dual enrollment (concurrent) sections of the course were run during spring 2019 so no comparison study between dual enrollment and non-dual enrollment could be completed.
3. No comparison study between online and traditional courses could be completed because only one section of the course was offered during spring 2019.
4. No cross-campus comparison study could be completed because only one section of the course was offered during spring 2019.
5. In a longitudinal study, both mean score and percentage achieving goal has increased over time until spring 2019, in which both dropped to similar numbers seen in the beginning of the longitudinal study.