

Real Estate & Wills/Trusts Assessment Report

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1 INTRODUCTION

Florida SouthWestern State College's Paralegal Studies Department gathers a multitude of data from various courses as assessment tools. Two of the courses included in assessment are PLA 2600 *Wills, Trusts, and Probate Administration* and PLA 2610 *Real Estate Law and Property*. 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 concurrent 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, Asst. Vice President, Institutional Research, Assessment & Effectiveness, Academic Affairs (jfvangaalen@fsw.edu; x16965).

2 PLA 2600

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 identify a variety of terms and concepts associated with wills, trusts, & probate administration. This area, while not included in the current outcomes assessment plan, continues to be monitored for future assessment cycle preparations.

- Module 12, Chapter 12 Essay in PLA 2600 will be used to demonstrate student knowledge in this assessment. No benchmark for this assessment is set as it is not during an assessment cycle. However, data collection continues for when this course will be the focus of assessment again to provide longitudinal data.

During the Spring 2020 semester, 17 artifacts were scored tallied from 1 of 1 sections of PLA 2600 with an enrollment of 22. Percentage of artifacts by score in rubric dimension are shown in Table 1 below.

	Rubric: Identification of Issues	Rubric: Analysis of Applicable Legal Criteria	Rubric: Application of Facts to Legal Criteria	Rubric: Conceptual Understanding	Rubric: Organizational Structure, Grammar, Spelling, Format
4	65%	65%	65%	71%	100%
3	12%	12%	12%	6%	0%
2	24%	24%	24%	24%	0%
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 1. Document drafting assignment rubric scores.

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 2020 so no comparison study between dual enrollment and non-dual enrollment could be completed.

2.2.2 Online to Traditional Comparison

Only one section of the course was run during spring 2020 (an online section) 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 run during spring 2020 (an online section) so no cross-campus comparison study could be completed.

2.3 LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Description of achievement over time in PLA 2600 by mean scores and percentage achievement is shown in Table 2 below. Note that comparison from fall terms to spring terms is less useful as assessment reports across multiple course level and program level assessments at Florida SouthWestern State College 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). Results for spring terms exhibit stability over the past three years with mean scores ranging from 87% in the most recent term to 90% in spring 2018.

	n	Mean Score
Fall 2017	22	75%
Spring 2018	15	90%
Fall 2018	24	94%
Spring 2019	17	86%
Fall 2019	9	98%
Spring 2020	17	87%

Table 2. Comparison of achievement in the "Module 12 Essay" over time.

3 PLA 2610

3.1 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 identify required tasks associated with preparing real property deeds, contracts for sale of real property, and define a variety of terms within a real estate transaction during their studies in Real Estate law and Property (PLA 2610). This area, while not included in the current outcomes assessment plan, continues to be monitored for future assessment cycle preparations.

- Module 7 Essay from the Real Estate course (PLA 2610) will be used to demonstrate student knowledge in this assessment. No benchmark for this assessment is set as it is not during an assessment cycle. However, data collection continues for when this course will be the focus of assessment again to provide longitudinal data.

During the Spring 2020 semester, 18 artifacts were scored tallied from 1 of 1 sections of PLA 2610 with an enrollment of 22. Percentage of artifacts by score in rubric dimension are shown in Table 3 below.

	Rubric: Identification of Issues	Rubric: Analysis of Applicable Legal Criteria	Rubric: Application of Facts to Legal Criteria	Rubric: Conceptual Understanding	Rubric: Organizational Structure, Grammar, Spelling, Format
4	39%	39%	39%	39%	39%
3	61%	61%	61%	50%	50%
2	0%	0%	0%	11%	11%
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 3. Module 7 Essay assignment rubric scores.

3.2 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.

3.2.1 Dual Enrollment to Non-Dual Enrollment Comparison

No dual enrollment sections of the course were run during spring 2020 so no comparison study between dual enrollment and non-dual enrollment could be completed.

3.2.2 Online to Traditional Comparison

Only one section of the course was run during spring 2020 so no comparison study between online and traditional could be completed.

3.2.3 Comparison by Campus/Site

Only one section of the course was run during spring 2020 so no cross-campus comparison study could be completed.

3.3 LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Description of achievement over time in PLA 2610 by mean scores and percentage achievement is shown in Table 4 below. Results exhibit improvement over time from 87% achievement in fall 2017 up to and stabilized in the mid 90%-range from fall 2018 through spring 2020.

	n	Mean Score
Fall 2017	23	87%
Spring 2018	21	88%
Fall 2018	23	98%
Spring 2019	21	96%
Fall 2019	23	95%
Spring 2020	18	94%

Table 4. Comparison of achievement in the "Module 7 Essay" over time.

4 CONCLUSIONS

FSW's Paralegal Studies Department has employed a common assignment for PLA 2600 *Wills, Trusts, and Probate Administration* and PLA 2610 *Real Estate Law and Property* to assess achievement in the course and measure the outcome in which students will identify a variety of terms and concepts associated with wills, trusts, & probate administration in PLA 2600 and in PLA 2610 in which students will identify required tasks associated with preparing real property deeds, contracts for sale of real property, and define a variety of terms within a real estate transaction. The results are intended to provide a baseline achievement moving forward.

4.1 PLA 2600

A drill-down of PLA 2600 results are as follows:

1. In a study of the identified assessment for monitoring, Module 12, Chapter 12 Essay in PLA 2600, the percentages of artifacts scoring 3 or higher for the five rubric dimensions are 77% for Identification of Issues, 77% for Analysis of Applicable Legal Criteria, 77% for Application of Facts to Legal Criteria, 78% for Conceptual Understanding, and 100% for Organizational Structure, Grammar, Spelling, Format.
2. No dual enrollment sections of the course were run during spring 2020 so no comparison study between dual enrollment and non-dual enrollment could be completed.
3. Only one section of the course was run during spring 2020 so no comparison study between online and traditional could be completed.
4. Only one section of the course was run during spring 2020 so no cross-campus comparison study could be completed.
5. In a longitudinal study, results exhibit improvement over time from 75% achievement in fall 2017 up to 87% in spring 2020.

4.2 PLA 2610

A drill-down of PLA 2610 results are as follows:

1. In a study of the identified assessment for monitoring, Module 7 Essay in PLA 2610, the percentages of artifacts scoring 3 or higher for the five rubric dimensions are 100% for Identification of Issues, 100% for Analysis of Applicable Legal Criteria, 100% for Application of Facts to Legal Criteria, 89% for Conceptual Understanding, and 89% for Organizational Structure, Grammar, Spelling, Format.
2. No dual enrollment sections of the course were run during spring 2020 so no comparison study between dual enrollment and non-dual enrollment could be completed.
3. Only one section of the course was run during spring 2020 so no comparison study between online and traditional could be completed.
4. Only one section of the course was run during spring 2020 so no cross-campus comparison study could be completed.
5. In a longitudinal study, results exhibit improvement over time from 87% achievement in fall 2017 up to and stabilized in the mid 90%-range from fall 2018 through spring 2020.