

Family Law 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. 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 (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 (jfvangaalen@fsw.edu; x16965).

2 PLA 2800

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 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 2018-19 academic year.

During the spring 2019 semester, 19 artifacts were scored tallied from 1 of 1 sections of PLA 2800 with an enrollment of 50. Of the 19 artifacts, 19 scored 85 or higher (max = 100) resulting in a percentage achieving 85% or higher of 100%. Results are shown in Table 1.

	n	# Scoring 85% or Higher	% Scoring 85% or Higher
Divorce Petition Draft	19	19	100%

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 spring 2019 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

Only one section of the course was run, therefore 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 beginning with fall 2019 data.

3 CONCLUSIONS

FSW's Paralegal Studies 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 2018-19 academic year.", the results exhibit the percentage of artifacts meeting expectations is 100%. Of the 19 artifacts, 19 scored 85 or higher (max = 100) resulting in a percentage achieving 85% or higher of 100%.
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. 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. Only one section of the course was run, therefore no cross-campus comparison study could be completed.