

Date: February 2006

- I. Course Name:** Legal Research & Writing I
Course Prefix & Number: PLG 125
Credit Hours & Contact Hours: 3 credit hours – 3 contact hours
Catalog Description:

This course is designed to introduce the student to the fundamental concepts of legal research and analysis through the use of FLCC's law library. The student will be introduced to primary and secondary sources of law. Emphasis will be placed on finding and analyzing both statutory and case law along with proper citation format. Further the student will be introduced to the preparation of simple legal documents. Prerequisite / Corequisite: PLG 100 and ENG 101 or permission of the instructor.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will have an understanding of both primary and secondary sources of law.
2. The student will be able to find both primary and secondary source laws.
3. The student will be able to read and analyze case law and statutory law.
4. The student will be able to write a case brief.
5. The student will be able to analyze basic scenarios, determine the issues and research the answers for the same using both primary and secondary sources of the law.
6. The student will be able to write a simple memo reporting his or her findings a legal issue researched.
7. The student will be able to correctly cite to both case and statutory law.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

The course is required for students matriculated in the Paralegal A.A.S. degree program. Students matriculated in other degree programs may take the course with the permission of the instructor

College Competencies Addressed by the Course:

Legal Research & Writing I addresses the following general competencies: writing, reading, oral communication, information resources, and professional competency.

III. Methods of Instruction

Types of Course Materials:

Textbooks
FLCC's Law Library Resources

Methods of Instruction:

Lectures, instructor modeling of research techniques in FLCC's law library, guest speakers, class discussions and written assignments.

Assessment Measures:

Faculty may use a variety of assessment measures including, but not limited to: informal writing, non graded quizzes, and discussions

Methods of Evaluation:

Class Participation

Tests

Written Assignments completed and turned in on a timely basis.

Work product may include but is not limited to:

Case Brief

Interoffice Memo

Citation assignment

Statutory analysis

Shepards review of case citations

Written assignments from the text

IV. General Outline of Topics Covered

I. Court Systems

II. Sources of Law

III. Case Law

IV. Statutory Law

V. Use of Secondary Sources in Legal Research

VI. Introductory Legal Analysis

VII. Legal Correspondence & Internal Office Memoranda