



University of Maryland University College

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies
Department of Business and Professional Programs**

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN
Program Outcomes and Learning Assessment Criteria

Summer 2007

Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies

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Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Legal Studies program is designed for students who are interested in the organization, function, and processes of the lawmaking institutions in the American legal systems, as well as the role of the non-attorney or “paralegal” in the legal system. The program of study includes four foundation skills courses and twenty-one upper level credits, half of which must be in substantive law courses and half in procedure and skills courses. Legal Studies courses emphasize legal analysis, legal writing and drafting, legal research, legal ethics, and computer competence in the legal environment. A degree in Legal Studies prepares graduates for careers as paralegals in the public and private sector. The degree also offers students interested in pursuing law school as a further educational goal the opportunity to acquire knowledge and analytical, research, and writing skills that will be helpful on the Law School Admissions Test and during the first year of a law school program.

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PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program of study for the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies is as follows:

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Communications	12 credit hours
Arts and Humanities	6 credit hours
Behavioral and Social Sciences	6 credit hours
Biological and Physical Sciences	6 credit hours
Mathematics	3 credit hours
Interdisciplinary or Emerging Issues	7 credit hours

CROSS-CURRICULAR PERSPECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

Historical Perspective	3 credit hours
International Perspective	3 credit hours
Civic Responsibility Perspective	3 credit hours

REQUIRED COURSES

LGST 101	Introduction to Law	3 credit hours
LGST 200	Techniques of Legal Research	3 credit hours
LGST 201	Legal Writing	3 credit hours
LGST 204	Legal Ethics	3 credit hours
LGST 320	Criminal Law and Procedure or other general practice procedure and skills course (LGST 322, LGST 325, LGST 400 or LGST 401)	3 credit hours
LGST 312	Torts or other general practice substantive law course (LGST 315, LGST 316, LGST 340, LGST 442)	3 credit hours

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PROGRAM OF STUDY (continued)

LGST 325	Litigation or other general practice procedure and skills course (LGST 322, LGST 327, LGST 330, LGST 360, LGST 363A, LGST 370, LGST 398P, LGST 400, LGST 401, LGST 425, LGST 486A/486B)	3 credit hours
LGSTG 315	Domestic Relations or other general practice substantive law course (LGST 316, LGST 335, LGST 343, LGST 411, LGST 415, LGST 420, LGST 431, LGST 432, LGST 434, LGST 445, LGST 450)	3 credit hours
LGST 486A/B	Internship in Legal Studies or other supplemental course for major (any LGST course, CCJS 432, CCJS 453, COMM 400, FSCN 412, GVPT 399B, GVPT 402, GVPT 434)	3 credit hours

MINOR AND ELECTIVE COURSES

43 credit hours

Minor and/or elective courses are to be taken in the last 60 hours along with required major courses. Refer to the current UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies Catalog for the minor and/or elective course requirements.

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DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The table below identifies the curricular influences that support the program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies.

SOURCES/RESOURCES PROVIDING CURRICULAR FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAM OUTCOMES Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies		
SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	WEB ADDRESS OR DOCUMENT NAME (if applicable)
Core Learning Areas of the UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies	<p>All UMUC degree programs are required to imbed identified Core Learning Areas into the program of study. The Core Learning Areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Communication (COMM) • Technology Fluency (TECH) • Information Literacy (INFO) • Quantitative Literacy (QUAN) • Critical Thinking (THIN) • Scientific Literacy (SCIE) <p>The expanded definition for each Core Learning Area was considered in creating the respective program outcome.</p>	UMUC <u>Institutional Plan for the Assessment of Student Learning</u>
UMUC Legal Studies Advisory Board	The Advisory Board is comprised of legal professionals, full-time and adjunct faculty members, practicing paralegals, and LGST graduates. The Board provides input on curriculum to keep current with trends and needs in the legal community.	
American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Paralegals	The ABA has developed educational standards to foster high quality paralegal education and training.	<u>http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/paralegals/process.html</u>
Legal Studies Academic Program Review, 2004	The Academic Program Review sets forth goals and objectives for the Legal Studies program.	

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PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies are delineated below. The program outcomes describe the expectations for all graduates of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies.

CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+
	Create writings typically assigned to paralegals in selected areas of legal practice reflecting an understanding of legal principles.*
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+
	Use online legal research tools to accomplish tasks in the legal environment.*
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+
	Utilize book-based and computer-assisted legal resources to effectively locate, use, and analyze legal resources and evaluate the nature and extent of resources needed.*
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+
	Integrate quantitative information and ideas in legal cases.*
THIN	Use sound legal analytical skills to enhance legal problem solving and completion of tasks typically assigned to paralegals in selected areas of legal practice.*
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+
	Demonstrate the ability to state a proposition based on evidence.*

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

* Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of requirements in the baccalaureate degree program. This program outcome is unique to each UMUC baccalaureate degree program.

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ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

The following grid aligns the program outcomes of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies with: 1) learning objectives from the designated program coursework and 2) specific methods used to assess student learning within the degree program.

CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+	Plan and write a research-based essay that makes effective use of resources found in databases available from UMUC's Office of Information and Library Services as well as resources located through Web search engines. (WRTG 101)	Research Paper
		Research, compile, and document relevant, credible information and use it to support ideas presented in your writing. (WRTG 393)	Research Paper
		Collect, select, analyze, interpret, and organize data, and use it appropriately in business communications, including a long formal report. (WRTG 394)	Research Paper
		Conduct a systematic audience analysis and apply it to a report, essay, or research paper. (WRTG 391)	Research Paper
	Create writings typically assigned to paralegals in selected areas of legal practice reflecting an understanding of legal principles.*	Accurately cite, explain, and synthesize statutory and case law related to a specific legal topic or issue in an appropriately formatted, internal law memo. (LGST 201)	Other: Internal Law ("Synthesis") Memorandum

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CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+	Analyze issues faced by information system professionals, including security, ethical, and privacy problems. (IFSM 201)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Use online legal research tools to accomplish tasks in the legal environment.*	Use online legal research tools to accomplish tasks in the legal environment. (LGST 200)	Project (Course/Chapter)
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+	Select relevant print and electronic sources to answer research questions. (LIBS 150)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Utilize book-based and computer-assisted legal resources to effectively locate, use, and analyze legal resources and evaluate the nature and extent of resources needed.*	Locate primary and secondary authorities by citation, name, and topic. (LGST 200)	Project (Course/Chapter)
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+	Solve linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomial, fractional, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and absolute value equations and inequalities. (MATH 107)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Develop problem solving skills. (MATH 105 or MATH 106)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Integrate quantitative information and ideas in legal cases.*	Calculate child support based on state statutory guidelines and modifications. (LGST 315)	Project (Course/Chapter)
THIN	Use sound legal analytical skills to enhance legal problem solving and completion of tasks in the area of legal practice.*	Present a well-organized, balanced analysis of a legal issue. (LGST 201)	Other: Legal ("Office") Memorandum.

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CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Legal Studies			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+	Recognize the differences and the interrelationships among physics, chemistry, the earth sciences, and astronomy. (NSCI 100)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Explain the significance of DNA in determining the composition, characteristics, reproduction, and behavior of an organism. (BIOL 101)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Demonstrate the ability to state a proposition based on evidence.*	Draft a legal complaint for a client based on facts contained in a hypothetical situation. (LGST 325)	Other: Legal ("Office") Memorandum.

- + Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.
- * Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of requirements in the baccalaureate degree program. This program outcome is unique to each UMUC baccalaureate degree program.