

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT FOR LEGAL STUDIES

Department of Social Sciences
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Park University

Fall, 2006

University Mission Statement:

“The mission of Park University, an entrepreneurial institution of learning, is to provide access to academic excellence, which will prepare students to think critically, communicate effectively and engage in lifelong learning while serving a global community.”

University Vision Statement:

“Park University will be a renowned international leader in providing innovative educational opportunities for students within the global society.”

Mission Statement for Legal Studies

The faculty and program in legal studies are committed to offering courses that meet the Liberal Arts approach of Park University. This is in line with the requirements for the preparation of citizens and the development of citizenship, and for preparing students for the rigors of law school and the practice of law. Legal Studies at Park seeks to engender: communication skills, the ability to evaluate facts and theories critically, making sound judgments based on a considered philosophy of life; a willingness to innovate in the interest of personal development, an understanding of the role of law and the legal processes in a constitutional democracy, and to contribute to society. Legal Studies at Park prepares students for a career, realistic acceptance of personal and social responsibility, and education to a professional ethic.

Departmental Objectives

Critical Thinking: Critical Thinking is the ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information and ideas from multiple perspectives.

The educated individual thinks critically and analytically about subjects. Critical thinking includes the capability for analysis, problem solving, logical argument, the application of scholarly and scientific methods, the accurate use of terminology, and information literacy. The particular critical thinking skills vary from discipline to discipline.

Effective Communication: Effective Communication includes the ability to read, write, speak, and listen; it is the effective use of various resources and technology for personal and professional communication.

The educated individual should be able to understand and convey ideas in diverse contexts, using appropriate communication skills. Among important language capabilities are proper usage, appropriate style, and the ability to formulate a coherent, well-supported argument using language appropriate to academic and public discourse.

Knowledge Integration: Knowledge Integration is the ability to fuse information and concepts from multiple disciplines for personal, professional, and civic enhancement.

A commitment to a life of thought and the ability to evaluate critically one's own views and those of others require that the individual be able to analytically compare diverse fields of knowledge. The program promotes knowledge integration by encouraging courses and experiences that enable a student to discover connections between different disciplines and their real-life applications.

Social Responsibility: Social Responsibility is the ability to apply knowledge and skills gained through the undergraduate experience for the advancement of society.

Civic-minded service is characteristic of a socially accountable, well-educated individual. It is a goal of the program to promote knowledge, skills, and attitudes that encourage responsible civic engagement.

PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

All of the program objectives will be achieved as part of each of the following program competencies:

1. Students should be familiar with legal terms and processes.
2. Students will have the basic knowledge of how to research law and legal issues.
3. Students should be familiar with the history of law.

Evaluation of Program Competencies

The program in Legal Studies has instituted a range of measures to assess the success in reaching the above stated purposes. The following is a list of those methodologies.

Course Assessment Measures:

1. Exams
2. Research Papers
3. Oral Presentations

Program Assessment Measurement:

1. Written Comprehensive Examination.