

Assessment: Assessment Plan

Degree Program - LAW - Law (JD)

CIP Code: 22.0101.00

Disciplinary Accrediting Body: American Bar Association

Next Accrediting Agency Review: 2028

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Program Purpose Statement: The Texas Tech University School of Law maintains a rigorous legal education program that prepares its students for admission to the bar and for effective and ethical participation as members of the legal profession.

APPROVED ASSESSMENT CYCLE: The School of Law adopted new Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) for the J.D. program in February 2016. Following guidance from its accrediting body, the American Bar Association (ABA), it developed an assessment cycle for its six, program-wide SLOs. The assessment cycle was reviewed by the ABA as part of the Law School's reaccreditation in 2018, and the cycle was also approved by the Texas Tech University Office of Planning & Assessment. Thus, while the majority of degree programs at Texas Tech University have two or more active SLOs each academic year, the School of Law continues to meet its assessment obligations by following its approved assessment cycle.

NOTE: When reviewing the School of Law's annual assessment report in Nuventive Improve, please account for the fact that the approved assessment cycle entails obtaining and evaluating data for only one or two active, highly developed SLOs. If you have any questions about the assessment cycle, please contact the degree program coordinator.

Modality: Face-to-Face

Student Learning Outcome: Other Professional Skills

The School of Law developed an assessment cycle for its six program-wide Student Learning Outcomes. The assessment cycle has been approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Texas Tech University Office of Planning & Assessment and is included in the 2019-2020 Assessment Plan. During 2019-2020, the School of Law focused on "Other Professional Skills" (See ABA Standard 302(2)).

Graduates will develop "other professional skills" needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession, including the following skills: (1) demonstrate leadership skills in a variety of settings; (2) demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively with others; (3) maintain civility and respect for cultural diversity; and (4) exhibit a commitment to pro bono and public service activities.

Outcome Status: Active

Start Date: 08/19/2019

End Date: 10/01/2020

Assessment Methods

Professional Development Activities - This Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by the law students' timely completion of required public service and pro bono service hours. (Active)

Criterion: All graduating students will timely complete their public service requirement.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2019-20.docx](#)

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Embedded Assessments - This Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by embedded assessments in courses that assess the ability to work cooperatively with others. (Active)

Criterion: Faculty who assess this SLO will report 80% or more of their students demonstrated the ability to work cooperatively with others.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2019-20.docx](#)

Participation - This Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by the number of active law student organizations that give students an opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills. (Active)

Criterion: The Law School will have at least twenty active law student organizations that give students an opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Report SACSCOC 2018-19.pdf](#)

Professional Development Activities - This Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by the Law School's activities and programming related to diversity and inclusion to help students develop leadership skills, work cooperatively with others, and maintain civility and respect for cultural diversity. (Active)

Criterion: The number of activities and programming related to diversity and inclusion will increase of 2018-2019.

Class Discussions - The Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by faculty reporting that indicates students maintained civility and respect for cultural diversity during class discussions. (Active)

Criterion: Faculty who assess this SLO will report 80% or more of their students demonstrated the ability to work cooperatively with others.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2019-20.docx](#)

Student Learning Outcome: Written and Oral Communication

The School of Law developed an assessment cycle for its six program-wide Student Learning Outcomes. The assessment cycle has been approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Texas Tech University Office of Planning & Assessment and is included in the 2018-2019 Assessment Report. During 2018-2019, the School of Law focused on "Written and Oral Communication" (See ABA Standard 302(b)).

Graduates will demonstrate competent skills in written and oral communication, including the following skills: (1) communicate effectively by employing predictive, persuasive, and operational writing techniques, and (2) engage in effective and professional oral communication, including the delivery of an oral argument.

Outcome Status: Active

Start Date: 08/20/2018

End Date: 10/01/2019

Assessment Methods

Comprehensive Exam - Achievement of this SLO will be evidenced by our graduates' performance on the Multistate Performance Test (MPT) portion of the Texas bar exam. (Active)

Criterion: 80% or more of graduates will score above the 20th percentile on the Multistate Performance Test (MPT) portion of the Texas bar exam.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2018-19.docx](#)

[SLO Benchmark Chart 2018-19.docx](#)

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[Assessment Report SACSCOC 2018-19.pdf](#)

Embedded Assessments - Achievement of the SLO will be evidenced by our students' performance on embedded assessments in the required Legal Practice course, including a predictive memo, a pre-trial brief, a contract, an appellate brief, and an appellate oral argument, as well as embedded assessments in other law school courses. (Active)

Criterion: Faculty who assess this SLO will report that 80% or more of their students have "competent" written and oral communication skills.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2018-19.docx](#)

[SLO Benchmark Chart 2018-19.docx](#)

[Assessment Report SACSCOC 2018-19.pdf](#)

Student Learning Outcome: Professional and Ethical Responsibilities

The School of Law developed an assessment cycle for its six program-wide Student Learning Outcomes. The assessment cycle has been approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Texas Tech University Office of Planning & Assessment and is included in the 2018-2019 Assessment Plan. During 2018-2019, the School of Law focused on "Professional and Ethical Responsibilities" (See ABA Standard 302(c)).

Graduates will demonstrate competent knowledge of professional and ethical responsibilities, including the following: (1) identify and describe the applicable rules and standards governing lawyers' professionalism and ethical responsibilities; (2) apply knowledge of professional ethics to the resolution of identified dilemmas; (3) apply knowledge of professional ethics in the context of oral and written advocacy; and (4) demonstrate professionalism through conduct consistent with the legal profession's values and standards.

Outcome Status: Active

Start Date: 08/20/2018

End Date: 10/01/2019

Assessment Methods

Comprehensive Exam - Achievement of this SLO will be evidenced by our students' performance on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE). A passing score of 85 is required to practice law in Texas. (Active)

Criterion: 85% or more of our graduates who report their MPRE score to the Texas Board of Law Examiners will pass the exam with six months of graduation.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2018-19.docx](#)

[SLO Benchmark Chart 2018-19.docx](#)

[Assessment Report SACSCOC 2018-19.pdf](#)

Embedded Assessments - Achievement of this SLO will be evidenced by embedded assignments in Professional Responsibility, Legal Practice, and other courses that address knowledge of professional and ethical responsibilities. (Active)

Criterion: Faculty who assess this SLO will report 75% or more of their students have "competent" knowledge and skills related to professional and ethical responsibilities.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2018-19.docx](#)

[SLO Benchmark Chart 2018-19.docx](#)

[Assessment Report SACSCOC 2018-19.pdf](#)

Course Level Assessment - Achievement of this SLO will be evidenced by students' semester grades in the required Professional Responsibility course. While semester grades are typically not used as an assessment method, this course is devoted entirely to professional and ethical responsibilities, and is therefore an effective assessment method. (Active)

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Criterion: 70% or more of students enrolled in Professional Responsibility will score a C+ or higher.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2018-19.docx](#)

[SLO Benchmark Chart 2018-19.docx](#)

[Assessment Report SACSCOC 2018-19.pdf](#)

Performance - Achievement of this SLO will be evidenced by students' professionalism performance in the required Legal Practice course, which is a two-semester course required for all 1Ls. A portion of students' semester grade is based on professional behavior/conduct that is consistent with the legal profession's values and standards. (Active)

Criterion: 85% or more students in Legal Practice will be assessed as demonstrating professional behavior.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2018-19.docx](#)

[Assessment Report SACSCOC 2018-19.pdf](#)

[SLO Benchmark Chart 2018-19.docx](#)

Student Learning Outcome: Legal Research

The School of Law developed an assessment cycle for its six program-wide Student Learning Outcomes. The assessment cycle has been approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Texas Tech University Office of Planning & Assessment and is included in the 2018-2019 Assessment Report. During 2020-2021, the School of Law is focusing on two of the six Student Learning Outcomes, one of which is "Legal Research" (See ABA Standard 302(b)). Following the School of Law's approved assessment cycle, this SLO was last active during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Students will demonstrate competent skills in legal research, including the following skills: (1) identify and describe the roles and differing characteristics of sources of law, including the weight of authority; (2) create and implement a logical research plan that employs the appropriate tools of legal research; and (3) use proper citation when required.

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Start Date: 08/17/2020

End Date: 10/01/2021

Assessment Methods

Embedded Assessments - Achievement of this Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by students' performance on a variety of embedded assessments in courses that involve research and citation. (Active)

Criterion: Faculty who assess this SLO will report that 80% or more of students will demonstrate competent skills in legal research.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2020-21.docx](#)

Self-Assessments - Achievement of this Student Learning Outcome will be demonstrated by the results of a student self-assessment survey, in which students report on their level of learning. (Active)

Criterion: 80% or more of students who respond to an online survey will indicate they are "competent" at legal research.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2020-21.docx](#)

Course Level Assessment - Achievement of this Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by successful completion of an upper-level writing requirement. (Active)

Criterion: 80% or more of students who take an upper-level writing requirement course will successfully complete the requirement, which inherently involves sources of law, legal research tools, and citation.

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Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2020-21.docx](#)

Student Learning Outcome: Legal Analysis, Reasoning & Problem-Solving

The School of Law developed an assessment cycle for its six program-wide Student Learning Outcomes. The assessment cycle has been approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Texas Tech University Office of Planning & Assessment and is included in the 2020-2021 Assessment Report. During 2020-2021, the School of Law is focusing on two of the six Student Learning Outcomes, one of which is "Legal Analysis, Reasoning & Problem-Solving" (See ABA Standard 302(b)).

Graduates will demonstrate competent skills in legal analysis, reasoning, and problem-solving, including the following skills: (1) accurately identify the material facts, procedural history, issues on appeal, rules of law, reasoning, holding, and policy in appellate court opinions; (2) identify and describe legal issues implicated by a factual scenario; (3) identify and describe relevant legal authority applicable to identified legal issues; (4) identify and describe key rules and reasoning contained within applicable authority; (5) effectively synthesize and reconcile multiple legal authorities when applicable; (6) effectively analogize and distinguish precedent, and (7) propose reasonable resolutions to legal problems.

Outcome Status: Active

Start Date: 08/17/2020

End Date: 10/01/2021

Assessment Methods

Class Discussions - Achievement of this Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by class discussions in which law students demonstrate competent legal analysis, reasoning, and problem-solving. (Active)

Criterion: 80% of a representative number of students will demonstrate competent skills in legal analysis, reasoning, and problem-solving during class discussions.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2020-21.docx](#)

Comprehensive Exam - Achievement of this Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by the graduates' performance of a bar exam. (Active)

Criterion: 80% of graduates who take a bar exam will pass on the first attempt.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2020-21.docx](#)

Comprehensive Exam - Achievement of this Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by graduates' performance on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE). (Active)

Criterion: 85% of December 2020 and May 2021 law graduates who report their MPRE score to the Texas Board of Law Examiners will pass the comprehensive exam within six months of graduation.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2020-21.docx](#)

Embedded Assessments - Achievement of this Student Learning Outcome will be evidenced by students' performance on embedded assignments that allow them to demonstrate competent legal analysis, reasoning, and problem-solving skills. (Active)

Criterion: Faculty will report that 80% of students demonstrate competent legal analysis, reasoning, and problem-solving skills in embedded course assignments.

Related Documents:

[Assessment Plan 2020-21.docx](#)

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