Western Technical College

10110104 Legal Research

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description	A course that demonstrates the use of search materials, including computerized searches, to locate relevant case law, statutory law, and administrative law as well as secondary sources and to use proper citation format and updating materials.
Career Cluster	Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
Instructional Level	Associate Degree Courses
Total Credits	3
Total Hours	54

Textbooks

Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing. 4th Edition. Copyright 2018. Putman, William H. and Jennifer Albright. Publisher: Cengage Learning. **ISBN-13:** 978-1-305-94837-2. Required.

Success Abilities

1.   Live Responsibly: Embrace Sustainability

2.   Live Responsibly: Foster Accountability

Program Outcomes

1.   Perform legal research

Course Competencies

1.   **Differentiate between primary and secondary authority.**

   Assessment Strategies

1.1.   Written Product
1.2.   Written Objective Test

Criteria

You will know you are successful when

1.1.   you produce a written product differentiating primary and secondary authorities.
1.2.   you complete an exam categorizing primary and secondary authorities.

Learning Objectives

1.a.   Identify resources of primary authority.
1.b.   Identify resources of secondary authority.
1.c.   Describe necessity of differentiating between primary and secondary authorities

2.   Differentiate between mandatory and persuasive authorities and describe the necessity for doing so.

Assessment Strategies
2.1.   Written Product
2.2.   Written Objective Test

Criteria

You will know you are successful when

2.1.   you produce a written product using mandatory and persuasive authority for the appropriate jurisdiction.
2.2.   you complete an examination categorizing mandatory and persuasive authorities.

Learning Objectives

2.a.   Identify jurisdictionally when and where legal research resources are mandatory.
2.b.   Identify jurisdictionally when and where legal research resources are persuasive.
2.c.   Describe the necessity of differentiating between mandatory and persuasive authorities.

3.   Analyze West's American Digesting System, federal and state statutory indices for locating accurate legal authority for research projects.

Assessment Strategies
3.1.   in library exercises and assignments.
3.2.   in written assignments and exams.

Criteria

You will know you are successful when

3.1.   you use federal and state case law and statutory laws along with secondary sources to locate accurate support for research projects.
3.2.   you use bound volumes and online legal research databases to locate legal sources.
3.3.   you analyze research results.

Learning Objectives

3.a.   Identify legal authority resources in West's American Digesting system and federal and state resources.
3.b.   Demonstrate the use of the computer to perform searches for relevant legal authority in case law and statutory law, federal and state.
3.c.   Demonstrate the proper use of statutory indices to perform searches for relevant statutory authority, federal and state.

4.   Cite primary and secondary resources correctly using the Uniform System of Citation, Bluebook, rules.

Assessment Strategies
4.1.   in written exercises.
4.2.   in a written exam.

Criteria

You will know you are successful when

4.1.   you cite federal and state cases according to citation rules.
4.2.   you cite federal and state statutes according to citation rules.

4.3.   you cite federal and state administrative rules and regulations according to citation rules.

4.4.   you cite secondary sources according to citation rules.

Learning Objectives

4.a.   Use Uniform System of Citation, Bluebook, to locate correct rules of citation for case law, federal and state; statutory materials, federal and state; administrative rules, federal and state; parallel citation; official and unofficial materials; and secondary sources.

5.   Analyze Shepard's online research to verify case and statutory research standing.

Assessment Strategies

5.1.   Written research project

Criteria

You will know you are successful when

5.1.   you update case law using Shepard's citators.

5.2.   you update statutory law using Shepard's citators.

5.3.   you update administrative rules and regulations using Shepard's citators.

Learning Objectives

5.a.   Understand Shepardizing Citators.

5.b.   Demonstrate correct use of Shepards Citators.

5.c.   Use case law and statutory updating services.