UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Sturm College of Law
Lawyering Process Program

Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes in the Lawyering Process Program

April 2011

Program Mission Statement

The Lawyering Process Program provides first year law students with an introduction to the essential lawyering skills (among them - research, writing, analytical thinking, and oral advocacy) that are necessary to be an effective, ethical, and professional member of the legal community in a rigorous, supportive learning environment that uses a client-centered approach to advocacy.

Program Goals

Develop our students' ability to analyze legal problems in a client-centered legal environment.

Develop our students' abilities to communicate in the ways that lawyers communicate, including several forms of legal writing and oral expression.

Teach our students to use a variety of methods and materials for conducting effective and efficient legal research.

Provide a collaborative learning experience each semester to enhance students' ability to work on legal problems with colleagues.

Provide students with extensive and varied individual feedback both written and oral on their work product.

Model for and instruct our students in the implications of what they are learning and its relationship to the ethical standards of the legal profession.

Provide students with mentoring support (as they need) by creating a learning environment that is supportive of their professional growth, and that helps them to retain their personal values.

Share with our students our expected Learning Outcomes.

Implement a variety of teaching methods to engage students deeply in their learning.

Incorporate educational technology in the teaching of LP.

Make students aware of the importance of and changing nature of technology in the legal profession and in their life-long learning in the law.

Maintain a supportive professional environment for LP Faculty where each faculty member is committed to each other's success as a team.

Reach out to the wider SCOL faculty to involve them in our learning outcomes (where appropriate) and help them to understand our program objectives.

Reach out to members of the legal profession in Denver and beyond to stay current on developments in the legal profession.

Student Learning Outcomes

Legal Analysis

Students can identify the essential components of a case.
Students can outline a legal rule.
Students can identify hierarchy of legal authority.
Students can build analogies (or make distinctions) between cases and client facts.
Students can synthesize multiple legal authorities into a coherent rule.
Students can classify and weigh client facts by legal relevance as applied to the rules.
Students can predict a client outcome through application of legal rules.
Students can identify a legal issue in a client situation.

Legal Communication

Students can write a document that provides an objective legal analysis.
Students can write a document that provides a persuasive legal analysis.
Students can tailor their writing to audiences that include clients, courts, and other legal professionals.
Students can present a legal analysis in oral form to different legal audiences.

Legal Research

Students can identify the major forms of primary and secondary legal resources both in print and online.
Students can design and implement a research strategy that appropriately supports the requirements of a client problem.
Students can organize the outcome of their legal research in a form that supports their legal analysis.

Values of the legal profession

Students exhibit appropriate professional behaviors in the course.
Students exhibit appropriate professional behaviors in collaborative groups.
Students exhibit professionalism in their written communication