

Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary (AY 2015-2016)

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

At the completion of the **Trial Counselor Program**, the student will be able to:

1. Have a working knowledge of the major techniques of legal research and writing.
2. Describe how the FSM and state rules of criminal law & procedure are interpreted and applied.
3. Describe the law of torts and basic principles of admiralty law.
4. Understand the concept of dispute resolution techniques including, but not limited to, mediation, arbitration, and community resolution procedures.
5. Understand the law of contracts and general business law.
6. Describe the processes of comprehensive examination of problems of proof and the rules of evidence.
7. Understand the constitution of the FSM, its States and municipalities.
8. Describe the FSM and State rules of appellate & civil procedure.
9. Describe and explain the FSM and State real property laws.
10. Practice actual supervised pre-trial and trial skills in civil and criminal cases

PSLO Assessment Report Summary

What we looked at:

PSLO 10 Practice actual supervised pre-trial and trial skills in civil and criminal cases

Outcome 10 was assessed on two assessment tools:

The assessment was based various drafting summary judgments and oral arguments (Mock hearing) conducted throughout the semester. Each case and draft assignments were crafted in the following format: 1) Facts, 2) Issues, 3) Rules, 4) Analysis, and 5) Conclusions, otherwise known as the IRAC approach. Oral arguments at the end of the semester also constituted a large portion of the students overall grade.

Video recordings of the mock hearings were collected for evidence of authentic assessment as well.

What we found:

PSLO 8-A total of 6 for Fall2015 and 12 students for Summer 2016 were assessed on this outcome. All 18 students for both semesters met the outcome with a score of 70% or better.

Achievement of outcome is at100%for the trial practice course. Data continue to show that completion rate for the program remains very high. Tracking students as cohorts through the program may be a possible explanation for the high pass rate, because it is the same students across the semesters, with usually the same instructors who already have an understanding of the students. Although it must be noted that recruiting part-time instructors remains a major challenge. As of writing, the program awaits the final decision on whether it should be modified or remains as is.

What we are planning to work on:

- **Maintain same assessment strategies to assess program outcomes.**
- **Change class size to a minimum of 20 students each section.**
- **Work with part-time instructors on assessment of outcomes.**
- **Device a strategy to engage students in civic responsibility.**
- **Recommend that criteria for admission into the program be developed and implemented.**
- **Re-evaluate the focus of the program, from targeting in-service staff to a wider population, which should include traditional students, finishing from other programs (especially Micronesian Studies and Liberal arts).**

Recommendations for students:

- **Students must have good reading and writing skills to articulate ideas, both in written and oral communication.**
- **Students seek advice from advisors in terms of course-planning**
- **Enroll students who have completed an Associate of Arts degree or who is already in-service in a law-related field.**