

Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary (AY 2014-2015)

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_2 : Describe how the FSM and state rules of criminal law & procedure are interpreted and applied

PSLO_7 : Understand the constitution of the FSM, its States and municipalities.

PSLO_8 : Describe the FSM and State rules of appellate & civil procedure.

Outcomes 2,7, & 8 were assessed on two assessment tools:

1. Essay questions that present hypothetical fact situations scored with rubric.
2. Writing assignment scored with rubric.

What we found:

PSLO 2- A total of 8 students were assessed. All 8 students met this outcome with a passing of 70% or higher.

PSLO 7- A total of 10 students were assessed on this outcome. All 10 met this outcome with a 70% passing score or higher.

PSLO 8-A total of 8 students were assessed on this outcome. Six passed with a grade of 70% or higher 2 did not pass with a grade of 69% or lower grade

Achievement of outcomes is very high (between 90-100%) for Law courses, as can be seen with the other outcomes that were assessed in Fall 2014. It can be said that high rate of passing may be due to the small class size of the law classes. It is observed that the few students who did not meet the outcomes were those who did not complete the course as a result of excessive absences. It is also an observation that those who did not complete courses were the same students who did not persevere in the program.

What we are planning to work on:

- **Maintain same assessment strategies to assess program outcomes.**
- **Change class size to a minimum of 15 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.**

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.**