

Report: Assessment Cycle Details for: Legal and Ethical Studies

Report Generated by Taskstream

Workspace: Academic Program Assessment Workspace

Assessment Plan: 2014-2015 Assessment Cycle: Assessment Plan and Assessment Findings

Assessment Plan Template: Academic Program Assessment Plan

Report Generated: Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Measures and Findings

Legal and Ethical Studies Outcome Set

Outcome

SLO 3

Assess the likely social impacts and implications of legal rules.

Mapped to:

- **RI - University of Baltimore Learning Goals:** Measurable Outcome 2A, Measurable Outcome 2B, Measurable Outcome 2C, Measurable Outcome 2D

Measure

Final Exam

COURSE LEVEL; DIRECT - EXAM

Details/Description:

The LEST 607 Property Law final examination will involve questions asking students to apply the law to different fact scenarios and propose a reasoned and sound resolution and essay questions asking students to construct reasoned arguments describing the theory, doctrine and policy behind a particular legal rule or principle. We will develop a rubric to determine to what extent students are achieving this outcome in the assignment, on a scale from not successfully constructing such an argument at all to proficient in constructing such an argument.

Acceptable Target:

We will consider the achievement of the learning outcome successful if at least 25 percent score at the highest level of proficiency and no more than 10 percent score at the lowest level.

Ideal Target:

Implementation Plan (timeline):

Key/Responsible Personnel:

Supporting Attachments:

Findings

for Final Exam

Summary of Findings:

We focused on Part Two of the Property Law exam for evaluation. It asked students to consider some of the doctrine around property law in terms of whether it reflects relativist or absolutist views of property, and to support whichever of these views the student found preferable. Our three evaluators each looked at the answers for one-third of the 22 total exams. The breakdown in scores for the exams on this learning outcome was as follows:

4.5-5: 1
4: 7
3-3.5: 5
2-2.5: 2
1: 6
0: 1

We did not see 25 percent of students achieving the very highest level of proficiency. Nonetheless, 8 of the 22 students – nearly a third of the students – still got high scores. The real disappointment here was the relatively large number of students scoring at the lowest levels, with 7 of the 22 students doing so.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Not Met

Ideal Target Achievement :

Recommendations :

One of the suggested actions was to discuss with the instructor how the exam question might be designed to better bring out the social impacts and implications of the legal rules. Although this question was the best available artifact for assessing the learning outcome, there was still a misalignment, because it didn't directly elicit an evaluation of social impacts.

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

SLO 4

Apply the law and legal concepts to fact patterns to develop defensible solutions to problems and resolutions of disputes.

Mapped to:

- **RI - University of Baltimore Learning Goals:** Measurable Outcome 5A, Measurable Outcome 7a, Measurable Outcome 7b, Measurable Outcome 7c

Measure

LEST 501 Legal and Ethical Foundations final memorandum

COURSE LEVEL; DIRECT - OTHER

Details/Description:

LEST 501 Legal and Ethical Foundations final memorandum, which is predicated on a case that occurred in New Orleans during Mardi Gras time involving a celebrity and was actually tried in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, but the facts of which have been somewhat altered. We will develop a rubric to determine to what extent students are achieving this outcome in the assignment, on a scale from not successfully constructing such an argument at all to proficient in constructing such an argument.

Acceptable Target:

We will consider the achievement of the learning outcome successful if at least 25 percent score at the highest level of proficiency and no more than 10 percent score at the lowest level.

Ideal Target:

Implementation Plan (timeline):

Key/Responsible Personnel:

Supporting Attachments:

Findings

for LEST 501 Legal and Ethical Foundations final memorandum

Summary of Findings:

Our three evaluators each look at the memoranda for one-third of the total 16 assignments. The breakdown in scores for the assignment on this learning outcome was as follows:

5: 5

4: 4

3-3.5: 4

2-2.5: 2

1: 1

0: 0

For this assignment, more than a third of the students did work of the highest level, exceeding our expectations. In fact, more than half the class scored at the two highest levels. Only one student did poorly, which is also better than expected.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Exceeded

Ideal Target Achievement :

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

This assignment worked very well for students and allowed them to demonstrate the learning goal successfully. It was an interesting contrast to the exam, which was work done under pressure. It is possible that our students perform better on writing assignments than on exams. It might be worth considering how we might help students improve their test-taking skills.

Substantiating Evidence: