LEGL 2603: Legal Research for Paralegals

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 3
Lab Hours/Week: *.*
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

This course covers the development of knowledge and practical application of legal research procedures. The focus of this course is how to find sources of law, how to cite the law, and how to apply research and citation procedures. It introduces the learner to the law library, the concept of issue development, and the basics of citation and legal writing. The course also emphasizes the use of computerized legal research using Westlaw and the Internet.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 07/01/2004 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to legal principles and authorities and the research process.
2. The role of key terms and key facts in legal research.
3. Identifying the issue.
4. Researching various types of law (Constitutions, Statutes, Case Law, etc.).
5. Developing case briefs.
6. Practicing case law analysis.
7. Practicing proper legal citation.
8. Learning and practicing commercial internet research.
9. Learning and practicing computer (non fee-based) internet research.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. The learner will competently research a legal issue(s) using statutory and rule resources.
2. The learner will competently research a legal issue(s) using case law resources.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted