LEGL 2615: Legal Research for Paralegals

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

   Credits: 4
   Lecture Hours/Week: 4
   Lab Hours/Week: *.*
   OJT Hours/Week: *.*
   Prerequisites: None
   Corequisites: None
   MnTC Goals: None

   This course covers an understanding and practical application of legal research procedures. The focus of this course is to develop an understanding of 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 emphasizes the use of computerized legal research using Westlaw and the internet.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/22/2016 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to legal principles, authorities, case citation, and the research process.
2. Developing key terms and key facts in legal research.
3. Identifying the legal 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 identify issues and competently research a legal problem(s) using statutory and rule resources.
2. The learner will identify issues and competently research a legal problem(s) using case law resources.
3. The learner will gain an understanding of the process of legal writing and legal citation.

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

   None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

   None noted