

PLS 85.5 Course Outline as of Fall 2022**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: PLS 85.5 Title: DISCOVERY PROCEDURES

Full Title: Discovery Practices and Procedures

Last Reviewed: 5/23/2016

| Units | | Course Hours per Week | | Nbr of Weeks | Course Hours Total | |
|---------|------|-----------------------|------|--------------|--------------------|-------|
| Maximum | 1.50 | Lecture Scheduled | 1.50 | 17.5 | Lecture Scheduled | 26.25 |
| Minimum | 1.50 | Lab Scheduled | 0 | 5 | Lab Scheduled | 0 |
| | | Contact DHR | 0 | | Contact DHR | 0 |
| | | Contact Total | 1.50 | | Contact Total | 26.25 |
| | | Non-contact DHR | 0 | | Non-contact DHR | 0 |

Total Out of Class Hours: 52.50

Total Student Learning Hours: 78.75

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly: BOT 85.5

Catalog Description:

This course is intended for individuals interested in becoming legal secretaries or paralegals as well as individuals interested in learning about discovery, the most important component of a lawsuit. Focuses on law office secretarial procedures in discovery methods using interrogatories, production of documents, subpoenas, depositions; preparation, processing, and production of discovery documents and responses; and time frames and calendaring requirements.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:**Recommended Preparation:**

Course Completion of CS 60.11A or equivalent; Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

Limits on Enrollment:**Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: This course is intended for individuals interested in becoming legal secretaries or paralegals as well as individuals interested in learning about discovery, the most important component of a lawsuit. Focuses on law office secretarial procedures in discovery methods using interrogatories, production of documents, subpoenas, depositions; preparation, processing, and

production of discovery documents and responses; and time frames and calendaring requirements. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Course Completion of CS 60.11A or equivalent; Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit:

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| AS Degree: | Area | Effective: | Inactive: |
| CSU GE: | Transfer Area | Effective: | Inactive: |

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| IGETC: | Transfer Area | Effective: | Inactive: |
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| CSU Transfer: | Effective: | Inactive: |
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| UC Transfer: | Effective: | Inactive: |
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CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Both Certificate and Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the procedures and preparation of discovery documents.
2. Prepare discovery documents according to appropriate statutory laws and timelines.

Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Examine and analyze the purpose of discovery.
2. Interpret the Discovery Act in the Code of Civil Procedure.
3. Compare the various discovery documents and their purposes.
4. Examine the legal requirements of each discovery document according to law.
5. Select the time frames for service of the discovery documents and response to the documents.
6. Calculate statutory time periods according to the requirements for legal calendaring.
7. Create discovery documents according to standard legal format procedures.
8. Generate responses to discovery documents.
9. Properly organize discovery documents in preparation for a trial.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Discovery Act in Code of Civil Procedure
- II. Discovery Purpose
- III. Discovery Methods (under the Discovery Act)
 - A. Interrogatories

- B. Depositions
- C. Demand for inspection and production of documents
- D. Request for admissions
- E. Demand for physical or mental examinations
- F. Compliance with statutory laws and timelines
- IV. Calendaring Considerations
 - A. Time frames
 - B. Calendaring requirements
- V. Responses to Discovery Demands
- VI. Discovery Documents
 - A. Interrogatories
 - B. Production of documents
 - C. Subpoenas
 - D. Depositions
- VII. Response Document
 - A. Answers to interrogatories
 - B. Response to request for production of documents
- VIII. Service of Process
 - A. Discuss proof of services
 - B. Other practices

Assignment:

1. Follow discovery procedures for simulated cases
2. Draft written components of legal documents
3. Prepare discovery documents
4. One to two quizzes
5. Reading: approximately 10 pages per week
6. Organize and produce client files - homework
7. Calendar and tickle dates throughout simulations

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

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| Drafts of legal and discovery documents |
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| Writing 10 - 20% |
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Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

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| Calendar and tickle dates throughout simulated cases, discovery document procedures for simulation cases |
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| Problem solving 40 - 50% |
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Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

homework organization and production of client files, draft legal documents

Skill Demonstrations
20 - 30%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

One to two quizzes

Exams
20 - 30%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

In-class participation

Other Category
0 - 10%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Litigation by the Numbers, Lawdable Press, Julie Goren, 2016