Stony Brook University

Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 Program Assessment Report

School or College	School of Law
Department	Department of Law, Ethics & Public Policy
Degree Program	Juris Doctor
Program Goals	- The program provides students with the tools for active and effective participation as professionals in legal counseling, advocacy and decision-making. - The program prepares students for the study of law as an integral component of larger social, political, economic and ecological systems. - The program employs the Socratic Method, problem-based learning, and simulated or experiential learning to help students develop their legal skills and abilities.
2022-2023 Accomplishments	95% retention rate for the most recently admitted cohort. 75% of graduates passed the Bar Exam (higher than New York State pass rate of 66%). - Increased admissions process selectivity by 5% compared to last year.
2022-2023 Improvements	- Inclusion of hybrid learning options in select courses. - Successfully hired 2 new tenure-track FTEs with experience in distance learning. 5 Additional Teaching Assistantships offered. - Expanded faculty office hours and leveraged scheduling support application to reduce administrative burden and increase student attendance at office hours.
2022-2023 Evidence that Prompted Improvement	- Feedback from student surveys indicating a desire for increased flexible and/or distance learning formats as we emerge from the pandemic. - Feedback from student focus groups indicating a need for more one-on-one support in the classroom. - Data from student course evaluations suggesting better outcomes in classes supported by TAs.

Program Learning Objective 1: Upon completion of the degree, students should be able to explain the principles and fundamental areas of American law, including civil procedures, torts, contracts, property, criminal law, constitutional law, evidence, business organizations, trusts and estates.	
Location in Curriculum Map (Course Name)	LAW 700
Assessment Method	Final Exam (multiple choice and short-answer questions)
Timeline/Frequency	Spring 2021 (Assessed in Year 1 of 3-year cycle)
Benchmark	80% of students will score 85% or better on the final comprehensive exam.

Results/Findings	Results show that 70% of students scored 85% or better on the final comprehensive exam. Specific areas of weakness included questions related to torts, trusts, and estates.
Actions/Improvements	LAW 700 instructor to convene with LAW 606 (course on Torts) and LAW 650 instructors (course on Trusts & Estates) to ensure prior curricular coverage of these topics is adequate and aligned with LAW 700 exam expectations. Recommendation for all instructors to enhance coverage of these topics and introduce additional homework assignments/readings to reinforce this content to learners.

Program Learning Objective 2: Upon completion of the degree, students should be able to synthesize legal texts and apply the legal principles extracted from the texts to new factual circumstances.	
Location in Curriculum Map (Course Name)	LAW 670
Assessment Method	Literature Review with Policy Recommendation
Timeline/Frequency	Spring 2022 (Assessed in Year 2 of 3-year cycle)
Benchmark	Average overall score of 20 on a 25-point rubric measuring analysis of at least 3 legal texts and synthesis of selected texts to form a sound policy recommendation.
Results/Findings	Results show an average overall score of 18 on a 25-point rubric. Students commonly lost points on citation requirements.
Actions/Improvements	Require student participation in citation training as a component of orientation. Regroup with instructors to determine whether citation requirements merits points within the rubric, as students otherwise scored well on content-related requirements.

Program Learning Objective 3: Upon completion of the degree, students should be able to exercise proper professional and ethical behavior toward their clients and the legal system and progress in the development of their professional identity.	
Location in Curriculum Map (Course Name)	Law 750
Assessment Method	Mock Trial Capstone
Timeline/Frequency	Spring 2023 (Assessed in Year 3 of 3-year cycle)
Benchmark	Average overall rating of 4 or better on the 5-point Mock Trial evaluation rubric. Rubric includes evaluative categories for faculty reviewers to assess professionalism, ethical behavior, and interpersonal skills with mock clients.
Results/Findings	TBD - Results to be collected in Spring 2023.
Actions/Improvements	TBD - Improvement plan, pending data analysis, to be implemented by Fall 2023.