



# CAL NORTHERN SCHOOL OF LAW

## ANALYSIS OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS

### **PLO #1 – Doctrinal Knowledge – Substantive Law**

Doctrinal Knowledge – Substantive Law has been assessed five times. The assessments were in the First Year courses of Contracts and Criminal Law and in the Fourth Year courses of Advanced Legal Reasoning and Criminal Procedure. The assessments show that students are appropriately developing their understanding of substantive law.

### **PLO #2 –Critical Thinking – Case and Statute Analysis**

Critical Thinking – Case and Statute Analysis has been assessed three times. The first assessment was in the Third Year course of Business Associations in the Fall of 2014. The second assessment was in the First Year course of Legal Research in the Summer of 2015. The third assessment was in the First Year course of Introduction to Law School in the Fall of 2015. The data show that, as expected, first-year law students are developing their abilities to analyze cases and statutes. The third-year students are highly proficient at analyzing cases and statutes.

### **PLO #2 – Critical Thinking – Problem Solving & Problem Analysis**

Critical Thinking – Problem Solving and Problem Analysis have been assessed seven times. The first assessment was problem-solving in the Third Year Self-Help Clinic in the Spring of 2016. The second assessment was in the Summer of 2016 in the First Year course of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) which assessed student achievement in both problem-solving and problem analysis. The data show that students in the ADR course were in the developmental stage of being able to effectively analyze and solve problems with students averaging 1.9 on a 4 point scale. However, by the end of the course, students were averaging 3.2 on the 4 point scale showing improvement and success in this PLO. By the Third year, all students were competent to highly proficient at problem-solving with no student in the third year still developing this skill. Second Year students were assessed in the Civil Procedure course which revealed that students were more proficient than the First Year students. Fourth Year students were assessed in Advanced Legal Reasoning and Criminal Procedure which revealed that students at the end of their legal studies are proficient to highly proficient.

### **PLO #3 – Communication Skills – Written Communication**

Communication Skills – Written Communication has been assessed six times. The first assessment was in the Third Year Business Associations course. The second assessment was in the Fourth Year Trial Advocacy course. The third assessment was in the First Year Legal Writing course. The fourth assessment was in the Third Year Self-Help Clinic. The last two assessments were administered in the Fourth Year classes of Advanced Legal Reasoning (ALR) and Advanced Legal Writing (ALW) The data show that first-year law students are developing their written communication skills. By the third year, students are competent to highly proficient at written communication. The fourth-year students are all proficient to highly proficient in their written communication skills.

### **PLO #3 – Communication Skills – Oral Communication**

Communication Skills – Oral Communication has been assessed three times. The first assessment was in the Fourth Year course in Trial Advocacy, the second assessment was in the Third Year Self-Help Clinic, and the third assessment was in the First Year course in Alternative Dispute Resolution. The data show that students in the first year were in the developmental state of their oral communication skills averaging 1.9 on a 4 point scale. However, by the end of the course, students averaged 3.7 on the 4 point scale showing improvement and success in this PLO at that level. By the third year, the majority of students (81%) were competent to proficient in oral communication skills, with the remaining students (19%) being highly proficient. The results in the fourth-year course showed that 80% of the students were highly proficient communicators.

### **PLO #4 Professionalism – Ethical Obligations**

Professionalism – Ethical Obligations have been assessed once in the Fourth Year course of Advanced Legal Writing. The data show that 100% of the students in the Fourth Year are developing to mastering their ability to demonstrate professionalism.