



Wayne County Community College District

COURSE SYLLABUS

PLT 170 Probate Law & Practice

CREDIT HOURS: 3.00

CONTACT HOURS: 45.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to probate law and procedure with an emphasis on adult and minor guardianships, conservatorships, decedent's estates and involuntary commitments. Students will also acquire knowledge in probate jurisdictional issues.

PREREQUISITES: *Program Admission*

EXPECTED COMPETENCIES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand basic underlying concepts of Probate Law, in the context of how it will be encountered by a Paralegal or Legal Assistant in practice.
2. Understand the purpose of a will and why it is needed by some, and perhaps not by others.
3. Understand the various classifications of property in the context of wills, trusts, and estate administration.
4. Understand the Probate Court and how it operates in Michigan.
5. Understand intestate vs. testate succession.
6. Learn what issues arise in the validity, modification, revocation, and contests of a will.
7. Learn how to begin interviewing a client in preparation for a will.
8. Learn how to prepare a final draft of a valid will.
9. Understand how trusts operate and issues that may arise in trust administration.
10. Understand the ethical principles relevant to practicing Legal Assistants or Paralegals

ASSESSMENT METHODS:

Student performance may be assessed by examination, quizzes, case studies, oral conversation, group discussion, oral presentations. The instructor reserves the option to employ one or more of these assessment methods during the course.

GRADING SCALE:

90%-100% = A
80%-89.9% = B
70%-79.9% = C
60%-69.9% = D
<60% = E