

# Academic Program Assessment Report

**Assessment** is a term commonly used to encompass the process of gathering and using evidence to guide improvements.

SACSCOC requires that an institution "identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results".

**Be sure to SAVE your progress as you work!**

**Academic Program**  
Paralegal Studies, B.S.

**Submission Year**  
2022-2023

**Assessment Coordinator Name**  
Gary Johnson

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gjohnson@lander.edu

## Program Goal

### Goal

#### Goal 1

**Program Goals** are broad and overarching statements about the skills, knowledge, and dispositions students are expected to gain by the end of their course of study (big picture). They support the Institution's Mission/Goals.

#### Program Goal

Knowledgeable students who understand different practice areas of the law.

#### Pillar of Success Supported

Graduates Who Are Gainfully Employed or Admitted to Graduate School

## Outcomes

### Outcome 1

**Outcomes** are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

**Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.**

#### What type of Outcome would you like to add?

Student Learning Outcome

**Enter Outcome**

demonstrate knowledge and understanding

**Timeframe for this Outcome**

Academic Year 2023-24

**Performance Target for "Met"**

At least 80% of students will rate "very much" or "quite a bit" on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) administered during LEG 499.

**Performance Target for "Partially Met"**

At least 70% of students will "very much" or "quite a bit" or higher on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) administered during LEG 499.

**Performance Target for "Not Met"**

Less than 70% of students rating "very much" or "quite a bit" on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) administered during LEG 499.

**Assessment Measure Used**

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

**Frequency of Assessment**

Every three years in LEG 499 at a minimum.

**Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)**

None to date. Due to COVID delays in program start, this Course and assessment has not been made at this time. It is anticipated that NSSE will be administered during Spring 2023 for the first time or a replacement measure will be identified, approved, and implemented in the same period.

**Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)****Comments/Narrative**

Due to COVID and related delays in program start, the capstone course designed to measure assessment has not yet been offered to students. It will be offered for the first time in Spring of 2023, with program assessment goals, outcomes, and measures being reviewed and measured every Spring moving forward.

**Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results****Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used**

## Goal Summary

**Goal Summary/Comments**

Due to COVID and related delays in program start, the capstone course designed to measure assessment has not yet been offered to students. It will be offered for the first time in Spring of 2023, with program assessment goals, outcomes, and measures being reviewed and measured every Spring moving forward.

**Changes Made/Proposed Related to Goal**

All program goals, outcomes, and assessments are being evaluated as the student population grows.

**Upload Rubrics/Other Files**

## Goal 2

**Program Goals** are broad and overarching statements about the skills, knowledge, and dispositions students are expected to gain by the end of their course of study (big picture). They support the Institution's Mission/Goals.

### Program Goal

Students with research and critical thinking skills to succeed in a workplace setting.

### Pillar of Success Supported

Graduates Who Are Gainfully Employed or Admitted to Graduate School

## Outcomes

### Outcome 1

**Outcomes** are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

**Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.**

### What type of Outcome would you like to add?

Student Learning Outcome

### Enter Outcome

Demonstrate research skills and the ability to think critically

### Timeframe for this Outcome

Academic year 2023-24

### Performance Target for "Met"

80% of students will rate "very much" or "quite a bit" on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) administered during LEG 499.

### Performance Target for "Partially Met"

70% of students will "very much" or "quite a bit" or higher on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) administered during LEG 499.

### Performance Target for "Not Met"

Less than 70% of students rating "very much" or "quite a bit" on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) administered during LEG 499.

### Assessment Measure Used

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

### Frequency of Assessment

Every three years in LEG 499 at a minimum.

### Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)

None to date. Due to COVID delays in program

### Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)

start, this Course and assessment has not been made at this time. It is anticipated that NSSE will be administered during Spring 2023 for the first time or a replacement measure will be identified, approved, and implemented in the same period.

**Comments/Narrative**

Due to COVID and related delays in program start, the capstone course designed to measure assessment has not yet been offered to students. It will be offered for the first time in Spring of 2023, with program assessment goals, outcomes, and measures being reviewed and measured every Spring moving forward.

**Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results****Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used**

## Goal Summary

**Goal Summary/Comments**

Due to COVID and related delays in program start, the capstone course designed to measure assessment has not yet been offered to students. It will be offered for the first time in Spring of 2023, with program assessment goals, outcomes, and measures being reviewed and measured every Spring moving forward.

**Changes Made/Proposed Related to Goal**

All program goals, outcomes, and assessments are being evaluated as the student population grows.

**Upload Rubrics/Other Files**

## Goal 3

**Program Goals** are broad and overarching statements about the skills, knowledge, and dispositions students are expected to gain by the end of their course of study (big picture). They support the Institution's Mission/Goals.

**Program Goal**

Students with communication skills to succeed in a workplace setting

**Pillar of Success Supported**

Graduates Who Are Gainfully Employed or Admitted to Graduate School

## Outcomes

### Outcome 1

**Outcomes** are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of

performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

**Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.**

**What type of Outcome would you like to add?**

Student Learning Outcome

**Enter Outcome**

Demonstrate effective writing and research skills

**Timeframe for this Outcome**

Academic Year 2021-22

**Performance Target for "Met"**

At least 80% of LEG students will score 28 points or higher on those portions of the final paper in LEG 311, LEG 312, and LEG 308, that deal with writing, organization, and research.

**Performance Target for "Partially Met"**

At least 70% of LEG students will score 28 points or higher on those portions of the final paper in LEG 311, LEG 312, and LEG 308, that deal with writing, organization, and research.

**Performance Target for "Not Met"**

Less than 70% of LEG students scored 28 points or higher on those portions of the final paper in LEG 311, LEG 312, and LEG 308, that deal with writing, organization, and research.

**Assessment Measure Used**

Final written paper in LEG 311, LEG 312, and LEG 308.

**Frequency of Assessment**

Every semester

**Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)**

Of the 10 students who completed this measure, 90% achieved a score of 28 or higher.

**Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)**

3

**Comments/Narrative**

As this is the only outcome that could be measured within the reporting period, it is encouraging to see the LEG students meeting the expectation as this rate.

**Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results**

**Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used**

## Goal Summary

**Goal Summary/Comments**

While the sample size is small, the success rate validates the emphasis on research and writing across several courses. The program should examine the emphasis on the argumentative style of paper across each class to develop skills that are measured on the writing component of the LSAT for those students seeking admission to law school following program completion.

**Changes Made/Proposed Related to Goal**

No specific change is proposed, but each course should explore the use of an argumentative style approach to the research paper topic.

#### **Upload Rubrics/Other Files**

**Thank you for completing your assessment report. Your report will be sent to your College Dean for their review and approval after you hit "Submit" below. Please enter their email address below.**

#### **Dean's Email Address**

smcmillan@lander.edu

**Thank you for reviewing and approving this report. The approval and a copy of the report will be emailed to you and the Assessment Coordinator.**