



Advanced Legal Skills and Professions

PEIMS Code: N1303016

Abbreviation: ADVLSP

Grade Level(s): 11–12

Award of Credit: 1.0

Approved Innovative Course

- x Districts must have local board approval to implement innovative courses.
- x In accordance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.27, school districts mus

Course Description:

\$ G Y D H G F / H J D O 6 N L O O V D Q G 3 U R I H V V L R Q V provides students with a foundation to understand the basic mechanics of the U.S. legal system. Building on prior instruction in constitutional issues and the basics of American court systems, this course provides insight into the practical application of the law, as well as civil and criminal procedure, giving students a hands-on



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- (3) Advanced Legal Skills and Professions provides students with a foundation to understand the basic mechanics of the U.S. legal system. Building on prior instruction in constitutional issues, this course provides insight into the practical application of the law, as well as civil and criminal procedure, giving students a hands-on opportunity to experience a variety of legal professions. Students will gain an understanding of the attorney-client relationship and the importance of

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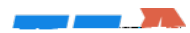


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- (4) The student participates in simulation of a case development process. The student is expected to:
 - (A) evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a client's case;
 - (B) brainstorm and develop the theory and theme of the case;
 - (C) compare discovery obligations in criminal and civil matters;
 - (D) develop a discovery plan;
 - (E) draft, respond, and object to requests for production and admissions; and
 - (F) draft, respond, and object to interrogatories.
- (5) The student participates in a mock mediation. The student is expected to:
 - (A) develop a negotiation strategy that aligns with a client's needs (short-term and long-term); and
 - (B) negotiate a favorable resolution for the client.
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- (A) compose and deliver opening statements;
 - (B) prepare witnesses for examination at trial;
 - (C) prepare and effectively use demonstrative evidence;
 - (D) compose and conduct effective direct examination of witnesses, including expert witnesses;
 - (E) identify, make, and defend against proper objections to testimony and other forms of evidence;
 - (F) introduce evidence through witnesses;
 - (G) conduct proper impeachment of witnesses;
 - (H) compose and deliver an effective cross examination of a witness; and
 - (I) compose and deliver closing arguments.
- (11) The student participates in a post-trial motion simulation. The student is expected to compose and argue motions, such as motion to set aside the verdict, motion for a new trial, motion for judgment of acquittal, or motion notwithstanding the verdict.
- (12) The student identifies the roles and functions of professions in the legal system and legal industry. The student is expected to:
- (A) identify the career opportunities in the legal system, such as attorney or paralegal, and the legal industry, such as court reporter, electronic discovery firm;
 - (B) explain the duties and responsibilities of professionals in the legal system and legal industry; and
 - (C) explain the relationship among the various professions in the legal system and legal industry.

Recommended Resources and Materials:

McGraw Hill. (2020). *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law* (10th ed.).

Jacobs, T. A. (2003). *They Broke the Law - You be the Judge: True Cases of Teen Crime*. (A. Desetta, Ed.). Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Pub.

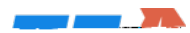
American Bar Association. Retrieved December 15, 2019, from <https://www.americanbar.org/>

(n.d.). Materials | Texas High School Mock Trial Competition. Retrieved December 15, 2019, from <http://www.texashighschoolmocktrial.com/materials/>

(n.d.). The Articulate Advocate - Texas High School Mock Trial. Retrieved December 15, 2019, from <http://www.texashighschoolmocktrial.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/The-Articulate-Advocate.pdf>

(n.d.). Travis County Legal Aid and Pro Bono Services - Justia Texas Retrieved December 15, 2019, from <https://www.justia.com/lawyers/texas/travis-county/legal-aid-and-pro-bono-services>

(n.d.). Legal Resources - Austin Bar Association. Retrieved December 15, 2019, from



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- x Scrimmages with other students participating in mock trial competitions at the high school or collegiate level.
- x Attending local court hearings and other legal proceedings.
- x Internships with a local attorney, law firm, legal aid organization, government agency, elected official, or court.
- x Guest speakers such as court reporters and videographers, paralegals, or court translators.

Suggested methods for evaluating student outcomes:

The methodology for student evaluations will include written/oral assignments, exams, quizzes, and evaluation of skills-based performance on course-related simulations.

Teacher qualifications:

A valid license appropriate for the assignment plus one of the following certificates.

- x Trade and Industrial Education: Grades 6-12. This assignment requires appropriate work approval.
- x Trade and Industrial Education: Grades 8-12. This assignment requires appropriate work approval.
- x Vocational Trades and Industry. This assignment requires appropriate work approval.

Additional information: