

Common Course Outline
LGST 203
Estates & Trusts
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

LGST 203 – Estates & Trusts examines the laws of estates and trusts in Maryland. This course covers property ownership, estate planning, will drafting and execution, and trusts. Students examine the administration of estates through the probate process.

3 Credits

Prerequisite: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. apply the sources of law relating to wills and estates;
2. examine the need for estate planning;
3. differentiate among the roles of the attorney, paralegal and personal representative in estate administration;
4. explain the orphans/probate court's jurisdiction;
5. classify the various kinds of property;
6. distinguish the various forms of ownership of real and personal property;
7. define legal terms relating to wills, intestacy, probate, and estate administration;
8. apply Maryland intestate succession laws to determine who is entitled to share in the estate;
9. differentiate between the advantages of a will and a trust;
10. describe the requirements for a valid Maryland will;
11. contrast the methods of modification and revocation of a will;
12. compare checklists for family data, family advisors, assets, liabilities, life insurance, and location of documents;
13. explain the basic functions of the personal representative;
14. differentiate among the various types of probate proceedings in Maryland;
15. examine federal and state tax implications in estate planning and during estate administration; and
16. apply the probate procedures and prepare the necessary legal forms for opening of an estate in Maryland.

Major Topics

- I. Wills
- II. Trusts
- III. Estate Planning
- IV. Estate Administration
- V. Tax Implications in Estate Planning and Estate Administration
- VI. Laws of Succession
- VII. Probate
- VIII. Property Concepts Relating to Wills, Estates and Trusts
- IX. Personal Representatives
- X. The Role of the Paralegal in Estate Planning and Estate Administration
- XI. Ethical Issues Involving Estate Planning and Estate Administration

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading/exams

- A minimum of one oral presentation or collaborative learning project conducted in groups, such as a group debate or discussion
- A minimum of one exam
- A minimum of two written assignments to allow for both objective and analytical review of primary legal sources
- Weekly assessments, such as quizzes, homework, and/or participation, to evaluate student progress

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is a Legal Studies elective for certificate and degree students.