

LGST 103
Legal Research & Writing I
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

LGST 103 – Legal Research & Writing I: enables students to identify legal issues and generate a research strategy to solve them. Students locate and use primary and secondary legal sources, perform computerized and library research, and validate legal sources. Students apply research findings to hypothetical fact situations to reach legal conclusions. Students also learn legal citation methods for primary and secondary authority.

Pre-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054) and MATH 082

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. summarize a court opinion into a legal case brief;
2. explain the purpose of legal research and its general use;
3. explain the source, location, organization, and use of various legal authorities;
4. differentiate between primary and secondary legal authorities;
5. analyze basic legal problems by identifying and applying the appropriate legal resources;
6. explain the purpose and methods by which primary legal authority is updated and validated;
7. apply computerized legal resources to properly update and validate primary legal authority;
8. write an inter-office memorandum analyzing a client's legal issue;
9. draft legal citations to primary and secondary legal authorities; and
10. apply appropriate computer software in the drafting of documents commonly used in the practice of law.

Major Topics

- I. Sources of Legal Authority
 - a. Primary Authority
 - b. Secondary Authority
- II. Citation of Legal Authority
- III. Validation of Legal Authority
 - a. Case Law
 - b. Statutory Law
- IV. Legal Analysis
- V. Legal Research
- VI. Legal Writing

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

VII. Appropriate Legal Technologies

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- four written case briefs
- five research assignments
- one written memorandum of law analyzing and applying case and/or statutory law to a fictional client scenario
- three written assignments on legal citation
- one assessment of legal research skills, such as Lexis Paralegal Student mastery series

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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