

Common Course Outline
LGST 103
Legal Research & Writing I
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

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.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: 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. write 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. explain the application of law to facts in a fictional client scenario;
6. analyze basic legal problems by identifying and applying the appropriate legal resources;
7. explain the purpose and methods by which primary legal authority is updated and validated;
8. utilize computerized legal resources to properly update and validate primary legal authority;
9. write an inter-office memorandum analyzing a client's legal issue;
10. draft legal citations to primary and secondary legal authorities; and
11. conduct legal research utilizing library resources, and online legal search engines.

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

Course Requirements

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

Grading/exams

- A minimum of four written case briefs
- A minimum of five research assignments for library and online research
- A minimum of one written memorandum of law analyzing and applying case and/or statutory law to a fictional client scenario
- A minimum of three written assignments on legal citation
- A minimum of four quizzes or one exam

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

Other Course Information

This course is a required core course for Legal Studies degree and Paralegal Studies certificate students. It is taught in the classroom, hybrid and online using a variety of instructional techniques, which are intended to meet the varied learning styles of our diverse population.