BUSINESS LAW
ACTIVITY COURSE CODE: 5044

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course develops an understanding of legal rights and responsibilities in personal and business law with applications applied to everyday roles as consumers, citizens, and workers. The student will have an understanding of the American legal system, courts/court procedures, criminal justice systems, torts, the civil justice system, oral and written contracts, sales contracts and warranties, consumer protection, social responsibility, and ethics.

OBJECTIVE: Given the necessary equipment, supplies, and facilities, the student will be able to successfully complete all of the following core standards for a course which grants one unit of credit.

RECOMMENDED GRADE LEVEL: 10 - 12 grade

COMPUTER ACCESS REQUIRED: 1 computer per student

PREREQUISITE: None

CREDIT: 1 unit

RESOURCES: MySCTextbooks

A. SAFETY

Effective professionals know the academic subject matter, including safety as required for proficiency within their area. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in any program of study.

1. Review school safety policies and procedures.
2. Review classroom safety rules and procedures.
3. Review safety procedures for using equipment in the classroom.
4. Identify major causes of work-related accidents in office environments.
5. Demonstrate safety skills in an office/work environment.

B. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Effective professionals know the academic subject matter, including professional development, required for proficiency within their area. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in any program of study.

1. Identify the purpose and goals of a Career and Technology Student Organization (CTSO).
2. Explain how CTSOs are integral parts of specific clusters, majors, and/or courses.
3. Explain the benefits and responsibilities of being a member of a CTSO.
4. List leadership opportunities that are available to students through participation in CTSO conferences, competitions, community service, philanthropy, and other activities.
5. Explain how participation in CTSOs can promote lifelong benefits in other professional and civic organizations.

C. TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE

Effective professionals know the academic subject matter, including the ethical use of technology as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in any program of study.

1. Demonstrate proficiency and skills associated with the use of technologies that are common to a specific occupation.
2. Identify proper netiquette when using e-mail, social media, and other technologies for communication purposes.
3. Identify potential abuse and unethical uses of laptops, tablets, computers, and/or networks.
4. Explain the consequences of social, illegal, and unethical uses of technology (e.g., piracy; illegal downloading; licensing infringement; inappropriate uses of software, hardware, and mobile devices in the work environment).
5. Discuss legal issues and the terms of use related to copyright laws, fair use laws, and ethics pertaining to downloading of images, photographs, documents, video, sounds, music, trademarks, and other elements for personal use.
6. Describe ethical and legal practices of safeguarding the confidentiality of business-related information.
7. Describe possible threats to a laptop, tablet, computer, and/or network and methods of avoiding attacks.

D. PERSONAL QUALITIES AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Effective professionals know the academic subject matter, including positive work practices and interpersonal skills, as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in any program of study.

1. Demonstrate punctuality.
2. Demonstrate self-representation.

3. Demonstrate work ethic.
4. Demonstrate respect.
5. Demonstrate time management.
6. Demonstrate integrity.
7. Demonstrate leadership.
8. Demonstrate teamwork and collaboration.
9. Demonstrate conflict resolution.
10. Demonstrate perseverance.
11. Demonstrate commitment.
12. Demonstrate a healthy view of competition.
13. Demonstrate a global perspective.
14. Demonstrate health and fitness.
15. Demonstrate self-direction.
16. Demonstrate lifelong learning.

E. PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Effective professionals know the academic subject matter, including positive work practices and interpersonal skills, as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in any program of study.

1. Demonstrate effective speaking and listening skills.
2. Demonstrate effective reading and writing skills.
3. Demonstrate mathematical reasoning.
4. Demonstrate job-specific mathematics skills.
5. Demonstrate critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.
6. Demonstrate creativity and resourcefulness.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of business ethics.
8. Demonstrate confidentiality.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of workplace structures, organizations, systems, and climates.
10. Demonstrate diversity awareness.
11. Demonstrate job acquisition and advancement skills.
12. Demonstrate task management skills.
13. Demonstrate customer-service skills.

F. PRINCIPLES OF LAW

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of principles of law. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Discuss the historical background of the United States legal system.
2. Identify sources of today's law: constitution (state and federal), common

law, statutory law, court decisions, administrative law (regulations), and case law.
3. Analyze the basic principles upon which the Constitution of the United States is based.
4. Classify types of laws and explain why laws are needed (i.e. civil, criminal, procedural, and substantive).
5. Distinguish between different types of courts.
6. Examine how courts interpret law and explain the role of precedent in the legal system.
7. Identify the types of cases heard in each of the federal and state courts and the difference between original and appellate jurisdiction.
8. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
9. Research cases dealing with laws using appropriate technology.

G. LEGAL SYSTEM

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of the legal system. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Identify ethical character traits: honesty, integrity, compassion, respect, responsibility, citizenship, and justice.
2. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
3. Explain the differences between local, state, and federal government and the powers and limitations of each.
4. Define statutory law, identify the purpose of statutory law, and describe how a bill becomes a statue under federal law.
5. Identify ways laws affect individuals, sources of law, constitutional rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, and the responsibilities of government.
6. Distinguish between the roles of legal professionals (e.g., judges, lawyers, and paralegals.)
7. Define “negligence per se” and give examples of circumstances under which it applies.
8. Analyze the significance of “full disclosure” as it applies to law.
9. Possess a working vocabulary of most frequently used legal terms, such as litigation, arbitration, mediation, conciliation, etc.
10. Complete legal documents with notarization as required.
11. Define environmental law, energy regulation and conservation, and explain the purpose and need.

H. CIVIL LAW AND CRIMINAL LAW

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of civil and criminal law. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Differentiate civil law and criminal law.
2. Discuss trial procedures within a court of law.
3. Differentiate among and give examples of assault, battery, conversion negligence, defamation of character, false imprisonment, intentional and strict liability torts, invasion of privacy, mental distress, strict liability, and trespass to land and personal property.
   a. Explain the *concepts* of strict, absolute, and vicarious liability.
   b. Identify and explain the *elements* of torts (duty, breach, injury, causation).
   c. Describe the *remedies* available in tort law (punitive, compensatory, injunction).
4. Differentiate between bond, bonded, and bonding.
5. Distinguish between a tort and a crime.
   a. Give examples of negligence and intentional torts.
   b. Explain the concepts of the reasonable person test and proximate cause.
6. Differentiate among categories of criminal law (felonies, misdemeanors and infractions).
7. Identify different types of business crime such as embezzlement, larceny, robbery, burglary, assault, battery, forgery, white collar, extortion, bribery, conspiracy, etc.; and classify them based on the severity of the punishment.
8. Understand defenses of criminal acts (e.g. insanity and self-defense).
9. Describe the penalties available for criminal law (restitution, fine, imprisonment, death).
10. Demonstrate trial procedures within a court of law.
11. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
12. Research and present cases dealing with civil and criminal laws using appropriate technology.

I. PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE LAW

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of procedural and substantive law. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Distinguish between procedural and substantive law.
2. Identify the various people involved in a court trial (judge, attorneys, plaintiff/prosecutor, defendant, jury, paralegals, etc.)

3. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of negotiation, arbitration, mediation, litigation, and conciliation.
4. Compare and contrast the steps in a civil lawsuit with the steps in a criminal prosecution.
5. Define the Statute of Limitations.
6. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
7. Research and present cases dealing with procedural and substantive laws using appropriate technology.

J. BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding business organization law. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Describe the legal forms of business organization and identify their respective advantages and disadvantages.
2. Describe the types of organizational structures and management levels.
3. Examine the ways businesses can be created including their rights, limitations, and liabilities.
4. Distinguish between a limited partnership and general partnership.
5. Differentiate between types of corporations and describe the functions of the board of directors and officers of a corporation.
6. Identify shareholder rights and explain the nature of the shareholder liability.
7. Differentiate between types of corporate expansion (e.g. mergers, consolidations, and conglomerates).
8. Describe the characteristics of a franchise and analyze where it fits in the economic and legal framework.
9. Define a limited liability company and explain the steps in forming it.
10. Research the role of the Securities and Exchange Commission (S.E.C.) and identify potential consequences of violating S.E.C. regulations.
11. Debate ways that government regulation and legal issues in businesses have affected each of us.
12. Develop an understanding of a business's responsibility to know, abide by, and enforce laws and regulations that affect business operations and transactions (anti-trust laws, organized labor, and regulatory agencies.)
13. Identify, apply, and keep current with laws and regulations such as those that affect business practices like financial and accounting records and storage and retention of records.
14. Research legal issues and agencies related to managing a business in the global environment.
15. Research trade regulations and unfair trade practices regulated by the Federal Trade Commission.

K. CONTRACT LAW

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of contract law. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role.
The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Explain the contractual relationship and list the elements required to create a contract (offer, acceptance, genuine agreement, consideration, capacity and legality).
2. Define consideration as it applies to contract law and list examples of valid consideration for both benefit and detriment.
3. Identify those who lack contractual capacity (minors, mentally impaired, intoxicated).
4. Identify contracts that should be in writing under the Statute of Frauds.
5. Analyze the classifications of contracts (valid, void, voidable, unenforceable, express, implied, bilateral, unilateral, oral, and written).
6. Differentiate among the ways that a contract can be affirmed (ratification) or disrupted (fraud, non-disclosure, misrepresentation, mistake, duress, undue influence.)
7. Define breach of contract and name legal remedies available for resolution (damages, specific performance, rescission, restitution).
8. Identify legal remedies available for resolution of breach of contract.
9. Define the conditions which allow contract rights to be assigned/delegated.
10. Discuss ways a contract may be terminated or discharged (performance, expiration, etc.)
11. Distinguish between payment, delivery, and transfer of title of goods.
12. Explain who may transfer ownership of goods and what is required for the transfer of ownership.
13. List and define the performance obligations of the seller and buyer in a typical sales transaction.
14. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
15. Research and present cases dealing with contract laws using appropriate technology.

L. CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of consumer protection law. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Describe the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) and how it governs a sale of goods.

2. Describe consumer protection laws for credit reporting, credit card accountability, debt collection, and privacy.
3. Distinguish between common, unfair, and deceptive practices such as bait and switch, usury, identity theft, deceptive service estimates, and fraudulent misrepresentations.
4. Explain expressed and implied warranties for sale of goods.
5. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages between various aspects of bankruptcy, such as Liquidation and Reorganization of Debts (Chapters 7, 11, 12, and 13 Bankruptcies).
6. Explain the concept of strict, absolute, and vicarious liability.
7. Explain the relationship of business ethics to product service management, e.g., product packaging, quality assurance, grades and standards, and product promotion.
8. Apply "truth in advertising" and "government instituted laws" to a promotion of a product or service.
9. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
10. Research and present cases dealing with consumer laws using appropriate technology.

M. REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY LAWS

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of real and personal property laws. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Distinguish real property, personal property, and fixtures.
2. Explain why property distinctions are important.
3. Explain the rights and responsibilities of debtors and creditors.
4. Compare different legal rights and methods of acquiring property and transferring title (e.g., renting, leasing, or purchasing; contract for sale; deed; title search; abstract of title; mortgage), including the effects of liens.
5. Compare and contrast the different types of property insurance and their impact on personal and property laws.
6. Explain how a bailment is created.
7. Describe the standard of care different bailees are required to exercise over bailed property.
8. Explain rights and duties of property owners and visitors according to property laws.
9. Define intellectual property (e.g., patents, copyrights, trademarks).
10. Review contemporary landlord-tenant law.
11. Describe the civil and criminal consequences for infringing on the intellectual property rights of others.
12. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
13. Research cases dealing with real and personal property laws using appropriate technology.

N. EMPLOYMENT LAW

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of employment law. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Explain agency relationships and list the ways agency relationships may be created.
2. Distinguish between an agent and individuals such as independent contractors, real estate brokers, bailees, and trustees.
3. Identify the duties, scope of authority, responsibilities, and liabilities of agents.
4. Explain employee rights (e.g., employment interview, testing, laws affecting minors, collective bargaining).
5. Evaluate legislation that regulates employment rights, conditions, and worker benefits (e.g., OSHA, Workers' Compensation, unemployment compensation).
6. Evaluate legislation that regulates patients' privacy rights, (e.g. HIPPA).
7. Evaluate legislation (e.g., civil rights, right to privacy, and ADA) affecting personnel practices (compensation, promotion, recruitment, selection, termination, and training and development.)
8. Describe legal reasons for terminating employees (e.g., employment at will, embezzlement, and violation of company policy.)
9. Analyze contracts and company's position to assist management in labor contract negotiations and monitor implementation of contract for compliance.
10. Discuss the impact of immigration relations to operations of business.
11. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
12. Research and present cases dealing with employment laws using appropriate technology.

O. DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL LAW

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of domestic/personal law. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Define marriage and explain the rights and obligations that are involved in marriage.
2. Explain concepts relating to marriage such as age requirements, prenuptial agreements, common law, and types of marriage prohibited by law.
3. Contrast annulment, divorce, and dissolution proceedings, and explain typical grounds for divorce.
4. Describe domestic laws as they relate to child custody, child and spousal support, and the distribution of property in divorce.
5. Describe the legal rights and duties of minors and their parents/guardians.
6. Explain the protections provided by estate planning (power of attorney, will, trusts, living will, right to die, etc.).
7. Analyze health insurance requirements and penalties as they relate to current federal law.
8. Explain wills, inheritance, and trusts, and their impact.

9. Evaluate the ways a will can be revoked or altered.
10. Explain what happens to a decedent's estate when a person dies without a will.
11. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
12. Research and present cases dealing with domestic and personal laws using appropriate technology.

P. COMPUTER LAW

Effective business law professionals demonstrate a basic understanding of computer law. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role.
The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Demonstrate an understanding of computer law as it relates to computer hacking, software piracy, source code, software license, copyright law, Internet, and e-mail.
2. Discuss existing laws, jurisdiction considerations, and disputes regarding E- commerce.
3. Define different types of computer crime and discuss the various types of federal and state statutes designed to combat computer crime.
4. Discuss various statutes that deal with the effects and use of computer records and privacy matters.
5. Explain the relationship between law and ethics and why they sometimes conflict.
6. Research and present cases dealing with computer laws using appropriate technology.

Q. CAREER EXPLORATION

Effective business law professionals demonstrate how to prepare to enter the business workplace. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in the business program of study.

1. Evaluate career opportunities.
2. Identify sources of employment opportunities.
3. Identify appropriate dress and grooming for the workplace.
4. Develop an electronic portfolio for career opportunities.
5. Compose a letter of application.
6. Compose a resume.
7. Complete a job application form.
8. Identify behaviors considered to be appropriate or inappropriate in a job interview.
9. Compose a follow-up letter.
10. Compose a letter of resignation.

Course Materials & Resources

Course Academic Standards and Indicators