

Course Description

PLA2273 | Torts | 3.00 credits

This course provides an examination of the theories governing tort law and the use of various pre-litigation tools. Topics covered include intentional torts, negligence and strict liability. The course also requires students to utilize the knowledge obtained to draft documents employed in practice. Courses must be met with a grade of "C" or higher. Prerequisites: ENC1101, PLA2003, PLA2120C, PLA2227, and PLA2931

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will develop a working knowledge of fundamental negligence law by:

1. Describing the elements of negligence theory, such as duty, breach of duty, standard of care, proximate cause, defenses to negligence, and damages
2. Explaining the theory of product liability
3. Identifying and apply the theories of joint and several liability
4. Applying comparative and contributory negligence theories to given fact patterns
5. Discussing the measure of damages
6. Classifying a claimant as a trespasser, licensee, or invitee
7. Describing the primary duties owed to trespassers, licensees, and invitees

Competency 2: The student will understand how to identify and analyze the elements of the various theories upon which non-contractual liability is predicated by:

1. Identifying the elements of various causes of action based on tort theories, such as fraud, conversion, defamation, unfair competition, wrongful interference, and misrepresentation
2. Discussing the principles of strict liability

Competency 3: The student will understand how to identify and analyze the elements of different intentional torts by:

1. Comparing and contrasting the basic substantive laws of intentional torts such as battery and assault, slander and libel, trespass conversion fraud, and Intentional interference actions

Competency 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of tort law by completing tasks required in a traditional tort practice by:

1. Applying legal research and tort law knowledge to given fact scenarios
2. Drafting pleadings appropriate to the tortious conduct claimed in given fact scenarios
3. Drafting office memoranda, interrogatories, complaints, answers, defenses, counter or cross-claims, motions for summary judgment, and memoranda of law
4. Summarizing a deposition
5. Discussing ethical concerns

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society