

Virginia Western Community College
LGL 225
ESTATE PLANNING & PROBATE

Prerequisites

Successful completion of all 100 level LGL courses or divisional approval.

Course Description

Introduces various devices used to plan an estate, including wills, trusts, joint ownership and insurance. Considers various plans in light of family situations and estate objectives. Focuses on practices involving administration of an estate, including taxes and preparation of forms. Lecture 3 hours per week.

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0

Required Materials**Textbook:**

“Wills, Trusts and Estates Administration”, 5th Edition, by Suzan D. Herskowitz. Published by Pearson.

Other Required Materials:

Students will need a computer capable of accessing Canvas through the VWCC system. Students are required to use Canvas for this course.

Course Outcomes**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

Understand how the law of wills, trusts and estates interrelates to other areas of the law.

Understand the duties paralegals may perform in a firm that deals with wills, trusts, and estates.

Identify the various types of property, for example, real versus personal, probate verses nonprobate.

Explain the differences between testate and intestate and understand the terms associated with succession.

Explain how property passes when someone dies intestate and distinguish between per capita and per stirpes.

Identify the advantages and disadvantages of the various tools used in estate planning.

Discuss tax considerations in the context of estate planning.

Identify the ways property can be conveyed in a will, and explain how wills can be changed or revoked.

Explain the various clauses used to draft a will and understand the purpose of those clauses.

Identify the categories, elements, and parties in a trust.

Explain the purpose of advance directives such as living wills and durable power of attorney.

Explain the purpose of probate and understand the steps in the probate process.

Understand the role that taxes play in probating an estate and identify the various forms that might be used.

Topical Description

Chapter	Material Covered
	Introduction to class; Introduction to course
1	Purpose and Need for a Will
2	Property
3	Testate or Intestate
4	The Will
5	Will Preparation and Drafting
6	Advance Directives
8	Trusts: Elements and Purpose
9	Specialized Trusts and Gifts
10	The Personal Representative
11	Estate Administration
12	Tax Considerations on Estate Administration

Notes to Instructors

None