## Official Course Outline Information

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use. Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department and material will vary - see course syllabus available from instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty/Department:</th>
<th>School of Social Work and Human Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Name/Number:</td>
<td>SOWK 412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Course Number:</td>
<td>UCFV CREDITS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Skills for Social Services Professionals</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Course Descriptive Title

Legal Skills for Social Service Professionals is a skills-based course focusing on both the development and the demonstration of skills that are part of statutory social service functions in child welfare, probation and youth work, parole, family court counseling and mental health. Students will learn and demonstrate skills related to the various mandates that govern their work as professionals in the social services. The course will involve experiential learning related to dispute resolution, advocacy, and legal skills such as investigation, evidence giving, and report writing. Fundamental to practicing these skills is an understanding of empowerment, partnership, working across differences, and individual and systemic change. The course will utilize a critical perspective and promote an understanding of the strengths and limitations of these skills in social service fields.

### Prerequisites:

Admission into the BSW program and SOWK 312

### Corequisites:

### Synonymous Course(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Replaces:</th>
<th>SSSW 412</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Course #)</td>
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</table>

| Cannot take: |
| (Course #) |
| (Department / Program) |

### Total Hours Per Term: 45

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure of Hours:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures: 20 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar: 10 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory: hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Experience: 10 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Directed Learning: 5 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Specify): hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combination of Lecture and Lab Hours: YES/NO</td>
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### Training Day-Based Instruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Course:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours per Day:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
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</table>

### Maximum Enrollment: 24

### Expected Frequency of Course Offering:

One section per year.

### Will Transfer Credit Be Requested?

- (Lower-level courses only)
  - YES: 19, NO: 0

- (Upper-level requested by department)
  - YES: X, NO: 0

### Transfer Credit Exists in BCCAT Transfer Guide:

- YES: 19, NO: X

### Authorization Signatures:

- Course designer(s): Provincial Team (incl. Curtis Magnuson)
- Chairperson: (type name in this field)
- Course reviewed by: (type name in this field)
- Department Head: Gloria Wolfson
- Dean: Jackie Snodgrass
- PAC Approval in Principle Date: (type date in this field)
- PAC Final Approval Date: (September 25, 2002)
LEARNING OBJECTIVES / GOALS / OUTCOMES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

**At a Personal Level:**
1. Clarify your beliefs and values as they relate to the use of power inherent in the application of laws related to your practice as a social service professional.
2. Critically reflect upon your knowledge base about the law and legal skills as social service professionals, your ability to understand, critique and use relevant literature and research on this content, and your need for additional training.
3. Understand your professional obligations in relation to dispute resolution, advocacy, investigations and testifying in court.

**At a Theoretical Level:**
4. Understand the link between law, social policy, social change and social justice in your practice.
5. Identify the range of options available to social service professionals when applying the laws related to social services, including dispute resolution, advocacy, and mediation.
6. Relate the larger theoretical and policy issues to the application of skills in practice situations, e.g., feminist legal theory, structural theory, ecological systems theory, and developmental theory.

**At a Practice Level:**
7. Apply a continuum of dispute resolution skills of negotiation, mediation, arbitration and consensus building to practice situations.
8. Describe and apply appropriate advocacy skills in practice situations.
9. Demonstrate the process of investigative interviews and the documentation and presentation of the results of investigations in formal legal processes.
10. Demonstrate the skills of giving evidence in a formal legal setting.
11. Identify the impacts that the various legal and quasi-legal processes may have on children, youth and families.

**METHODS:**
The course will be conducted in lecture/discussion style with exposure to guest speakers, videos, class discussion, and small group activities. Students may be required to attend court and to participate in the demonstration of skills related to the material (e.g., evidence giving, advocacy, mediation, etc.)

**PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):**
Credit can be awarded for this course through PLAR

- YES  X  NO

**METHODS OF OBTAINING PLAR:**
All SOWK courses (with the exception of one practicum) are open for PLAR. Follow UCFV PLAR process.

**TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:**
[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]

**Required Text:**

**Reference Texts:**


**Films:**


**SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:**
Students are responsible for the cost of any and all supplies related to the course.

**STUDENT EVALUATION:**
[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

- Learning Activities 30%
- Written Assignment 30%
- Final Written Assignment 40%
## Course Content:

[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

### Module One: Introduction
- Week 1: Foundational Concepts
- Week 2: Foundational Skills

### Module Two: Dispute Resolution Skills
- Week 3: An Overview of Dispute Resolution
- Week 4: Consensus Building
- Week 5: Negotiation and Mediation
- Week 6: Arbitration and Administrative Decision-Making

### Module Three: Advocacy Skills
- Week 7: Child and Family Advocacy
- Week 8: Systemic Advocacy and Political Lobbying

### Module Four: Legal Skills
- Week 9: Investigation and Assessment
- Week 10: Evidence Collation and Report Writing
- Week 11: Evidence Giving
- Week 12: Statutory Supervision and Guardianship Responsibilities

### Module Five: Conclusion
- Week 13: Developing a Personal Framework for Practicing Legal Skills