Program Summary

Summary Title: Legal Studies BA
Applicable Programs: 22.0302 Legal Assisting: Bachelors
Accreditation: Not Associated with an Accreditation Review.

Last Review Year: 2002
Status: PENDING

Major Changes

None

Strengths

1. The quality of the current full-time faculty.
2. The connection of the legal studies program to the local and regional communities.
3. The program clearly contributes to the College of Professional Studies mission through its service orientation.
4. The community of lawyers and professional community more broadly are supportive of the program as evidenced by the recent donations of over $200,000 for the completion of the UWF Mock Trial Courtroom.
5. Field education supervisors are very positive about the program and feel that their needs are being met by the department.

Weaknesses

The program is primarily aimed at training students for careers as paralegals and for preparation for professional law study. This orientation leads to the following weaknesses in the program:

1. The program does not have a clearly defined intellectual vision of its role and function within the University and the College; it does not seem to have a fundamental intellectual basis.
2. The program does not have a clear view of law that organizes what is taught, what is studied, and what is researched.

Recommendations

The faculty members of the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies have agreed to reorganize the department in view of the Legal Studies Review as follows:
1. The department will be renamed the Department of Justice Studies.
2. The Department will have two programs, Criminal Justice and Law in Society.
3. The Law in Society program will address the issues raised by the Legal Studies reviewer related to making the program more relevant to other programs in the College and less duplicative of what is taught at the Community College level.
4. The law in society program will have two concentrations: Pre law and Legal Advocacy.
5. The legal advocacy concentration will broaden its previous base to train students to be, not simply primarily paralegals in law.
offices, but also probation officers, victim-witness counselors, ombuds officers in nursing homes, hospitals and other organizations, family mediators and para professionals in social work-related fields.

**Additional Comments**

The Academic Learning Compact is available at the following URL: [http://uwf.edu/cutla/ALC/Legal_Studies_ALC.pdf](http://uwf.edu/cutla/ALC/Legal_Studies_ALC.pdf).

The Confirmation of Processors is located at the following URL: [http://uwf.edu/academic/cop/cop_legal_studies_12_11_08.pdf](http://uwf.edu/academic/cop/cop_legal_studies_12_11_08.pdf)