

## ASSESSMENT IN LW442

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### ACTIVITY

In an effort to assess our students' knowledge and competencies in the general business field (BBA Learning Goal 2) as well as their ability to recognize how legal, regulatory and political environments affect business decision (BBA Learning Goal 3), Justice/Prof. Katherine Maraman administers Pre- and Post-tests in LW442: Business Law in the beginning and the end of the semester, respectively. The Pre- and Post-tests were first given in Fall 2008, and the Pre-test was administered in beginning of Spring 2009.

### TEST INSTRUMENT

The test used in LW442 is comprised of 30 true-false questions representing each chapter covered in the course during one semester.

The same questionnaire is used in the Pre- and Post-tests, which guarantees that the same questions are asked and that there will be no unnecessary copying of additional questionnaires, which is consistent with the UOG Green Initiative.

The course does not teach to the test. Students are informed about the Post-test at the end of the course but the results are not included in their semester grade calculation.

### TEST RESULTS

36 students took the Pre-test that was administered at the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester while 34 students took the Post-test that was given on the final exam day. Of these groups, there were 33 students who took both Pre- and Post-tests. The summary of this group of 33 students are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Results of Pre- and Post-tests in LW442, Fall 2008

	Fall 2008		Spring 2009
	Pre-Test	Post-Test	Pre-Test
<b>Average</b>	18.6364	19.7576	19.2000
<b>Std. Dev.</b>	2.5838	2.7954	2.9873
<b>High</b>	24	25	26
<b>Low</b>	10	11	12
<b>Number</b>	33	33	30
<b>z-statistics</b>		1.6920	

The calculated z-statistics show that there is evidence of improvement in the average scores between the Pre- and the Post-tests. This result is statistically significant at a 5-percent level.

Table 1 also reports the Pre-test results for Spring 2009 for comparison with the Pre-Test for Fall 2008. Although the former looks higher than the latter, the difference in the two groups is not statistically significant (corresponding z-statistics is 0.7973).

## HOW ACTIVITY IS LINKED TO THE COURSE-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course syllabus stated the following:

### Program Learning Goals:

- BBA-2 Develop knowledge and competencies in a business field
- BBA-3 Recognize how legal, regulatory and political environments affect business decisions
- BBA-5, BSCJ-5, BSPA-5 Demonstrate effective managerial communication abilities
- BBA-6, BSCJ-3, BSPA-3 Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills.
- BBA-9 Demonstrate ability to gather and synthesize information for business management problems.
- BSCJ-7, BSPA-7 Demonstrate an understanding of ethical, professional, and socially responsible behavior.

### Course SLOs (Ways in which this course contributes to the accomplishment of the above program learning goals):

1. Participation in this course provides an overall understanding of the legal system in the United States; contract formation, enforcement and remedies, including common law and UCC; property law, real and personal; credit instruments and bankruptcy. (BBA-2 and 3)
2. The two subject exams and two quizzes provide evidence for this learning. In particular, the mid-term examination which is a week-long, take-home exam gives the student the opportunity to demonstrate communication abilities, critical thinking, analytical skills and ability to gather and synthesize information. (BBA-2, 5, 6, 9; BSCJ-3, 5; BSPA-3, 5)
3. The oral presentation and paper allow the students to explore how businesses are impacted by the legal system and regulatory environment. The oral and written presentations enhance communication skills. (BBA-2, 3, 5, 6, 9; BSCJ-3, 5; BSPA-3, 5)
4. Class discussion and participation allow students to explore how the legal system shapes ethical, professional and socially responsible behavior. (BSCJ-7; BSPA-7)

This Pre- and Post-test is assessing whether all the course SLOs are taking place.

## CLOSING THE LOOP

The Pre- and Post-test results for Fall 2008 was made available by Prof. Maraman to the Chair of the SBPA of the Assurance of Learning Committee in February 2009. These results were presented and discussed at the meeting of the Assurance of Learning Committee held on March 2, 2009. The committee action is to recommend to Prof. Maraman to continue to administer the Pre- and Post-tests, especially because this test is not a national, standardized test and no benchmark is available against which we can compare our students' performance. Consequently, it will be necessary to collect a data over several semesters to see if a pattern emerges that can be used to warrant changes in the course and/or program.

In looking at the Fall 2008 Pre- and Post-test results, Prof. Maraman expressed a concern that her students might have rushed in taking the Post-test results, which was administered on the same day as when her students took the final exam. Consequently, she plans to administer her Post-test this semester (Spring 2009) on the last regular class meeting and will compare the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 results to see if the timing of the Post-test makes a difference in her students' performance.