

## Discover the Law Assessment



Public

**Name of Assessment Project:** Discover the Law Assessment

**Name(s) of Person(s) Responsible for Assessment Project:** Director (Jon Carlos Senour)

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**Providing Department:** Student Legal Services

**Units/Departments Involved in Assessment Project:**

**Program, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project:** This assessment project is linked to the Discover the Law program which is offered each Winter Quarter by Student Legal Services. The Discover the Law program consists of a series of approximately 40 workshops on close to 30 distinct legal topics. Students who attend at least four workshops receive a "Certificate of Achievement," while students who attend eight or more workshops earn a "Certificate of Special Recognition." The Discover the Law program is open to all undergraduate and graduate students at UC San Diego. Students do not receive academic credit for participating in the program.

**Assessment Project Description:** The main purpose of this project is to assess the extent to which students increase their knowledge and awareness of different aspects of the law as it pertains to them. This is measured by comparing students' responses to questionnaires that are administered before and after participation in the program. Students were also asked to provide feedback at the conclusion of each individual workshop. The results of this project will be used to improve the Discover the Law program and demonstrate its value to students.

**Unit/Program Specific Goals and Learning Outcomes:** As a result of participating in the Discover the Law program, students will:

- better understand what steps to take to make informed legal decisions;
- be able to summarize their rights and responsibilities related to the legal topics covered in the specific workshops that they attended;
- be able to critically consider options for resolving legal problems;
- be aware of circumstances under which they might seek help from a legal professional; and
- learn about resources on campus and in the community that can support students facing legal issues.

**Relationship to Student Affairs Learning Outcomes:** Think Critically and Solve Problems

**Assessment Project Start:** 1/9/2015

**Assessment Project End:** 4/30/2015

**Population/Sample:** 379 students initially enrolled in the Discover the Law program and completed the Pre-Program Questionnaire. Of these, 104 students attended at least four workshops and Completed the Post-Program Questionnaire, thereby meeting the minimum requirements of the Discover the Law Program.

**Type of Assessment:** Student learning outcomes and/or behavioral outcomes

**Other Assessment Type(s):** Surveys

**Assessment Methods:** Surveys

**Other Assessment Method(s):** Both the Pre- and Post-Program Questionnaires were administered in electronic form by way of Campus Labs/Baseline surveys. The Pre-Program Questionnaire was distributed to students who signed up for the program by way of an email with a generic link. The Post-Program Questionnaire was sent to all students who enrolled in the program (and who had previously completed the Pre-Program Questionnaire).

**Data Analysis Methods:** Data were and will continue to be analyzed using Campus Labs, and will be compared to assessment results from previous program years.

**How Your Results Will Be Presented:** Results of this project will be shared with Student Legal Services staff in an effort to improve the program. Additionally, results may be shared at conferences with attorneys from other Student Legal Services offices, as well as campus partners and constituencies.

**Progress:** 100%

**Link Assessment Project in Campus Labs Baseline :** [Due to the inability to link the Pre- and Post-Program Questionnaire results here, they may be found below under "Summary of Findings."]

Name	Source
No items to display.	

**Summary of Findings:** There are two particularly noteworthy findings from the data. First, there was a significant increase in the number of students who reported that they knew what steps to take in order to make informed legal decisions, and are aware of and can describe their rights and responsibilities regarding various legal issues. The average increase in the percentage of respondents who "agreed" or "strongly agreed" with various statements of confidence and awareness was 53 percentage points.

Second, it was not just the rate of percentage point increase that was encouraging, but the overall number of students who reported having confidence in their ability to make informed decisions and an increased awareness of their rights and responsibilities regarding various legal issues. Of the students who completed the Discover the Law program, over 90% of participants "agreed" or "strongly" agreed with statements measuring the above outcomes.

For full survey results, please see the attached files.

 2015-Discover-the-Law-Pre-Program-Questionnaire

 Discover-the-Law-Post-Program-Questionnaire-2015

**Impact of Assessment:** The findings reflect a positive effect that the program has on the development of our student participants. The findings reaffirm the value of the Discover the Law program to students, and serve to justify the time and effort that Student Legal Services expends on implementation of the program.

The Post-Program Questionnaire sought open-ended feedback from program participants. Responses will be carefully analyzed in evaluating program logistics (location, workshop times, topics covered) and in considering how to make the program accessible to more students.

**Lessons Learned:** SLS is satisfied with the questionnaires and the questions asked of program participants, as well as the method through which questionnaires are distributed. However, current assessment methods do not allow for tracking or analyzing the responses of *only* those students who complete the Discover the Law program. In other words, the survey responses of all 379 students who completed the Pre-Program Questionnaire are compared to those 104 students who actually attended at least four program workshops and completed the Post-Program Questionnaire. Thus, results are somewhat skewed. It may be coincidental, for example, that those students who dedicate the time and energy to complete the Discover the Law program feel that they have gained confidence in their ability to recognize and solve legal issues. If the Pre-Program responses of the 104 students who completed the Discover the Law program were isolated in order to compare those same students' post-program responses, a more accurate idea of how the thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes of those 104 program participants changed over the course of the quarter could be gleaned.

Additionally, students who attended three or less workshops may have valuable feedback to offer. Perhaps in future years, students who did not complete the program can be invited to complete a survey seeking information as to why they were unable to do so.

**Supplemental Information:** Below is a PDF of tables comparing the responses of survey respondents in the Pre-Program Questionnaire with the Post-Program Questionnaire.

 DTL Assessment Report 2015 graphics

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