



Department

Law of Procedure and Law of Evidence

Study year of students

Second year

Credits: 16

Module offered during

Second semester

Lecturers

Prof. Neels Swanepoel

Brief description

The aim of this module is to link curriculum content with community engagement and involvement. Students present a drama piece and road show to educate children in a fun way in order to understand the principles of Law of Evidence relevant to them.

Community partners

- Community members visiting the University of the Free State Law Clinic and Mangaung–University of the Free State Community Partnership Programme (MUCPP)
- Children at Ons Kinderhuis Youth Care Centre
- Huis Soetehoop
- Kidz Care Trust
- Calculus College
- Brandwag Primary School.

Service sector partners

- UFS Law Clinic
- MUCPP
- Ons Kinderhuis Youth Care Centre

- Kidz Care Trust; Calculus College
- Brandwag Primary School.

Service learning component

In this module, students are involved in a drama piece and road show. Students divide into groups and visit various community partners to present their shows. The aim is to inform and teach children and learners on issues regarding Law of Evidence. Students work with children who have been sexually abused, physically abused or neglected and have been or will be exposed to court proceedings. The aim is to illustrate the process followed in court, thereby showing them what they can expect when they testify and how the proceedings work. In the past, groups have made use of mock court proceedings, fairy-tales and educational DVDs to educate the children.

Outcomes for students

Students learn the practical aspects of Law of Evidence and how they can use their knowledge to empower others in the community. They get to understand the values of the legal

system to protect the individual and his/her rights from being violated. Students furthermore learn terminology used in a court process and further develop practical skills and the associated values that relate to the research for and presentation of evidence, as well as the necessary oral skills required. They are also exposed to the circumstances under which many children live. Most students have indicated that they would stay in contact with members of the community, especially the children they have come into contact with.

Impact on community

In this module, members of the community receive assistance from the students, especially young victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Some of the school learners have commented that they now have better knowledge of the Children's Act and court proceedings. The primary care-givers, e.g. guardians at youth care centres and places of safety, benefit in that they receive assistance in preparing children for criminal justice proceedings.