EDU 687: Law, Litigation and Educational Policy

Instructor: Dr. Dana Monogue  
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Office Hours: before and after class or by appointment  
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Course Description:
This course explores the relationship between educational law and policy, administrative decision-making, and practice. Participants will explore landmark cases in school law, influential policies and school reform including the procedural rights inside the schoolhouse doors for students and staff. Emerging policy changes will also be a focus of the course. Through case study analysis, practical examples and required readings participants will gain a working knowledge of influential legal concepts in educational law. Concepts will include court case analysis, policy examples and legislative changes specific to school law. Students will examine key legal issues that govern daily and long-range decisions of educational leaders.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the course:
  1. Students will gain an understanding of the constitutional, legislative, and judicial frameworks within which schools function.
  2. Students will learn the fundamental legal principals governing a variety of areas in education, particularly those pertinent to building level leadership concerns.
  3. Students will identify legal issues of current significance pertinent to the operation of schools in today’s environment.
  4. Students will develop the resources and skills needed to analyze legal issues and to govern their leadership activities, related to school and labor law.
  5. Students will analyze applications of legal issues at their local schools and/or with their mentors.
  6. Students will understand contract management including compensation, benefits, collective bargaining contract negotiations and grievances.

Textbooks & Materials:
Required Textbooks

Suggested Reading:
Student Assessment
Student progress will be assessed using a number of formative and performance-based assessments including:

1. Attendance and Participation – This course offers many opportunities for growth and learning. Opportunities include considerable discussion, in-class activities, assignments and group work. You are encouraged to be intentional about and engaged in the learning process. It will be necessary for you to come to class on time, prepared and ready to participate. Missing class makes it difficult to assess student learning and performance. In addition, as a member of a community, understanding and growth are influenced by the social nature of this course. Therefore it is your responsibility to your own growth and understanding as well as to your fellow community members that you attend class and interact significantly. Students who miss class are subject to grade reduction. (L.O.# 1-6)

2. Presentation – In small groups students will be assigned a framework (constitutional, legislative, or judicial) and prepare a 30 minute interactive presentation for the class. The intent of the presentation is to provide an overview of the legal concepts embedded in educational law and policy. (L.O. #1, 2)

3. Case Study Analysis - Students will be provided with a range of case studies related to legal issues in education. Student will prepare a written analysis representing multiple perspectives and approaches to understanding and addressing the complexity of school law. (L.O. # 2,3,4,5)

4. Legal Interview – Students will conduct two interviews with Central Office and/or site based administrators to gain a deeper understanding of education law and policy. In the first interview, students will focus on the role of the administrator in addressing and resolving conflict, and the legal and ethical components to educational leadership. The second interview will include contract management including compensation, benefits, collective bargaining contract negotiations and grievances. (L.O. # 5,6)

Grading Policy
The program is built on the premise that successful participants must demonstrate competencies at a mastery level according to rubrics aligned with all assessments.

1. Attendance and Participation 20%
2. Presentation 20%
3. Case Studies 50%
4. Legal Interview 10%

Please Note: Attendance is essential for success throughout the entire semester. All assignments must be completed to receive a final grade.
**General Policy Statements**

**Statement on Academic Integrity** – The Carroll University Academic Integrity Policy is located in your student handbook. You should familiarize yourself with it. If a student violates this policy in any way, you may receive a sanction of failure on the assignment/exam or failure in the course. If you have any questions about appropriate citations, please ask.

**Accommodation for Disabilities** – Any requests for accommodation must be made through Martha Bledsoe (262.524.7335), Director of Services for Students with Disabilities at Carroll University. Appropriate accommodation will be made once notification from Ms. Bledsoe has been received.

**Modifications to the syllabus** - The instructor and the university reserve the right to modify, amend or change the syllabus (schedule, course requirements, grading policies, etc) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).