

**NorthWest Arkansas Community College Division of Social and  
Behavioral Sciences, Education and  
Wellness, Legal and Protective Services**

**LEGL 2753 (Wills, Trusts, and Estates)**

**Catalog Description:**

This course is designed to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the issues involved in estate planning and the probate process. From simple estate planning issues such as “Why do I need a will or power of attorney?” to the more complex issues such as “How can I make sure my children don’t squander my money when I’m gone?”, you will leave the course with the ability to recognize potential estate planning issues and provide sound guidance to your supervising attorney.

**Prerequisites:**

Completion of ENGL 1013, LEGL 1043, and LEGL 1104

**Credit hours/Contact hours/Load hours:**

3/3/3

**Course Objectives:**

- Explain why estate planning is necessary
- Differentiate between different types of property and property ownership how these distinctions affect planning
- Explain the difference between testacy and intestacy and the consequences of each
- Create a valid will and understand the purpose of the different clauses contained therein
- Understand the need for and be able to draft advanced directives such as living wills and durable power of attorneys
- Understand the issues that arise in non-traditional families and the role of estate planning
- Explain what is required to create a trust, how a trust works, and why certain, specialized trusts might be desired or necessary
- Explain the role of a personal representative in a probate proceeding
- Understand how the probate process works
- Identify tax considerations in estate planning and probate
- Understand the ethical rules as it relates to paralegals in the estate planning or probate context