

Law and Public Service Career Cluster

The Law and Public Service Career Cluster focuses on planning, managing, and providing legal services, public safety, protective services, and homeland security, including professional and technical support services. Students will examine the roles and responsibilities of police, courts, corrections, private security, and fire and emergency services.

Legal Studies Statewide Program of Study



The Legal Studies program of study introduces CTE learners to the occupations and educational opportunities related to representing clients in criminal and civil litigation and other legal proceedings, as well as assisting lawyers and preparing legal documents. This program of study explores possible specializations in a single area of law.

Secondary Courses for High School Credit

Level 1

- Principles of Law (1)

Level 2

- Court Systems and Practices+ (1)

Level 3 and 4 classes for this program of study are taught exclusively at the Tomball Innovation Center.

Level 3

- Advanced Legal Skills and Professions+ (1)
- Legal Research and Writing+ (1)

Level 4

- Practicum in Legal Studies* (2)

*Required Prerequisite

+Recommended Prerequisite

Specific course offerings and availability are subject to change due to interest and enrollment.

Postsecondary Opportunities

Associates Degrees

- Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Bachelor's Degrees

- Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degrees

- Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Advanced Legal Research/Studies General
- International Law and Legal Studies

Principles of Law (1)

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security introduces students to professions in law enforcement, protective services, corrections, firefighting, and emergency management services. Students will examine the roles and responsibilities of police, courts, corrections, private security, and protective agencies of fire and emergency services. The course provides students with an overview of the skills necessary for careers in law enforcement, fire service, protective services, and corrections.

Court Systems and Practices+ (1)

Court Systems and Practices is an overview of the federal and state court systems. The course identifies the roles of judicial officers and the trial processes from pretrial to sentencing and examines the types and rules of evidence. Emphasis is placed on constitutional laws for criminal procedures such as search and seizure, stop and frisk, and interrogation.

Advanced Legal Skills and Professions+ (1)

Advanced Legal Skills and Professions provides students with a foundation to understand the basic mechanics of the U.S. legal system. Building on prior instruction in constitutional issues and the basics of American court systems, this course provides insight into the practical application of the law, as well as civil and criminal procedure, giving students a hands-on opportunity to experience a variety of legal professions.

Legal Research and Writing+ (1)

Legal Research and Writing provides an introduction into the study and practice of legal writing and research. This course is designed to introduce students to the methods and tools used to conduct legal research, develop and frame legal arguments, produce legal writings such as briefs, memorandums, and other legal documents.

Practicum in Legal Studies* (2)

The practicum course is designed to give students supervised practical application of previously studied knowledge and skills in law, public safety, corrections, and security. Practicum experiences can occur in a variety of locations appropriate to the nature and level of experience.



| Occupations | Median Wage | Annual Openings | % Growth |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| Lawyers | \$126,131 | 2,801 | 19% |
| Paralegal and Legal Assistants | \$50,544 | 2,837 | 19% |

Successful completion of the Legal Studies program of study will fulfill requirements of the Public Service endorsement.

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