

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. This career cluster includes occupations ranging from police officer and firefighter to political scientist and lawyer.



Legal Studies (VMHS) Statewide Program of Study



The Legal Studies program of study focuses on topics such as legal research, legal writing, rules of procedure, case management, law office technology, and legal ethics. Areas of the legal system studied include aspects of family law, criminal law, and contract law.

Secondary Courses for High School Credit

Level 1	T489	Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security (1/YL)
Level 2	T493	Court Systems & Practices (1/YL)
Level 3	T499	Legal Research and Writing (1/YL) Or/And
	T490	Advanced Legal Skills and Professions (1/YL)
Level 4	T496	Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security-Legal Services (2/YL) Or
	T491	Forensic Science (1/YL)



Example Postsecondary Opportunities

Apprenticeships

- Law Apprenticeship

Associate Degrees

- Paralegal Studies
- Court Reporting and Captioning

Bachelor's Degrees

- Legal Research
- Legal Studies

Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degrees

- Juris Doctorate
- International and Comparative Law

Additional Stackable IBCs/Licensures

- Paralegal

Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

Work-Based Learning Activities

- Shadow a clerk in a courthouse to learn about civil litigation
- Intern at a law firm, working alongside a paralegal to produce and organize legal documents
- Work part-time as an administrative assistant at a local non-profit that provides legal aid

Expanded Learning Opportunities

- Participate in Mock Trial

Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- General Management
- Administrative Assisting



Example Aligned Occupations

Court Reporters

Median Wage: \$51,177
Annual Openings: 174
10-Year Growth: 11%

Paralegals and Legal Assistants

Median Wage: \$56,310
Annual Openings: 4,046
10-Year Growth: 23%

Lawyers

Median Wage: \$134,158
Annual Openings: 3,915
10-Year Growth: 19%

Data Source: TexasWages, Texas Workforce Commission. Retrieved 3/8/2024.

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



For more information visit: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/programs-of-study-additional-resources>