



Legal Studies

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.



Courses for High School Credit

Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court Systems and Practices Business Law
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Legal Skills and Professions Legal Research and Writing
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forensic Science Practicum in Legal Studies

Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- General Management
- Administrative Assisting

Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

Work-Based Learning Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in Mock Trial



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



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

Example Aligned Occupations

(Based on statewide employment data)



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%



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



Legal Studies Course Descriptions:

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security- LAW1000 (1 Credit)

Level: 1 Course Fee: None
Prerequisite: None GPA Weight: Regular

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- LEG2000 (1 Credit)

Level: 2 Course Fee: None
Prerequisite: None GPA Weight: Regular

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.

Business Law- BUS1100 (1 Credit)

Level: 2 Course Fee: None
Prerequisite: None GPA Weight: Regular or Advanced

Business Law is designed for students to analyze various aspects of the legal environment, including ethics, the judicial system, contracts, personal property, sales, negotiable instruments, agency and employment, business organization, risk management, and real property.

Available for Dual Credit from Lone Star College (BUSI2301)



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Advanced Legal Skills and Professions- LEG3100 (1 Credit)

Level: 3 Course Fee: None
Prerequisite: None GPA Weight: Regular

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, study U.S. Constitutional law, and prepare for appellate argument(s).

Course taught exclusively at the Tomball Innovation Center

Legal Research and Writing- LEG3200 (1 Credit)

Level: 3 Course Fee: None
Prerequisite: None GPA Weight: Regular

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, study U.S. Constitutional law, and prepare for appellate argument(s).

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Forensic Science- SCI6600 (1 Credit)

Level: 4 Course Fee: \$15
Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry (IPC or Physics) GPA Weight: Regular

Forensic Science is a course that introduces students to the application of science to connect a violation of law to a specific criminal, criminal act, or behavior and victim. Students will learn terminology and procedures related to the search and examination of physical evidence in criminal cases as they are performed in a typical crime laboratory. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence such as fingerprints, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, paint, glass, and cartridge cases. Students will also learn the history and the legal aspects as they relate to each discipline of forensic science and understand that scientific methods of investigation can be experimental, descriptive, or comparative. **Note: This course satisfies a science credit requirement for students on the Foundation High School Program.**

Practicum in Legal Studies- LEG4000 (2 Credits)

Level: 4 Course Fee: None
Prerequisite: 2 credits in the Program of Study GPA Weight: Regular

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. Students are encouraged to participate in extended learning experiences such as career and technical student organizations and other leadership or extracurricular organizations.

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