



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.

Statewide Program of Study: 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.

Secondary Courses for High School Credit

Level 1 • Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Level 2 • Court Systems and Practices

Level 3 • Advanced Legal Skills and Professions

Level 4 • Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

Dual Credit Dual credit offerings will vary by local education agency.

Students should be advised to consider these course opportunities to enrich their preparation. AP or IB courses not listed under the Secondary Courses for High School Credit section of this framework document do not count towards concentrator/completer status for this program of study.

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

- Administrative Assisting



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

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.



For more information visit:

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