



# 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>