



# LAW & PUBLIC SERVICE

The Law & 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

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

### Legal Studies

### Belton New Tech High School Course Pathway

Investigation	◆ Court Systems & Practices
Navigation	◆ Legal Research Systems & Writing
Preparation	◆ Advanced Legal Systems & Professions ◆ Forensic Science
Application	◆ Practicum in Law (TBA) ◆ Career Preparation for Program of Study



**ALIGNED ENDORSEMENT:** Successful completion of the Law Enforcement program of study fulfills the requirements of the Public Services endorsement.

#### ALIGNED OCCUPATIONS

##### Court Reports

- ◆ Median Wage: \$51,117
- ◆ Annual Openings: 174
- ◆ 10-year Growth: 11%

##### Paralegals & 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%

#### WORK-BASED LEARNING

- ◆ Courthouse clerk shadowing
- ◆ Law firm intern
- ◆ Legal Administrative Assistant

#### EXPANDED LEARNING

- ◆ SkillsUSA participation
- ◆ Mock Trial participation

#### INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATIONS

- ◆ General Management
- ◆ Administrative Assisting

#### POSTSECONDARY LEARNING

##### Apprenticeships

- ◆ Law Apprenticeship

##### Associate Degrees

- ◆ Paralegal Studies
- ◆ Court Reporting & Captioning

##### Bachelor's Degrees

- ◆ Legal Research
- ◆ Legal Studies

##### Master's, Doctoral, & Prof. Degrees

- ◆ Juris Doctorate
- ◆ International & Comparative Law

##### Stackable IBCs/Licensures

- ◆ Paralegal



## Legal Studies Course Details

COURSE	GRADE LEVEL	PREREQUISITES	COURSE CODE BISD CODE COURSE CREDIT	ALIGNED IBC	CAMPUS
Court Systems & Practices (Level 2)	9-12	None	13029600 27435 1 credit		BNT
Legal Research & Writing (Level 3)	10-12	Recommend pre- or co- requisite: Court Systems & Practices	13018610 27106 1 credit		BNT
Advanced Legal Systems & Professions (Level 3)	11-12	Court Systems & Practices	N1303016 27111 1 credit	General Management	BNT
Forensic Science* (Level 4)  (Satisfies a science requirement)	11-12	Biology Chemistry, IPC, or Physics	13029500 27415 1 credit		BHS LBHS BNT
Practicum in Law* (Level 4)	12	2+ courses for 2+ credits in aligned POS	13030100 TBA 2 credits	General Management	BNT
Career Prep for Program of Study* (Level 4)  (Related job placement Required—10 hrs/wk)	12	2+ courses for 2+ credits (with level 2 or higher course) in aligned POS	12701121 27515 2 credits		BHS LBHS BNT
Ext. Career Prep for Program of Study* (Level 4)  (Related job placement Required—15 hrs/wk)	12	2+ courses for 2+ credits (with level 2 or higher course) in aligned POS	12701141 27517 3 credits		BHS LBHS BNT

\*Course is included in additional programs of study.



## Legal Studies Course Descriptions

Court Systems & Practices	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.
Legal Research & Writing	Legal Research and Writing provides an introduction to 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).
Advanced Legal Systems & Professions	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, 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. Students will gain an understanding of the attorney-client relationship and the importance of confidentiality, discovery, pretrial motions, jury selection, opening statements, direct and cross examinations, proper use of objections and the rules of evidence, and closing arguments. By actually conducting elements of a full trial, students will also increase their ability to extemporize appropriately by thinking on their feet. Students will learn how to evaluate a set of facts and mold it into a coherent trial strategy, learning trial practice from the ground floor.
Forensic Science	Forensic Science is a survey course that introduces students to the application of science to law. Students learn terminology and procedures related to the collection and examination of physical evidence using scientific processes performed in a field or laboratory setting. Students also learn the history and the legal aspects of forensic science.
Practicum in Law	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.
Career Preparation	Career Preparation I provides opportunities for students to participate in a work-based learning experience that combines classroom instruction with business and industry employment experiences. The goal is to prepare students with a variety of skills for a changing workplace. Career preparation is relevant and rigorous, supports student attainment of academic standards, and effectively prepares students for college and career success.

