Law and Public Service

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 all aspects of the military, police officer and firefighter to political scientist and lawyer.

Program of Study: Legal Studies (Dual Credit Courses)

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

9th Grade	Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
10th Grade	Business Law
11th Grade	Court Systems and Practices Legal and Research Writing (San Jacinto College Course) Advanced Legal Skills & Professions (San Jacinto College Course)
12th Grade	Forensic Science Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security OR Career Preparation for Programs of Study

Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher to qualify for dual credit.

Work-Based Learning/Expanded Learning Opportunities

Work-Based Learning Activities	• Attend court hearings and other legal procedures • Participate in a mock trial program
Expanded Learning Opportunities	• Criminal Justice Club • Earn dual credit hours

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/License

- Paralegal

Example Aligned Occupations

Court Reporters
Median Wage: $99,247
Annual Openings: 276
10-Year Growth: 11%

Paralegals and Legal Assistants
Median Wage: $58,736
Annual Openings: 3,212
10-Year Growth: 23%

Lawyers
Median Wage: $144,997
Annual Openings: 3,686
10-Year Growth: 19%

Successful completion of this program of study will fulfill requirements of the Public Service Endorsement.
Approved Statewide Program of Study. C. E. King High School – 2026-27

Legal Studies
Course Information

Level 1

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security — **13029200**

Grade: 9-10 **Credit: 1**

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.

Level 2

Business Law — **13011700**

Grade: 10-12 **Credit: 1**
Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

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.

Court Systems and Practices — **13029600**

Grade: 10-12 **Credit: 1**
Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

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.

Level 3

Legal and Research Writing (San Jacinto College Course) — **N1303014**

Grade: 11-12 **Credit: 1**

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 Skills and Professions (San Jacinto College Course) — **N1303016**

Grade: 11-12 **Credit: 1**

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 and the basics of American court systems, 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.

Level 4

Forensic Science (Satisfies a science credit) — **13029500**

Grade: 11-12 **Credit: 1** **GPA: 4.0**
Prerequisite: Biology AND Chemistry, IPC, or Physics

Forensic Science is a course that uses a structured and scientific approach to the investigation of crimes of assault, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, accidental death, homicide, and the psychology of criminal behavior. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to crime scene, questioning, interviewing, criminal behavior characteristics, truth detection, and scientific procedures used to solve crimes. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crimes scenes such as fingerprinting analysis, ballistics, and blood spatter analysis. Students will learn the history, legal aspects, and career options for forensic science.

Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security — **13030100**

Grade: 12 **Credit: 2**
Prerequisite: 1 credit in a Law and Public Service course

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.