



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

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| Level 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security |
| Level 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political Science I Business Law Court Systems and Practices |
| Level 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political Science II Legal Research and Writing Advanced Legal Skills and Professions |
| Level 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forensic Science Career and Technical Education Project-Based Capstone Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security + Extended Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Career Preparation for Programs of Study Career Preparation for Programs of Study + Extended Career Preparation |



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

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

- Certified Paralegal
- General Management



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%

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/lps-legal-studies-extendedpptx.pdf>