



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 all aspects of the military, 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

- Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
- Court Systems and Practices
- Legal Research and Writing
- Forensic Science
- Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

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

- General Management



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: \$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>



Law and Public Service Career Cluster

Statewide Program of Study: Legal Studies

Course Information

Level 1

Course	Prerequisites Corequisites	Career Clusters
Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security* 13029200 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: None Recommended Corequisites: None	

Level 2

Course	Prerequisites Corequisites	Career Clusters
Political Science I* 13018300 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: Principles of Government and Public Administration Recommended Corequisites: None	
Business Law 13011700 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: None Recommended Corequisites: None	 
Court Systems and Practices 13029600 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: Law Enforcement I or Principles of Government and Public Administration Recommended Corequisites: None	
Foundations of Court Reporting N1303017 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: English I and Principles of Government and Public Administration Recommended Corequisites: None	

Level 3

Course	Prerequisites Corequisites	Career Clusters
Political Science II* 13018400 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: Principles of Government and Public Administration, or Political Science I Recommended Corequisites: None	
Legal Research and Writing 13018610 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: At least one credit in a course from the Law and Public Safety career cluster Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: Court Systems and Practices Recommended Corequisites: None	

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* Indicates course is included in more than one program of study in this career cluster.

For additional information on the **Law and Public Service** career cluster, contact cte@tea.texas.gov or visit <https://tea.texas.gov/cte>



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Course Information

Level 3

Course	Prerequisites Corequisites	Career Clusters
Advanced Legal Skills and Professions N1303016 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, Court Systems and Practices, Business Law, Debate I, or Political Science I Recommended Corequisites: None	

Level 4

Course	Prerequisites Corequisites	Career Clusters
Forensic Science* 13029500 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: One credit in biology, one credit in chemistry, Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC), or physics Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: None Recommended Corequisites: None	
Career and Technical Education Project-Based Capstone* First Time Taken: 12701101 (1 credit)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: None Recommended Corequisites: None	
Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security* First Time Taken: 13030100 (2 credits) Second Time Taken: 13030110 (2 credits)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: None Recommended Corequisites: None	
Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security + Extended Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security* First Time Taken: 13030105 (3 credits) Second Time Taken: 13030115 (3 credits)	Prerequisites: None Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: None Recommended Corequisites: None	

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Course Information

Level 4

Course	Prerequisites Corequisites	Career Clusters
Career Preparation for Programs of Study* First Time Taken: 12701121 (2 credits)	Prerequisites: At least one Level 2 or higher CTE course Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: None Recommended Corequisites: None	
Career Preparation for Programs of Study + Extended Career Preparation* First Time Taken: 12701141 (3 credits)	Prerequisites: At least one Level 2 or higher CTE course Corequisites: None Recommended Prerequisites: None Recommended Corequisites: None	

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