

Legal Studies/Paralegal/Pre-Law

*Bachelor of Arts
College of Professional Studies*

Choosing Your Path

The Legal Studies program offers an alternative to law school for students who wish to work in the legal field as a paralegal or in another capacity other than that of an attorney. The American Bar Association (ABA) defines a legal assistant or paralegal as a person qualified by education, training or work experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency or other entity who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible. In other words, a paralegal is a professional who acts under the supervision of a licensed attorney and can do almost everything the attorney can do except give legal advice, represent another person in court, sign pleadings and discuss legal fees. The program combines the study of a broad range of substantive areas of law with a secondary concentration on technology and management skills. Emphasis is also placed on developing the student's analytical abilities. Issues related to ethics and professional responsibility are incorporated throughout the curriculum. The curriculum also has a strong liberal arts component. Two options are available to students seeking the B.A. in Legal Studies.

Curriculum Options

The Legal Studies **professional option** is primarily designed for students who intend to work as a paralegal, whether traditional or non-traditional.

The Legal Studies **pre-law option** is for students who want to attend law school, but who may want the skills and knowledge to work in the field before attending law school.

There are two minors in Legal Studies available:

Law and Social Issues and Pre-Law. These minors are available to students who may wish to major in a discipline other than Legal Studies but want to include 12-15 semester hours of law courses.

Representative courses include:

- Law and Society • Legal Research & Writing • Advanced Legal Research & Writing • Civil Litigation • Evidence • Tort Law • Contracts & Business Entities
- Real Estate Law • Probate & Estate Planning • Survey of American Law
- Family Law • Criminal Law • Consumer Rights • Sex Discrimination Law
- Criminal Procedure • Bankruptcy • Constitutional Law • The Paralegal & the Legal Profession • Employment Law • Law Office Computer Applications
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

Career Opportunities

Law firms

*Federal, State, and Local
Government agencies*

Legal services offices

Corporations

Publishing companies

Mediation services

*Private non-profit
organizations*

*Accident investigation and
reconstruction firms*

*Many other public and
private sector businesses*

Alumni

*April King
Judicial Assistant to the
Hon. Ross Bilbrey*

*Laura Maki
Claims Litigation Counsel
State Farm Insurance Co.*

*Eric Shurger
Assistant District Legal Counsel
Florida Department of Children
and Families*

*Charisse Charles
Mass Tort Paralegal
Leve, Papantonio, Thomas,
Mitchell, Eschner & Proctor, P.A.*

*Irene Macy
Public Benefits Specialist
Northwest Florida Legal Services,
Inc.*

Recognition

*An Institutional Member of the
American Association for
Paralegal Education (AAfPE)*

*For complete information about
this degree program, we invite you
to contact:*

*Susan W. Harrell, J.D.
Associate Professor and
Coordinator, Legal Studies
Division of Criminal Justice and
Legal Studies
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Pensacola, FL 32514-5751
Phone: (850) 474-2336
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Web address:
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Internships and Field Studies

Internships, field studies, and cooperative education opportunities are available to qualified students. Students gain practical knowledge and experience in legal studies, an important component in the learning process. Placement opportunities are available in a variety of settings, including law firms, government agencies, corporations, non-profit organizations, and mediation services.

Student Organizations

Phi Alpha Delta International Pre-Law Fraternity offers lectures, seminars, community service projects, and social activities for its members.

Lambda Epsilon Chi is the national paralegal honor society.

The alumni newsletter provides opportunities for professional networking and updates on former classmates.

Scholarships

Northwest Florida Paralegal Association
Kaplan LSAT Preparation Scholarship
Steven P. Bolyard Scholarship
Lambda Epsilon Chi
National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.
National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.

Student Opportunities

Sponsored memberships for qualified students in:

National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.
National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.
Northwest Florida Paralegal Association

Mock trial team competitions through the American Mock Trial Association.

The Faculty

The faculty of the legal studies program is active in research efforts, publishing, and as active members of the bar.

Faculty members include:

Susan W. Harrell (J.D., Cumberland School of Law, Samford University).

Fernaundra Feguson (J.D., Howard University).

Kimberly M. Tatum (J.D., University of Florida)

Ross Goodman (J.D., University of Florida; Board Certified Trial Lawyer by The Florida Bar and National Board of Trial Advocacy).

Jason Mosley (J.D., Florida State University; LLM, University of Florida)

The faculty also includes adjuncts who are prominent local attorneys and judges.