

# 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

- Level 1**
  - Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

---

- Level 2**
  - Political Science I
  - Business Law
  - Court Systems and Practices
  - Foundations of Court Reporting

---

- Level 3**
  - Political Science II
  - Legal Research and Writing
  - Advanced Legal Skills and Professions
  - Civil Law and Procedures (TBD)

---

- Level 4**
  - Forensic Science
  - 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

### Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

**Dual Credit** Dual credit offerings will vary by Local Education Agency

Students should be advised to consider these course opportunities to enrich their preparation. AP or IB courses not listed under the Secondary Courses for High School Credit section of this framework document do not count towards Concentrator/Completer status for this program of study.

### Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

<b>Work-Based Learning Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shadow a clerk in a courthouse to learn about civil litigation</li> <li>• Intern at a law firm, working alongside a paralegal to produce and organize legal documents</li> <li>• Work part-time as an administrative assistant at a local non-profit that provides legal aid</li> </ul>
<b>Expanded Learning Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in mock trial</li> </ul>

### Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- General Management
- Administrative Assisting



### 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: \$51,177  
Annual Openings: 174  
10-Year Growth: 11%

#### Paralegals and 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%

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/programs-of-study-additional-resources>



# Law and Public Service Career Cluster

## Statewide Program of Study: Legal Studies

### Course Information

Level	Course	Prerequisites   Corequisites	Career Clusters
Level 1	<b>Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security*</b> 13029200 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
Level 2	<b>Political Science I*</b> 13018300 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Principles of Government and Public Administration <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
	<b>Business Law*</b> 13011700 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
	<b>Court Systems and Practices</b> 13029600 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Law Enforcement I or Principles of Government or Public Administration <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
	<b>Foundations of Court Reporting</b> N1303017 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> : English I and Principles of Government and Public Administration <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
	<b>Political Science II*</b> 13018400 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Principles of Government and Public Administration or Political Science I <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
Level 3	<b>Legal Research and Writing</b> N1303014 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Court Systems and Practices <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
	<b>Advanced Legal Skills and Professions</b> N1303016 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security, Court Systems and Practices, Business Law, Debate I, or Political Science I <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
	<b>Civil Law and Procedures</b> TBD (TBD credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> TBD <b>Corequisites:</b> TBD <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> TBD <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> TBD	

\* Indicates course is included in more than one program of study.

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



# Law and Public Service Career Cluster

## Statewide Program of Study: Legal Studies

### Course Information

Level 4

Course	Prerequisites   Corequisites	Career Clusters
<b>Forensic Science*</b> 13029500 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> one credit in Biology, one credit in Chemistry, Integrated Physics and Chemistry, or Physics <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
<b>Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security*</b> First Time Taken: 13030100 (2 credits) Second Time Taken: 13030110 (2 credits)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
<b>Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security + Extended Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security*</b> First Time Taken: 13030105 (3 credits) Second Time Taken: 13030115 (3 credits)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
<b>Career Preparation for Programs of Study*</b> First Time Taken: 12701121 (2 credits)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> at least one Level 2 or higher Career and Technical Education course <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
<b>Career Preparation for Programs of Study + Extended Career Preparation*</b> First Time Taken: 12701141 (3 credits)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> at least one Level 2 or higher Career and Technical Education course <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	

\* Indicates course is included in more than one program of study.

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



[LEA name] does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: [title], [address], [telephone number], [email]. Further nondiscrimination information can be found at [Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs](#).