



# 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

**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

**Level 4** • 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

### 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
- Forensic Technician



### 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                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security*</b><br>13029200 (1 credit) | <b>Prerequisites:</b> None<br><b>Corequisites:</b> None<br><b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None<br><b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None |  |

#### Level 2

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

#### Level 3

| Course                                                   | Prerequisites   Corequisites                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Career Clusters                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Political Science II*</b><br>13018400 (1 credit)      | <b>Prerequisites:</b> None<br><b>Corequisites:</b> None<br><b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Principles of Government and Public Administration, or Political Science I<br><b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None                           |  |
| <b>Legal Research and Writing</b><br>13018610 (1 credit) | <b>Prerequisites:</b> At least one credit in a course from the Law and Public Safety career cluster<br><b>Corequisites:</b> None<br><b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Court Systems and Practices<br><b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> 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](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 3

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

#### Level 4

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

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## Statewide Program of Study: Legal Studies

### Course Information

#### Level 4

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

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