

**SOCIAL SCIENCES & PUBLIC SERVICE**

**GUIDED PATHWAY: PARALEGAL**

For more information, visit [www.dcccd.edu/paralegal](http://www.dcccd.edu/paralegal) and your academic advisor at El Centro College.

This is an example course sequence for students interested in pursuing Paralegal Studies. It does not represent a contract, nor does it guarantee course availability. Following this pathway will help you earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Paralegal <sup>ii</sup>. For official degree requirements, [click here](#).

The AAS degree is designed to prepare you to function as a technically qualified assistant to the lawyer. Paralegals (also called legal assistants) typically work in law firms, governmental agencies, corporations, and other business entities. The program does not qualify a graduate to take a State Bar exam, represent clients in court, give legal advice, or provide independent legal services. Gainful employment information for this degree can be found at [www.dcccd.edu/gainfulemp](http://www.dcccd.edu/gainfulemp). Courses that complete the Degree (D) are noted below.

Visit [www.ntxccc.org/pathways](http://www.ntxccc.org/pathways) to view guided pathways created for students who complete an AAS degree and the options for transfer to complete a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science. Speak with an academic advisor at your college to choose courses that will help you to transfer to a specific university.



ONLY Offered at ECC

**COLLEGE READINESS REQUIREMENTS (only for the AAS)**

Enrolling in one or more courses may be necessary if assessment activities and previous academic experiences indicate a need for additional knowledge and skills:

READING & WRITING PLACEMENT	MATH PLACEMENT	ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
TSI READING MET: <u>  </u> YES <u>  </u> NO	TSI MATH MET: <u>  </u> YES <u>  </u> NO	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: <u>  </u> YES <u>  </u> NO
TSI WRITING MET: <u>  </u> YES <u>  </u> NO		
<i>IF TSI OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY NOT MET, INSERT COURSE(S) NEEDED</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> DREA / DWRI / DIRW <i>(CIRCLE ONE)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> DMAT	<input type="checkbox"/> ESOL
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
<i>Exemptions/waivers may exist. Speak with an academic advisor regarding placement in college readiness courses and your ability to enroll in core academic coursework.</i>		

**SEMESTER-BY-SEMESTER MAP FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS <sup>iii</sup>**

**ALL PLANS CAN BE MODIFIED TO FIT THE NEEDS OF PART-TIME STUDENTS**

D	PREREQUISITE SEMESTER 1	ACTION ITEMS
♦	LGLA 1301 – Legal Research and Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to confirm your academic and career goals by the end of the semester. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a career advisor/coach to research your career options with a Paralegal degree. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with faculty or a career advisor/coach regarding opportunities for job shadowing and internships.
♦	LGLA 1311 – Introduction to Law	
♦	LGLA 1313 – Introduction to Paralegal Studies	
♦	LGLA 1317 – Law Office Technology	
♦	ENGL 1301 – Composition I <sup>iv</sup> <i>(core course)</i>	
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 15</b>		
D	PREREQUISITE SEMESTER 2	ACTION ITEMS
♦	LGLA 1345 – Civil Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to file an official program of study audit, confirm or update your academic/career pathway and program of study. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a faculty or career advisor regarding placement for the Cooperative Education course.
♦	LGLA 1351 – Contracts	
♦	LGLA 1353 – Wills, Trusts and Probate Administration	
♦	LGLA 1355 – Family Law	
♦	MATH Elective <sup>iv, v</sup> <i>(core course)</i>	
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 15</b>		
D	SEMESTER 3	ACTION ITEMS
♦	LGLA 2303 – Torts and Personal Injury Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a faculty or career advisor regarding placement for the Cooperative Education course. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a career advisor or coach for assistance in preparing for job search.
♦	LGLA 2311 – Business Organizations	
♦	SPCH 1311 – Introduction to Speech Communication <b>OR</b>	
♦	SPCH 1315 – Public Speaking <i>(core courses)</i>	
♦	GOVT 2305 – Federal Government <b>OR</b>	
♦	GOVT 2306 – Texas Government <i>(core courses)</i>	
♦	LGLA 1380 – Cooperative Education-Legal Assistant/Paralegal <sup>vi</sup> <b>OR Paralegal Elective <sup>vii</sup></b>	
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 15</b>		
D	SEMESTER 3	ACTION ITEMS
♦	LGLA 2309 – Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> After reviewing your degree plan and program of study, apply for Graduation. ○ Meet with your advisor to apply for the Paralegal AAS. ○ Sign up for commencement. <input type="checkbox"/> Join the <a href="#">Alumni Network!</a>
♦	LGLA 2331 – Advanced Legal Research and Writing	
♦	LGLA 2380 – Cooperative Education-Legal Assistant/Paralegal <sup>vi</sup> <b>OR Paralegal Elective <sup>vii</sup></b>	
♦	Humanities/Fine Arts <sup>v</sup> <i>(core course)</i>	
♦	Social or Behavioral Science Elective <sup>v</sup> <i>(core course)</i>	
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 15</b>		
<b>AAS DEGREE MINIMUM: 60 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS   PATHWAY TOTAL: 60 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS</b>		

<sup>i</sup> Degree plans may change in later catalogs. You may use this pathway if you entered one of the seven colleges on or before this date.

<sup>ii</sup> Students must earn at least 25% of the credit hours (15 hours) required for graduation through instruction by one of the seven DCCCD colleges awarding the degree.

<sup>iii</sup> This is not an official degree plan. For official degree requirements, [click here](#).

<sup>iv</sup> You must earn a grade of "C" or better in English 1301 and the selected college-level mathematics course.

<sup>v</sup> There are several options to fulfill this requirement. See your academic advisor for a specific list.

<sup>vi</sup> Students are required to have a paid legal position prior to the beginning of the semester. The course offers college credit for legal work experience and lectures to aid in career development or advancement.

<sup>vii</sup> Paralegal Electives: SIX Semester credit hours must be selected from the following: LGLA 1300, LGLA 1323, LGLA 1343, LGLA 1359, LGLA 2313, LGLA 2315, LGLA 2323, LGLA 2335

THIS PATHWAY WAS LAST UPDATED ON JULY 23, 2019