

PARALEGAL CERTIFICATE

A growing number of legal institutions are using paralegals. Paralegals work in legal aid and public defender offices, consumer protection programs, government agencies, and private law firms. Students earning the Paralegal Certificate take legal studies courses and engage in hands-on practical experience through an internship or the department's legal clinic.

The Paralegal Certificate is not granted automatically. Students must apply through the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice early in their final semester in the program. A 2.5 grade point average in all courses for the certificate is required.

Course Requirements for the Certificate

The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this certificate.

Course	Title	Units
POLS 454W	Legal Research and Writing (W)	3
POLS 455	Civil Litigation	3
POLS 491	Trial and Appellate Advocacy	3
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 451A	Constitutional Law: Powers and Restraints	
POLS/MCGS 451B	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	
Select six units from the following: ¹		6
POLS 489K	Internship in Legal Studies	
POLS 490	Legal Clinic Practicum	
Select three of the following:		9
BLAW 413	Employment Law	
BLAW 414	Labor Law and Collective Bargaining	
BLAW 415	Entrepreneurship Law	
FINA 453	Estate Planning	
JOUR 320	Mass Communication Law	
PHHA 432	Laws, Ethics, and Regulations in Health Services	
POLS 258	Criminal Law	
POLS 356	Legal Analysis	
POLS 365W	Theories, Practices, and Administration of Justice (W)	
POLS 401W	Sexual Minorities Law/Politics (W)	
POLS 410	International Law	
POLS 450	Criminal Procedure	
POLS 451A	Constitutional Law: Powers and Restraints	
POLS 452	Alternative Dispute Resolution	
POLS 461	Environmental Politics and Policy	
POLS 464	Administrative Law	
POLS 468	Planning Law	
POLS/SWRK 481	Law and Disadvantaged Persons	
POLS 495	Community Legal Information Clinic Directorship ²	
RHPM 428	Legal Principles of Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management	

Other law-related courses selected with prior permission of the Legal Studies Coordinator

Total Units **27**

¹ These courses may be taken more than once for credit.

² Only 3 units may be counted in this selection.