

Paralegal – Associate of Applied Science



Program Overview	The Pre-Law Strand is for students wanting to explore careers in the courts and government fields: lawyers, paralegals, legal secretaries, court reporters, politics, government operations and foreign affairs. Students have the opportunity to earn an associate degree in Paralegal Studies in a partnership with El Centro College
General Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must score in the 50 percentile or above on recent Standardized Achievement tests in Reading and Math. Incoming 9th or 10th grade students only. Apply through Skyward. Select Classical and Career - Law
Program Objectives & Certifications	In the Paralegal program, you will learn how to handle routine assignments for attorneys, with opportunities for advancement in many areas. This dual credit program in partnership with El Centro's Paralegal program is an associate degree program designed to prepare you to work as a technically qualified paralegal to attorneys. If your plan is to go to law school, this program provides an excellent legal background.
Sequence of Law Courses	<p>9th Grade: Intro to Law and Paralegal Studies</p> <p>10th Grade: Legal Research & Writing/Law Office Technology</p> <p>11th Grade: Real Property/Civil Litigation/Wills, Trusts, Probate/Family Law</p> <p>12th Grade: Criminal Law and Procedure/Contracts/Torts and Personal Injury/Business Organizations</p> <p>Summer after 12th Grade: Advanced Legal Research and Writing (taken at El Centro)</p>
Student Leadership Organization & Accomplishments	Our student run YMCA Youth and Government program gives hands on experience with the law. Students compete in trial court, appellate court, state affairs and legislative at the district, state and national levels. Students also participate in the State Model United Nations conference.
Post High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> El Centro College - Paralegal AAS University of North Texas at Dallas – BAAS in Criminal Justice and Law School Tarleton State University Texas A&M Commerce <p>These rates are entry hourly wages for Paralegal jobs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title Examiner/Abstractor - \$18.13/hour Legal Support Worker - \$22.11/hour Paralegal/Legal Assistant - \$22.26/hour
Instructor	Jay Stigers (mstigers@garlandisd.net) has been a licensed attorney in Texas since 2000. His legal experience has focused primarily in the areas of corporate law, estate planning, and probate. He received his law degree from South Texas School of Law in Houston. He also holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English. Mr. Stigers currently serves as an adjunct with the El Centro campus of Dallas College.
Testimonials	The Paralegal program graduated its first graduates with the Class of 2020.