Legal Studies/Paralegal/Pre-Law
Bachelor of Arts
College of Professional Studies

Choosing Your Path
The Legal Studies program offers an alternative to law school for students who wish to work in the legal field as a paralegal or in another capacity other than that of an attorney. The American Bar Association (ABA) defines a legal assistant or paralegal as a person qualified by education, training or work experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency or other entity who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible. In other words, a paralegal is a professional who acts under the supervision of a licensed attorney and can do almost everything the attorney can do except give legal advice, represent another person in court, sign pleadings and discuss legal fees. The program combines the study of a broad range of substantive areas of law with a secondary concentration on technology and management skills. Emphasis is also placed on developing the student’s analytical abilities. Issues related to ethics and professional responsibility are incorporated throughout the curriculum. The curriculum also has a strong liberal arts component. Two options are available to students seeking the B.A. in Legal Studies.

Curriculum
The Legal Studies major is designed for students who would like to work as a paralegal, whether traditional or non-traditional or students who want to attend law school, but who may want the skills and knowledge to work in the field before attending law school. There is a minor in Legal Studies-Pre-Law available to students who may wish to major in a discipline other than Legal Studies but want to include 12-15 semester hours of law courses.

Representative courses include:
• Law and Society • Legal Research & Writing • Advanced Legal Research & Writing • Civil Litigation • Evidence • Tort Law • Contracts & Business Entities • Real Estate Law • Probate & Estate Planning • Survey of American Law
Career Opportunities

Law firms
Federal, State, and Local
Government agencies
Legal services offices
Corporations
Publishing companies
Mediation services
Private non-profit organizations
Accident investigation and reconstruction firms
Many other public and private sector businesses

Internships and Field Studies

Internships, field studies, and cooperative education opportunities are available to qualified students. Students gain practical knowledge and experience in legal studies, an important component in the learning process. Placement opportunities are available in a variety of settings, including law firms, government agencies, corporations, non-profit organizations, and mediation services.

Student Organizations

Phi Alpha Delta International Pre-Law Fraternity offers lectures, seminars, community service projects, and social activities for its members.
Lambda Epsilon Chi is the national paralegal honor society.
The alumni newsletter provides opportunities for professional networking and updates on former classmates.

Scholarships

Northwest Florida Paralegal Association
Kaplan LSAT Preparation Scholarship
Steven P. Bolyard Scholarship
Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX)
National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.
National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.
Northwest Florida Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
Student Opportunities
Sponsored memberships for qualified students in:
National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.
National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.
Northwest Florida Paralegal Association
UWF Mock Trial Team (American Mock Trial Association).

The Faculty
The faculty of the legal studies program is active in research efforts, publishing, community service and as active members of the bar.
Faculty members include:
Susan W. Harrell (J.D., Cumberland School of Law, Samford University).
Kimberly M. Tatum (J.D., University of Florida)
Charles Penrod (J.D. Louisiana State University)
Hal White (J.D., University of Miami)
The faculty also includes adjuncts who are prominent local attorneys and judges.

Representative Alumni
April King, Judicial Assistant to the Hon. Ross Bilbrey, First Judicial Circuit Court
Robin White, Judicial Assistant to the Hon. Ross Goodman
Kimberly Eaton, Judicial Assistant to the Hon. Joey Boles
Mary Miller, Judicial Assistant to the Hon.
Wanda Willis, Judicial Assistant to the Hon. Michael Allen
Laura Maki, Claims Litigation Counsel, State Farm Insurance Co.
Eric Shurger, Assistant District Legal Counsel, Florida Department of Children And Families
Charisse Charles, Mass Tort Paralegal, Levin Papantonio Law Firm
Irene Macy, Public Benefits Specialist, Northwest Florida Legal Services, Inc.

Recognition
An Institutional Member of the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE)

For complete information about this degree program, we invite you to contact:
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