

Paralegal Certificate

Approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) continuously for more than 40 years, our Paralegal program provides a practical educational experience to students new to the legal profession and those with years of experience working in law. The JCCC program provides students with real-world assignments and experiences to develop the skills needed to begin, continue, and move ahead in careers at private law firms, corporate legal departments, and government agencies.

Paralegals may not provide legal services directly to the public, except as permitted by law.

The JCCC Paralegal program will prepare you for a successful career as a paralegal. You will learn how to investigate, interview, research legal precedent, and draft legal documents under the direction and supervision of an attorney. You will also develop skills in legal technology, litigation preparation, legal analysis, and communication.

Program Objectives

Our graduates should be able to demonstrate:

- competency in the fundamental principles and procedures relating to the major areas of law in the United States;
- an understanding of the ethical standards of the legal profession;
- effective general and legal technology skills;
- effective communication skills used in a legal setting;
- the ability to collaborate effectively in a legal setting; and
- the ability to retrieve, evaluate, and apply legal authority.

Because we are an ABA-approved paralegal program, you must have earned a qualifying degree before you can be awarded the Paralegal Certificate from JCCC.

If you do not yet have a qualifying degree, you can still apply to the Paralegal program to earn the Paralegal Certificate, but you must simultaneously enroll in the Liberal Arts, AA (<https://catalog.jccc.edu/archives/2024-25/degrecertificates/liberalarts/liberal-arts-aa/>) degree program. You will be required to complete 60 semester credit hours, which are a combination of general education courses and paralegal courses. You must also complete the prerequisite courses ENGL 121 (or its equivalent), LAW 120, and LAW 121 with a grade of "C" or higher before your admission to the Paralegal program.

If you have an associate of arts, associate of science, bachelor's, or graduate degree from a U.S. regionally accredited institution, then you may apply to the Paralegal program to earn the Paralegal Certificate, which requires successful completion of 32 semester credit hours. The prerequisite courses LAW 120 and LAW 121 must be completed by the end of your first semester in the Paralegal Certificate program.

A minimum of 18 hours of legal specialty courses must be taken from Johnson County Community College. JCCC, as an ABA-approved paralegal program, requires its students to take at least nine-semester credits through synchronous (real-time) instruction, which may occur on campus or online.

Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher in all LAW courses.

(Major Code 489A; CIP Code 22.0302)

Paralegal Program web page (<http://www.jccc.edu/academics/credit/paralegal/>)

Certificate Requirements

Program Prerequisites

Code	Title	Hours
LAW 120	Introduction to Paralegal Studies	3
LAW 121	Introduction to Law	3
Total Hours		6

First Semester

Code	Title	Hours
Paralegal Elective (see below)		3
LAW 132	Civil Litigation*	3
LAW 134	Introduction to Legal Technology*	3

LAW 195	Legal Research*	3
Total Hours		12

Second Semester

Code	Title	Hours
Paralegal Elective (see below)		5
LAW 201	Advanced Legal Technology*	3
LAW 205	Legal Analysis and Writing*	3
LAW 271	Legal Ethics, Interviewing and Investigation*	3
Total Hours		14

Total Program Hours: 32

Paralegal Electives

Code	Title	Hours
LAW 142	Tort Law*	3
LAW 144	Contract Law*	3
LAW 148	Criminal Litigation*	3
LAW 152	Real Estate Law*	3
LAW 162	Family Law*	3
LAW 165	Forensic Science and the Law*	3
LAW 226	Immigration Law*	3
LAW 232	eDiscovery and Document Management*	2
LAW 245	Elder Law and Estate Planning*	3
LAW 247	Intellectual Property Law*	3
LAW 266	Employment Law*	3
LAW 269	Bankruptcy Law*	3
LAW 275	Paralegal Internship I*	1
LAW 276	Paralegal Internship II*	1
LAW 277	Paralegal Internship III*	1
LAW 292	Special Topics:*	1-3

* This course has registration requirements.