

PARALEGAL STUDIES - B.A.

College of Arts and Sciences

Center for Comparative and Integrative Programs
105 Bowman Hall
Kent Campus
330-672-2062
www.kent.edu/ccip

Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Paralegal Studies combines a liberal arts background with law-related specialty courses to provide students with communication, critical reasoning and analytical skills; knowledge of the legal system; and practical hands-on experience.

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

For more information visit the Paralegal Studies office located in 113 Bowman Hall (Kent Campus); 330-672-4148; www.kent.edu/paralegal.

Fully Offered At:

- Kent Campus

Accreditation

The B.A. degree in Paralegal Studies is approved by the American Bar Association (ABA).

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

Freshman Students on the Kent Campus: The freshman admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon the following: cumulative grade point average, ACT and/or SAT scores, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. The Admissions Office at the Kent Campus may defer the admission of students who do not meet admissions criteria but who demonstrate areas of promise for successful college study. Deferred applicants may begin their college coursework at one of seven regional campuses of Kent State University. For more information on admissions, including additional requirements for some academic programs, visit the admissions website for new freshmen.

Freshman Students on the Regional Campuses: Kent State campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Regional Academic Center in Twinsburg, have open enrollment admission for students who hold a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.

English Language Proficiency Requirements for International Students: All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning a minimum 525 TOEFL score (71 on the Internet-based version), minimum 75 MELAB score, minimum 6.0 IELTS score or minimum 48 PTE score, or by completing the ESL level 112 Intensive Program. For more information on

international admission, visit the Office of Global Education's admission website.

Transfer, Transitioning and Former Students: For more information about admission criteria for transfer, transitioning and former students, please visit the admissions website.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Analyze a legal problem as well as identify and evaluate alternative solutions.
2. Formulate logical solutions to problems and construct logical arguments in support of specific positions as well as evaluate solutions and arguments.
3. Determine which areas of law are relevant to a particular situation.
4. Apply principles of professional ethics to specific factual situations.
5. Identify interrelationships among cases, statutes, regulations, and other legal authorities.
6. Apply recognized legal authority to a specific factual situation.
7. Analyze factual situations to determine when it is appropriate to apply exceptions to general legal rules.
8. Apply exceptions to general legal rules.
9. Distinguish evidentiary facts from other material and/or controlling facts.
10. Identify factual omissions and inconsistencies.

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

Destination Kent State: First Year Experience	1
Course is not required for students with 25 transfer credits, excluding College Credit Plus, or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG)	2 courses
Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.	
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies
Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 (or 42)
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate. Students in a B.A. and/or B.S. degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 42 upper-division credit hours.	
Total Credit Hour Requirement	120
Some bachelor's degrees require students to complete more than 120 credit hours.	

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCMP)	6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)	3

Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)	9
Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional (KADL)	6
Total Credit Hours:	36-37

General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 42 upper-division credit hours)	21
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	120

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
PLST 18000	INTRODUCTION TO PARALEGAL STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS	3
PLST 28001	LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING	3
PLST 28004	PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF LITIGATION	3
PLST 36792	INTERNSHIP IN PARALEGAL (ELR) ¹	6
PLST 38006	APPLIED LEGAL RESEARCH AND LITIGATION (WIC) ²	3
Legal Specialty Electives, choose from the following:		24
PLST 28003	FAMILY LAW AND PROCEDURE	
PLST 28007	ESTATE AND PROBATE ADMINISTRATION	
PLST 35001	ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FOR PARALEGALS	
PLST 35003	HEALTH LAW	
PLST 35005	LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW FOR PARALEGALS	
PLST 35007	ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW	
PLST 38003	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND PROCESS	
PLST 38005	TORT LAW	
PLST 42701	EVIDENCE AND E-DISCOVERY	
PLST 42705	BANKRUPTCY LAW I: BASIC FUNDAMENTALS	
PLST 42706	BANKRUPTCY LAW II: CREDITOR-DEBTOR RELATIONS	
PLST 42708	REAL ESTATE LAW	
PLST 48002	CONTRACT LAW	
PLST 48300	LAW OF CORPORATIONS AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS	
PLST 48401	PATENT LAW	
PLST 48403	PATENT PROSECUTION	
PLST 48404	COPYRIGHT LAW I	
PLST 48407	TRADEMARK LAW	
PLST 48408	TRADEMARK PROSECUTION	

Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)

UC 10097	DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1
Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below)		14-16
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each)		9
Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines)		6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory)		6-7
Kent Core Additional		6
College General Requirement (must be from Kent Core Basic Sciences) ³		3
College General Requirement (must be from Kent Core Social Sciences) ⁴		3

- ¹ Although required minimum hours for internship is 6 credit hours, it is recommended that students enroll in more than one internship.
- ² A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.
- ³ One additional course taken from the Kent Core Basic Science courses in the following Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Biological Sciences (BSCI), Chemistry (CHEM), Geography (GEOG), Geology (GEOL) or Physics (PHY). The course may not be from the student's major.
- ⁴ One additional course taken from the Kent Core Social Sciences courses in the following Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Geography (GEOG), Criminology and Justice Studies (CRIM), Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS), Political Science (POL), Psychology (PSYC) or Sociology (SOC). The course may not be from the student's major.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

Foreign Language College Requirement

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 14-16 credit hours of foreign language. ¹ To complete the requirement, students have the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options:

1. Intermediate I and II of the same language ²
2. Elementary I and II of a second language
3. Any combination of two courses from the following list:

- Intermediate I of the same language
- MCLS 10001 INTRODUCTION TO STRUCTURAL CONCEPTS FOR LANGUAGE STUDENTS
- MCLS 20091 VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR IN GLOBAL LITERACY: CASE STUDIES
- MCLS 21417 MULTICULTURALISM IN TODAY'S GERMANY (DIVG)
- MCLS 28404 THE LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (DIVG)

- ¹ All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may begin beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer credit hours and fewer courses. This may be accomplished by (1) passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level; (2) receiving credit through Credit by Exam (CBE), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or College Level Examination Program (CLEP); or (3) being designated a "native speaker" of a non-English language (consult with the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Office for additional information). When students complete the requirement with fewer than 14 credit hours and four courses, they will complete remaining credit hours with general electives.

² Certain majors, concentrations and minors may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular language coursework.

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
PLST 18000	INTRODUCTION TO PARALEGAL STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS	3
UC 10097	DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		14
Semester Two		
PLST 28004	PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF LITIGATION	3
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Three		
PLST 28001	LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING	3
Legal Specialty Electives		6
Kent Core Requirement		3
Foreign Language		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Four		
PLST 38006	APPLIED LEGAL RESEARCH AND LITIGATION (WIC)	3
Legal Specialty Electives		6
Foreign Language		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Five		
Legal Specialty Electives		6
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Six		
Legal Specialty Electives		6
College General Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Seven		
! PLST 36792	INTERNSHIP IN PARALEGAL (ELR)	3
College General Requirements		3
General Electives		9
Credit Hours		15
Semester Eight		
! PLST 36792	INTERNSHIP IN PARALEGAL (ELR)	3
General Electives		12
Credit Hours		15
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120