

# JUSTICE STUDIES MAJOR, PARALEGAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION (B.A.)

The Paralegal Studies Program, approved by the American Bar Association, offers students a balanced and varied background in theoretical and practical aspects of law, which are necessary for work as a paralegal. Over 60% of our graduates go on to work as paralegals or continue onto law school. The Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies with a concentration in Paralegal Studies provides a solid foundation for students aspiring to work in the legal field, go to law school or graduate school. It also develops intellectual and analytical skills, educates students for direct employment opportunities in the paralegal field, and provides additional career possibilities in combination with other majors/minors. The Montclair State University Paralegal Studies Program was the first program in New Jersey to receive American Bar Association approval. ParalegalEDU.org announced the results of a 2018 state-by-state analysis of the top bachelor's programs for paralegals and Montclair State University's BA in Justice Studies with a concentration in Paralegal Studies was selected as the best of the best in New Jersey!

Paralegals (sometimes referred to as legal assistants or legal analysts) work under the supervision of an attorney, in a variety of areas ranging from real estate, litigation and family law to intellectual property, estate and criminal practice.

120 credits of coursework is required for the baccalaureate degree with a minimum 2.75 overall GPA, and a minimum 2.75 major GPA.

*With the exception of giving legal advice, making court appearances and setting fees, a paralegal may carry out many tasks. Paralegals may not provide legal services directly to the public, except as permitted by law.*

## Program Requirements Overview

Code	Title	Credits
	General Education Requirements	42
	World Languages and Cultures Requirements	3-9
	Major Requirements	39
	Free Electives	36-30
	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>120</b>

## Major Requirements

Complete with a minimum 2.750 GPA:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Justice Studies Core</b>		
JUST 204	Justice, Courts and Legal Systems	3
JUST 205	Perspectives on Justice Studies	3
JUST 300	Research Methods in Justice Studies	3
JUST 310	Theoretical Issues in Justice Studies	3
JUST 497	Senior Seminar and Internship	3
<b>Paralegal Studies Concentration</b>		
<i>Paralegal Concentration Required Courses</i>		
PALG 210	Law and Litigation	3
PALG 312	Research and Writing for Paralegals	3

PALG 339	Computer Applications in the Legal Environment	3
<i>Paralegal Concentration Electives</i>		
Select 15 credits from the list below.		15
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>39</b>

## Paralegal Concentration Electives

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Group A</b>		
Select 3-15 credits of the following:		
PALG 304	Real Estate Law	
PALG 306	Contract Law	
PALG 310	Fundamentals of Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law	
PALG 322	Wills, Trusts and Probate Law	
PALG 330	Family Law	
PALG 336	Corporations and Partnerships	
<b>Group B</b>		
Select 0-9 credits from the following:		
PALG 301	Criminal Law and Procedure	
PALG 305	Immigration Law	
PALG 308	Negotiation, Mediation and Arbitration	
PALG 317	Evidence	
PALG 318	Computer-Assisted Research in the Legal Environment	
PALG 320	Bankruptcy Law	
PALG 331	Administrative Law and Procedure	
PALG 332	Personal Injury Law	
PALG 378	Employment Law	
PALG 398	Special Topics in Paralegal Studies	
PALG 411	Advanced Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law	
PALG 412	Consumer Law	
PALG 413	Elder Law	
PALG 420	Civil Trial Preparation	
PALG 437	Entertainment Law	
PALG 438	Trademark Law	
PALG 440	Criminal Trial Preparation	
PALG 450	Law Office Management and Technology	
<b>Group C</b>		
Select 0-6 credits from the following:		
JUST 101	Criminology	
JUST 102	Introduction to Criminal Justice	
JUST 314	Environmental Justice	
JUST 315	Restorative Justice	
JUST 317	Race and the U.S. Legal System	
JUST 319	Hate Crimes	
JUST 321	White Collar Crime	
JUST 322	Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Justice	
JUST 326	Death Penalty Perspectives	
JUST 351	Juries and Justice	
JUST 360	Rights, Liberties and American Justice	
JUST 398	Special Topics in Justice Studies	
JUST 496	Peer Mentoring for Justice Studies	

PALG 316	Skills for Bilingual Legal Personnel
PSYC 330	Forensic Psychology

## General Education Requirements

Click here for a list of courses that fulfill General Education categories. (<http://catalog.montclair.edu/undergraduate-graduate-degree-requirements/general-ed-ba-bs/>)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>A. New Student Seminar</b>		
	Complete a 1 credit New Student Seminar	1
<b>C. Communication</b>		
	1. Writing	3
	2. Literature	3
	3. Communication	3
<b>D. Fine and Performing Arts</b>		
	Complete a 3 credit Fine and Performing Arts course.	3
<b>F. Humanities</b>		
	1. Great Works and Their Influences	3
	2. Philosophical and Religious Perspectives	3
<b>G. Computer Science</b>		
	Complete a 3 credit Computer Science course.	3
<b>H. Mathematics</b>		
	Complete a 3 credit Mathematics course.	3
<b>I. Natural Science Laboratory</b>		
	Complete a 4 credit Natural Science Laboratory course.	4
<b>J. Physical Education</b>		
	Complete a 1 credit Physical Education course.	1
<b>K. Social Science</b>		
	1. American and European History	3
	2. Global Cultural Perspectives	3
	3. Social Science Perspectives	3
<b>L. Interdisciplinary Studies</b>		
	Complete a 3 credit Interdisciplinary Studies course.	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>42</b>

## World Languages and Cultures Requirements

Click here for a list of courses that fulfill World Languages and Cultures categories. (<http://catalog.montclair.edu/undergraduate-graduate-degree-requirements/world-languages-cultures-requirement/>)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>World Languages</b>		
	Based on language placement exam, complete one or two sequential courses in the same language.	3-6
<b>World Cultures</b>		
	Requirement may be fulfilled by course selected in General Education 0-3 - Social Science: Global Cultural Perspectives.	0-3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>3-9</b>

## Recommended Roadmap to Degree Completion

This recommended four-year plan is provided as an outline for students to follow in order to complete their degree requirements within four years. This plan is a recommendation and students should only use it in consultation with their academic advisor.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (A) New Student Seminar	1
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (C1) Writing	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (C3) Communication	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (H) Mathematics	3
JUST 101	Criminology	3
PALG 210	Law and Litigation	3
	<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (C2) Literature	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (G) Computer Science	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (K1) Social Science – American and European History	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (L) Interdisciplinary Studies	3
JUST 204	Justice, Courts and Legal Systems	3
	<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (F1) Humanities – Great Works and Their Influences	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (I) Natural Science Laboratory	4
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (K2) Social Science – Global Cultural Perspectives	3
	World Language 1	3
JUST 205	Perspectives on Justice Studies	3
	<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (D) Fine and Performing Arts	3
	GENERAL EDUCATION: (F2) Humanities – Philosophical and Religious Perspectives	3
	World Language 2	3
PALG 312	Research and Writing for Paralegals	3
	<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Third Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
	World Cultures	3
JUST 300 or JUST 310	Research Methods in Justice Studies or Theoretical Issues in Justice Studies	3

PALG 339	Computer Applications in the Legal Environment (or PALG Elective)	3
PALG Elective		3
Free Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
JUST 310 or JUST 300	Theoretical Issues in Justice Studies or Research Methods in Justice Studies	3
PALG 339	Computer Applications in the Legal Environment (or PALG Elective)	3
PALG Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Fourth Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
JUST 497	Senior Seminar and Internship (or Free Elective)	3
PALG Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
GENERAL EDUCATION: (J) Physical Education		1
JUST 497	Senior Seminar and Internship (or Free Elective)	3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120</b>