

Legal Studies and/or Pre-Law Program Development Work Plan – Progress Report

Explore options and develop academic and/or CTE pathways for employment in law office settings:

- Cal-LAW pathway
- Lower division courses developing required knowledge and skills specific to admissions to Schools of Law
- Paralegal Studies Associate of Arts Degree
- Law Office Clerical Assistant
- Paralegal Studies – Certificate

Findings and Next Steps:

Cal-LAW pathway

- Application for Cal-LAW was submitted but was unsuccessful.
- Requires TC to have an approved Law, Public Policy, and Society Associate in Arts for Transfer degree. This degree has been stalled at the CCCC since 2021.
- Courses were identified as appropriate to the pathway in lieu of an approved Law, Public Policy, and Society AA-T.
- Conclusion – Dead-end pending CCCC approval of required AA-T.

Explore Possible Degree Program - Lower Division Courses Developing Required Knowledge and Skills Specific to Admission to Schools of Law

- There is no distinct pre-law pathway. Any baccalaureate degree will suffice for admission to law school. Emphasis is on strong written and verbal communication skills, critical thinking/logic skills, and well-developed research skills beginning in lower division coursework.
- *Possibility* – Designate and promote specific courses as *highly recommended* for students interested in admission to law school post-baccalaureate.
 - *Created list* of courses for recommendation to students (*see attached list*)

- *Recommendation* – Promote courses as *highly recommended* for students interested in admission to law school post-baccalaureate.
- *Possibility* – Degrees and/or certificates focused on (CTE) employment knowledge/skills associated with jurisprudence (law offices, legal clerk, clerical assistant, paralegal services, legal assistants, et cetera).
 - Researched skills and knowledge requirements for employment
 - Identified options for further research and possible development
 - Created list of stakeholders to contact for participation in Advisory Committee(s)
 - Initiated detailed research on requirements for identified degrees and certificates
 - Researched library needs including access to law library
 - Access to law library is in process – Terry Smith is working on this element
 - Work begun on new program development applications in parallel with detailed research (*see below*)

Paralegal Studies Associate of Arts Degree – Exploration Phase

- Researched requirements for establishing a degree
 - Identified American Bar Association (ABA) Accreditation requirements
- Identified American River College degree in Paralegal Studies as a guide for program content development
 - Created draft program description
 - Identifying draft Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLO)
 - Established tentative list of potential courses appropriate to a degree program in paralegal studies
 - Developing an active Advisory Committee list

Law Office Clerical Assistant Certificate – Exploration Phase

- Researched requirements for establishing an *entry level* certificate
 - NOTE: This certificate would be appropriate for clerical workforce skills in *any* office setting but *enhanced by* introduction to terminology and practices specific to law offices
- Identified American River College certificate as a guide for program content development
 - In progress - draft program description
 - Identifying draft Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLO)
 - Established tentative list of potential courses appropriate to a degree program in paralegal studies
 - Developing an active Advisory Committee list

Paralegal Studies – Certificate – Exploration Phase

- Identified American Bar Association (ABA) Accreditation requirements
 - Associate degree is required for admission to paralegal studies program
- Identified American River College certificate as a guide for program content development
 - In progress - draft program description
 - Identifying draft Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLO)
 - Established tentative list of potential courses appropriate to a degree program in paralegal studies
 - Developing an active Advisory Committee list