

PARALEGAL STUDIES - ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

NMSU Alamogordo 2026-2027 Catalog

PL S courses, even with the same title, will not replace or substitute for Criminal Justice courses on the Criminal Justice degree plan.

A grade of C- or better is required in all courses.

Total Credits Required for the Degree: 60

Students must complete all University degree requirements, which include: General Education requirements and elective credits to total at least 60 credits. Developmental coursework will not count towards the degree requirements and/or elective credits, but may be needed in order to take the necessary English and Mathematics coursework.

Prefix	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
<i>Select one course from four of the following six content areas for a total of 12-14 credits.</i> ^{1,2}		12-14
This degree requires courses from Areas I, IV, and V; students must select one other course from the remaining areas to complete General Education requirements.		
Area I: Communications		
ENGL 1110G	Composition I	
Area II: Mathematics		
Area III: Laboratory Science		
Area IV: Social/Behavioral Sciences		
POLS 1120G	American National Government	
Area V: Humanities		
Choose one from the following:		
PHIL 1115G	Introduction to Philosophy	
PHIL 2230G	Philosophical Thought	
PHIL 1120G	Logic, Reasoning, & Critical Thinking	
Area VI: Creative/Fine Arts		
<i>General Education Elective</i>		
COMM 1115G	Introduction to Communication	3
or COMM 1130G	Public Speaking	
Program Requirements		
ACCT 2110	Principles of Accounting I	3
BCIS 2221	MS Word@II	3
ENGL 2210G	Professional and Technical Communication	3
or ENGL 2221G	Writing in the Humanities and Social Science	
PL S 160	Legal System for the Paralegal	3
PL S 190	Criminal Law for the Paralegal	3
or CJUS 1120	Criminal Law	
PL S 200	Legal Ethics for the Paralegal	3
PL S 221	Internship I ³	2-4
PL S 231	The Law of Commerce for the Paralegal	3
PL S 274	Legal Research and Writing for the Paralegal I	3
PL S 275	Tort and Insurance for the Paralegal	3
or PL S 276	Wills, Trusts, and Probate for the Paralegal	
PL S 278	Litigation for the Paralegal	3
PL S 279	Legal Research and Writing for the Paralegal II	3

Choose one from the following:	3
BUSA 2230G	Human Relations in Business
PSYC 1110G	Introduction to Psychology
SOCI 1110G	Introduction to Sociology
Paralegal Electives	
Select from the following:	6
CJUS 2120	Criminal Courts and Procedure
PL S 203	Immigration Law
PL S 222	Internship II ³
PL S 277	Family Law for the Paralegal
Total Credits	60

¹ Each course selected must be from a different area and students cannot take multiple courses in the same area.

² See the General Education Section (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/alamogordo/general-information/general-education-new-mexico-common-core/>) of the catalog for a full list of courses.

³ A maximum of 6 credits of PL S 221 or PL S 222 may be applied toward a degree.

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A Suggested Plan of Study - Paralegal Studies

Additional classes may be needed based on placement test results and course prerequisites. Visit with an advisor for help with creating a customized plan.

A grade of C- or better is required in all courses.

First Year		Credits
Fall		
ACCT 2110	Principles of Accounting I	3
COMM 1130G or COMM 1115G	Public Speaking or Introduction to Communication	3
ENGL 1110G	Composition I	4
PL S 160	Legal System for the Paralegal	3
POLS 1120G	American National Government	3
Credits		16
Spring		
BCIS 2221	MS Word@II	3
PL S 190 or CJUS 1120	Criminal Law for the Paralegal ² or Criminal Law	3
PL S 200	Legal Ethics for the Paralegal	3
Select one course from Area II, III, or VI ¹		3-4
Select one from the following:		3
PHIL 1115G	Introduction to Philosophy	
PHIL 1120G	Logic, Reasoning, & Critical Thinking	
PHIL 2230G	Philosophical Thought	
Credits		15
Second Year		
Fall		
PL S 221	Internship I	2-4
PL S 231	The Law of Commerce for the Paralegal	3
PL S 274	Legal Research and Writing for the Paralegal I	3
PL S 275	Tort and Insurance for the Paralegal	3
or PL S 276	Wills, Trusts, and Probate for the Paralegal	

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Elective Course - Select one from the following:		3
CJUS 2120	Criminal Courts and Procedure	
PL S 203	Immigration Law	
PL S 222	Internship II	
PL S 277	Family Law for the Paralegal	
Credits		14
Spring		
ENGL 2210G or ENGL 2221G	Professional and Technical Communication or Writing in the Humanities and Social Science	3
PL S 278	Litigation for the Paralegal	3
PL S 279	Legal Research and Writing for the Paralegal II	3
Select one from the following:		3
BUSA 2230G	Human Relations in Business	
PSYC 1110G	Introduction to Psychology	
SOCI 1110G	Introduction to Sociology	
Elective Course - Select one from the following (one not already used):		3
CJUS 2120	Criminal Courts and Procedure	
PL S 203	Immigration Law	
PL S 222	Internship II	
PL S 277	Family Law for the Paralegal	
Credits		15
Total Credits		60

¹ See the General Education Section (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/alamogordo/general-information/general-education-new-mexico-common-core/>) of the catalog for a full list of courses.

² CJUS 1120 Criminal Law offered in Fall semester only.