

# PARALEGAL STUDIES - ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

## NMSU Alamogordo 2025-2026 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
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		
Select one course from four of the following six content areas for a total of 12-14 credits. <sup>1,2</sup>		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		
<b>General Education Elective</b>		
COMM 1115G	Introduction to Communication	3
or COMM 1130G	Public Speaking	
<b>Program Requirements</b>		
ACCT 2110	Principles of Accounting I	3
OATS 213	Word Processing I	3
ENGL 2210G	Professional and Technical Communication Honors	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 <sup>3</sup>	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	
<b>Paralegal Electives</b>		
Select from the following:		6
CJUS 2120	Criminal Courts and Procedure	
PL S 203	Immigration Law	
PL S 222	Internship II <sup>3</sup>	
PL S 277	Family Law for the Paralegal	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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
<b>Fall</b>		
ACCT 2110	Principles of Accounting I	3
or ACCT 200	or A Survey of Accounting	
COMM 1130G	Public Speaking	3
or COMM 1115G	or Introduction to Communication	
ENGL 1110G	Composition I	4
PL S 160	Legal System for the Paralegal	3
POLS 1120G	American National Government	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
OATS 213	Word Processing I	3
PL S 190	Criminal Law for the Paralegal <sup>2</sup>	3
or CJUS 1120	or Criminal Law	
PL S 200	Legal Ethics for the Paralegal	3
Select one course from Area II, III, or VI <sup>1</sup>		3-4
Select one from the following:		3
PHIL 1115G	Introduction to Philosophy	
PHIL 1120G	Logic, Reasoning, & Critical Thinking	
PHIL 2230G	Philosophical Thought	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
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

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PL S 275 or PL S 276	Tort and Insurance for the Paralegal or Wills, Trusts, and Probate for the Paralegal	3
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	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
ENGL 2210G or ENGL 2221G	Professional and Technical Communication Honors 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 folloiwng (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	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> CJUS 1120 Criminal Law offered in Fall semester only.