

# Online Paralegal Program

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*The Paralegal Program at the FIU's College of Law Legal Studies Institute combines a strong legal foundation with real-world application to provide students with the legal knowledge, critical thinking abilities, and technical competencies needed for a successful legal career.*

*As an online student you will have the convenience and flexibility to study at your own pace and become a certified paralegal in just a year. Whether you want to invest a few hours each week or study on the weekends, this flexible, convenient online program structure lets you learn at times that fit your schedule.*

## WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

The program consists of more than 600 contact hours of paralegal-specific skills, with curriculum structured to build upon and reinforce your learning from each preceding trimester.

The Paralegal Program will teach you:

- To conduct legal research and prepare documentation for trials
- Understand litigation procedures and basic appellate processes
- Laws pertaining to family, estates and trusts, real estate, constitutional law and more
- The ability to analyze and draft contracts

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The online program is taken over three trimesters and covers 12 law-related subjects that make up the foundation of a solid legal education. Trimesters begin in January, May, and September. Each trimester consists of four units and upon completion of each unit the student must pass a final exam to continue to the next unit. Each course is one month in duration and must be completed before beginning the next course in the trimester. Students must complete and pass the core courses (Trimester I) before registering for the following trimester.

### TRIMESTER ONE

Introduction to the  
Legal System  
Legal Writing  
Legal Research  
Civil Procedures

### TRIMESTER TWO

Torts  
Criminal Law/Evidence  
Family Law  
Estates and Trusts

### TRIMESTER THREE

Business Organizations  
Contracts  
Real Estate  
Constitutional Law

PROGRAM LENGTH: **1 YEAR**

## **COURSE STRUCTURE**

Each Trimester consists of a series of 4 month-long units. Each of those units consists of videos, quizzes, slideshows, review guides, assignments, and an exam. You will also have a weekly chat session with the instructor.

### **Videos & Slideshows**

Course video lectures and presentations will introduce you to the unit's concepts

### **Quizzes & Review Guide**

Will reinforce your understanding of course readings, lectures, and presentations

### **Live Sessions with your Course Instructor**

Will allow you to ask questions, get feedback on your assignments, and work together through any materials that need clarification

## **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

Any computer with a strong internet connection should work, however, your learning experience may be enhanced with more up-to-date hardware and software.

## PROGRAM FAQ

*Q: What sets FIU's Paralegal Certificate apart from other programs?*

A: FIU's Paralegal Certificate Program is a comprehensive training program that will prepare the student to work in the complex, ever-growing legal field. Unlike other programs, this program offers a purely legal education with Introduction to Paralegalism and core courses like The Legal System, Civil Litigation, Legal Research and Legal Writing, which are the basic building blocks of a solid paralegal education. Our program accepts students with a high school diploma or equivalent. Moreover, given all the legal education contact hours (amount of courses) that are offered in this program, it also represents a significantly greater value for your education investment. This is an intensive Program designed to prepare you to excel as a paralegal.

*Q: What is the basis for the Paralegal Certificate Program's curriculum?*

A: The Paralegal Certificate Program's curriculum is based on the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) guidelines and the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). As a member of AAfPE, our Program is in substantial compliance with its course guidelines.

*Q: How long does it take to complete the Paralegal Program?*

A: The Program is structured so that it can be completed in one year.

*Q: Who are the instructors for the Paralegal Certificate Program?*

A: The instructors for our Program are well-respected members of the legal community. Among our instructors are attorneys and several Judges from courts throughout our jurisdiction as well as Certified Paralegals with years of experience in the field. Most of our instructors have many years of teaching experience in our Program and at other higher education institutions.

*Q: Am I given credit for the Paralegal program courses?*

A: The Paralegal Certificate Program is a non-credit professional Program. Students will not earn regular college credits towards a degree. This program is not eligible for the I-20 form (certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant Student Status).

*Q: Does the Paralegal Certificate Program offer job placement assistance?*

A: Yes! Our well-respected program allows us to connect our graduates with opportunities for placement with local government agencies, law firms, and corporate legal departments.