



Paralegal Studies

REAL SKILLS. REAL LAW. REAL IMPACT.

Step Into the Legal Field With Confidence

Paralegals are the backbone of legal teams—conducting research, drafting critical documents, and helping cases move forward. Our program equips you with the practical skills and real-world experience to thrive in this fast-paced field. Whether you're just starting out, planning to attend law school, or making a career change, we offer flexible, affordable pathways. With demand for trained paralegals on the rise, now is the perfect time to turn your goals into a meaningful legal career—right here at Merritt College!

START HERE



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - GET A HEAD START WITH DUAL ENROLLMENT!

Talk to a Counselor for more information.

Certificate of Achievement (CA)

Paralegal Studies

27-29 units

Required courses:

- PARLG 1 Law and the Legal Profession (3 units)
- PARLG 6 Legal Research (3 units)
- PARLG 8 Introduction to Civil Procedure and Litigation Practice (3 units)
- PARLG 11 Advanced Legal Research and Writing (3 units)
- ENGL 1A Composition and Reading (4 units)* **OR**
- ENGL 1AS Composition and Reading with Support* (5 units)

Select a minimum of 11-12 units from the following:

- PARLG 4 Law Office Management (2 units)
- PARLG 9 Introduction to Tort Law (3 units) Offered in Fall
- PARLG 10 Family Law (3 units)
- PARLG 12 Estate Planning and Probate Procedure (3 units) Offered in Spring
- PARLG 15 Criminal Law (3 units) Offered in Fall
- PARLG 16 Seminar in Paralegal Studies Internship (1 unit)
- COPED 474A Work Experience in Paralegal Studies (1-4 units)**
- BUS 2 Introduction to Business Law (3 units)

*ENGL 1A is required for transfer.

**A maximum of 3 units can be applied to the Certificate or AA Degree.

Recommended but not required:

- ADJUS 22 Concepts of Criminal Law (3 units)
- BUS 1A Financial Accounting (4 units)
- ENGL 5 Critical Thinking in Reading and Writing (3 units)
- PHIL 1 Introduction to Philosophy (3 units)
- POSCI 1 Government and Politics in the United States (3 units)



Associate in Arts Degree (AA)

Paralegal Studies

60 units



Courses are offered online or in person



Awarded upon satisfactory completion of the major course requirements and the General Education requirements.



Certificates can stand alone or stack toward advanced credentials. Arrows show where stacking options or connections exist.

Why Become a Paralegal?

★ High Demand

Law firms, courts, and companies need trained paralegals. California has one of the largest legal markets in the country, with consistent demand for trained paralegals in law firms, government agencies, and corporate legal departments.

◎ Great Pay

Start earning over \$45,000/year with room to grow. Experienced paralegals can make \$60K-\$80K+.

■ Fast & Affordable Path

Get job-ready in under a year with a Certificate of Achievement, or earn an Associate Degree while working in the field.

■ Launchpad to Law School

Thinking about becoming a lawyer? Being a paralegal gives you a head start and real courtroom insight. Paralegal work offers hands-on experience in the legal system, making it a valuable step for those considering becoming an attorney.

At Merritt College, We Put You First!

Our program meets California Business & Professions Code §6450—qualifying you to work as a paralegal in the state.

Experienced attorneys and legal professionals bring current industry knowledge to all your classes

Personal support, career guidance and networking opportunities pave the path to your success.

PARALEGALS EARN A MEDIAN YEARLY WAGE OF:

\$83,780

in San Francisco, Oakland, Hayward, CA Metro Area

\$75,140

in California

\$60,970

in the United States





Get Started on Your Future Today

Scan the QR code or visit www.merritt.edu to apply.



Merritt College puts students first.

For decades, it has stood at the intersection of social justice, community empowerment, and career-focused education—expanding opportunity for underrepresented communities and supporting pathways into meaningful, living-wage careers. Whether you're switching professions, building new skills, or aiming for a promotion, Merritt's Career Education programs help you reach your goals through hands-on training, immersive career exploration, and support tailored to every student—especially working adults.

Our programs prepare students for licensure and certifications with strong pass rates and are aligned with high-demand jobs in the Bay Area and beyond. It's never been easier to complete a certificate, earn an Associate's degree, or prepare to transfer to a CSU or other four-year university. With flexible class times—morning, evening, and online—and services like counseling, the Learning Center, EOPS, and Student Accessibility Services (SAS), Merritt meets you where you are.



Meet with a Counselor early and often!

Whether you're enrolling in classes, exploring career options or navigating personal challenges, Counselors have your back! Counselors are available through scheduled appointments, remote drop-ins, and e-counseling (for specific needs).



Visit merritt.edu/counseling/ to learn more, or contact a dedicated Career Education Counselor at MCCareerEd@peralta.edu