The Paralegal Studies program prepares students to obtain entry-level employment in law offices, government agencies, and other business corporations. It also enables persons working in the field without a degree to upgrade their skills to become a qualified paralegal. The MDC Paralegal Studies Program has been approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) since 1987.

**GENERAL EDUCATION CORE REQUIREMENTS (18 credits)**

- ENC 1101 English Composition 1 3 credits
- ENC 1102 English Composition 2 3 credits  Pre/Req ENC 1101
- PHI 2604 Critical Thinking and Ethics 3 credits  Pre/Req ENC 1101
- CLP 1006 Psychology of Personal Effectiveness 3 credits
- PSC 1515 Energy in the Natural Environment 3 credits
- SPC 1017 Fundamentals of Speech Communication 3 credits  Pre/Req ENC 1101

**MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS (43 credits)**

- PLA 2003 Fundamentals of Law 3 credits  Pre or Co-Req ENC 1101
- PLA 2104 Legal Research 3 credits  Pre/Req PLA 2003
- PLA 2114 Legal Writing 3 credits  Pre/Req PLA 2104
- PLA 2203 Trial Preparation 3 credits  Pre/Req PLA 2114
- PLA 2223 Trial Practice and Appeals 3 credits  Pre/Req PLA 2203
- PLA 2273 Torts 3 credits  Pre/Req PLA 2203
- PLA 2303 Criminal Law & Litigation 3 credits  Pre/Req PLA 2203
- PLA 2600 Wills, Trusts, & Estates 3 credits  Pre/Req PLA 2203 & REE 2040
- PLA 2763 Law Office Management 3 credits  Pre/Req PLA 2203
- PLA 2800 Family Law 3 credits  Pre/Req PLA 2203
- BUL 2241 Business Law 1 3 credits
- BUL 2242 Business Law 2 3 credits  Pre/Req BUL 2241
- REE 2040 Real Estate Principles and Practices 4 credits
- PLA 1949 Paralegal Studies Practicum (or) 3 credits* Exit Course
- PLA 2940 Paralegal Studies Internship 3 credits* Exit Course

**LEGAL SPECIALTY SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS (3 credits)**

The student must complete two (2) credits from the following group:

- PLA 2931 Legal Seminar Ethics 1 credit + Pre/Req PLA 2003, PLA 2104, PLA 2114
- PLA 2932 Legal Seminar CALR 1 credit + Pre/Req PLA 2003, PLA 2104, PLA 2114

The student must complete one (1) credit from the following group:

- PLA 2933 Legal Seminar Real Estate Closing (or) 1 credit + Pre/Req PLA 2003, PLA 2104, PLA 2114, REE 2040
- PLA 2934 Legal Seminar Immigration Law (or) 1 credit + Pre/Req PLA 2003, PLA 2104, PLA 2114
- PLA 2935 Legal Seminar Intellectual Property Law 1 credit + Pre/Req PLA 2003, PLA 2104, PLA 2114

It is necessary to see a Law Center advisor prior to beginning the program and before registering each term. Students wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree should also consult with a Law Center advisor to learn more about MDC’s dual A.A./A.S. degree track.

For more information, please contact The Law Center at (305) 237-7813.

**NOTES:**

*This is an exit level course to be taken during the last term in the program. Students must meet with a Law Center advisor in order to register for either of these exit courses.

+Students must take at least three (3) credits of required legal seminars. PLA 2931 and PLA 2932 are mandatory for all students. Students may choose either PLA 2933, PLA 2934 or PLA 2935 for their third seminar. The legal seminars can only be completed during the last year of the program, and requires department approval in order to register.

#All graduates must be proficient in word processing, database management, and spreadsheet skills to be competitive in the job market. Therefore students are required to take CGS 1060 (Intro to Microcomputer Usage). Students who have prior training/experience in computers may opt to take the CSP (Computer Skills Placement Test) in lieu of enrolling in CGS 1060. A passing score of at least 70 on the CSP shall fulfill the CGS 1060 requirement. Paralegal Studies students may need to take additional computer courses since the job market requires proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets and database systems.

Revised 05/10