



Pre-Law & Paralegal Studies Concentration

Prepare for a paralegal or law school career in 21 hours as a Criminal Justice or Resource Management concentration.

A seven-course, 21-hour focus on pre-law study for any student pursuing any degree at NSULA.

About the Minor

Students will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in their chosen major and a concentration in Pre-Law and Paralegal Studies (PLPS). All courses are taught by licensed attorneys and cover both Louisiana's unique civilian law, based on the Spanish and French civil codes, and the common-law of the other states.

To add this concentration, contact the Registrar's office. A sophomore level is required. PLPS 3010, Introduction to the Law, is highly recommended as a first course or concurrent course! Please contact the coordinator, Dr. Riall, before registering!

Start a Paralegal Career

Paralegals are highly-skilled and trained assistants to lawyers--a lawyer's "other brain." Paralegals conduct legal research and writing alongside and under the supervision of lawyers, draft documents, assist in trial preparation, interview clients and witnesses, and may manage law offices. Although they are not licensed to practice law and cannot appear in court or give legal advice, paralegals do much of the work that lawyers do and can save clients and firms money. PLPS graduates have legal research and writing skills and knowledge of substantive law.

Or Get Ready for Law School

Law school presents unique challenges and pressures. In the PLPS courses, students learn substantive common law as well as legal research and writing skills. The courses are designed to develop essential skills that will help you feel ready for law school, from reading and briefing cases, to conducting legal research using today's technologies.

Internet or In-Person... Options for You

This minor can be earned online, in-person, or both. No campus visits are required--you can enroll and take classes over the Internet. NSU accepts transfer credits and is designated as a Military-Friendly University. Out-of-state students who are Internet-only pay the in-state tuition rate!

Concentration Requirements

- PLPS 3010 (Introduction to the Law)
- PLPS 4020 and 4090 (Legal Research and Writing I and II)
- 12 additional hours of PLPS subject-area classes. Offerings vary but include Family Relations Law, Law Office Management, Wills and Estates, Litigation, Corporations, and American Indians and the Law.
- A minimum of two classes are offered fall and spring semesters, meaning you can complete in no more than four semesters.

Fee Reduction for Law Enforcement Officers and Public Safety Personnel

NSU offers fee exemption for commissioned full-time law enforcement and public safety officers, including firefighters and EMS personnel. Undergraduate students may enroll up to 9 undergraduate semester hours, and graduate students may enroll in up to 6 semester hours at the reduced rate. All additional hours will be at the standard tuition rate.

QUESTIONS?

PRE-LAW & PARALEGAL STUDIES COORDINATOR:

Dr. Rebecca Riall
riallr@nsula.edu
(318) 357-6963

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND APPLIED PROGRAMS:

www.cjhss.nsula.edu
nsucjhss@nsula.edu
(318) 357-6967

NSULA ADMISSIONS:

admissions.nsula.edu
admissions@nsula.edu
(800) 767-8115

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE:

www.nsula.edu/registrar/
registrar@nsula.edu
(800) 807-8849

Northwestern State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialists, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Northwestern State University.

Northwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, pregnancy or parenting status, and veteran or retirement status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies (i.e., Title IX): Employees/Potential Employees -- Veronica M. Biscoe, EEO Officer (318-357-6359) and Students -- Reatha Cox, Dean of Students (318-357-5285). For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, contact the Accessibility and Disability Support Director, Taylor Camidge, at 318-357-5460. Additionally, Northwestern complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy & Campus Crime Statistics Act. Information about NSU's campus security and crime statistics can be found at <https://www.nsula.edu/universityaffairs/police/>. Full disclosure statement: <https://www.nsula.edu/iehr/>.

