

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

ONLINE ACADEMY

Associate of Arts - Paralegal Studies: Course Descriptions

Summer Semester after 10th Grade

UNIV 104 (CSB 3101) – Instructional Technology for Successful Online Learning

Designed to equip students for success as they transition into the online classroom, this course offers strategic information tailored to ensure academic excellence in this unique learning environment; this information includes Liberty University's foundations and beliefs, Liberty University Online resources for success, Blackboard navigation techniques, time management strategies, the adult learner's responsibilities, methods for identifying and avoiding academic misconduct, scholarly research tactics, and approaches for selecting the appropriate courses towards completion of the preferred degree program.

College Credits: 3

GOVT 220 (HIS 3220) – American Government

The issues, interest and institutions of American politics, emphasizing the struggle between liberalism and conservatism.

College Credits: 3

11th Grade - Fall Semester

ENGL 101 (LAN 3101) – Composition & Rhetoric

Through the critical engagement of a variety of texts, including written, oral, and visual, this course prepares students to become careful readers, critical thinkers, and skilled writers. Drawing upon rhetorical theory, it emphasizes the practices of analytical reading, informed reasoning, effective writing, and sound argumentation. The course requires 4,000 words of writing in no fewer than five writing projects, three of which are argumentative essays incorporating external sources.

College Credits: 3

RLGN 104 (BIB 3107) – Christian Life & Biblical Worldview

This is a study in the development and application of the biblical worldview. This course will include an introduction and application of critical thinking skills, as well as a study of religious and philosophical worldviews. Special attention will be given to the theology and methodology of evangelism.

College Credits: 4

ENGL 102 (LAN 3102) – Composition & Literature

Composition and Literature continues the emphasis on writing. Two analytical papers—based upon studies of the short story, poetry, and drama—and a research paper, sequentially developed, are required.

College Credits: 3

Course Prerequisites: ENGL 101

BIBL 104 (BIB 3106) – Survey of Old & New Testament

This survey course is designed to lay a foundational understanding of Scripture via a historical survey of the Old and New Testaments. The student will engage a range of learning activities related to the issues interacting with biblical literature, basic hermeneutical principles, key themes and persons of the canon, and the redemptive theme of Scripture.

College Credits: 4

11th Grade - Spring Semester

COMS 101 (LAN 3103) – Speech Communication

Study and practice in communicating ideas competently in public speaking. Students are also given a foundation for the development of communication skills in other human communication contexts, including dyadic and small group communication.

College Credits: 3

PLST 200 (PLW 3200) – Intro to Paralegal Studies

This course will provide an introduction to the paralegal profession and the role of the paralegal within the law office. This survey course will introduce the student to the American legal system, civil litigation, criminal law and procedure, the appeals process, and substantive legal topics such as tort, contract law, and property law. Students will be taught a variety of administrative skills necessary in a law practice office including legal research, legal vocabulary, critical reading and writing, client interview, investigation, law office administration, and technologies. Legal ethics, professionalism, and biblical worldview will be taught.

College Credits: 3

PLST 201 (PLW 3201) – Legal Research

This course will introduce students to the court system, case law, statutes, and legal research methods. Paralegals are expected to perform legal research that is both competent and cost-effective. This requires an understanding of legal systems and legal research techniques. In this course, students will gain hands-on experience by employing current legal research methods.

College Credits: 3

PLST 205 (PLW 3205) – Foundations of Law

An introduction to the theological and philosophical foundations of law, including the Augustinian concept of antithetical thinking; the Creator/creature distinction; the development of higher/natural law thinking; the basis for the distinction between the judicial and prudential methods of analysis; the origins and jurisdictional boundaries of family, church, and state; the schools of jurisprudence; and the biblical basis for the fundamental principles underlying the several courses that comprise the basic curriculum.

College Credits: 3

Summer Semester after 11th Grade

MATH 115 (or higher)

Students must take MATH 115 or higher. MATH 115 is recommended.

College Credits: 3

Course Prerequisites: MATH 110, Math Assessment, or SAT/ACT

BIOL 101 (SCI 3101) – Principles of Biology

An examination of the fundamental characteristics common among living things. Emphasis is placed upon studies of the cell, energy, metabolism, reproduction, heredity, ecology, phylogeny and the diversity of life.

College Credits: 3

BIOL 103 (SCI 3103) – Principles of Biology Lab

Laboratory exercises selected to demonstrate basic biological concepts. Emphasis is on plant and animal cell chemistry, composition and function, organismal structure and function, biological diversity and population ecology.

College Credits: 1

12th Grade – Fall Semester**ENGL 202 (LAN 3202) – American Literature II**

A survey of American literature following the American Renaissance. Two critical papers are required.

College Credits: 3

Course Prerequisites: ENGL 101 & ENGL 102

PLST 202 (PLW 3202) – Legal Writing

This course will introduce students to proper legal writing methods. The goal of legal writing is communication with the reader. During this course, students will learn legal writing techniques that will enable them to communicate effectively.

College Credits: 3

Course Prerequisites: PLST 201

HIUS 222 (HIS 3222) – Survey of American History II

A survey of American history from Reconstruction to the present, stressing interpretation and analysis of major eras and trends.

College Credits: 3

PLST 206 (PLW 3206) – Ethics and Professional Responsibility

The course is a study of the ethical rules and professional responsibilities of the paralegal within the legal profession. Students will study the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and analyze those rules as they pertain to specific cases.

College Credits: 3

12th Grade – Spring Semester**THEO 104 (BIB 3104) – Intro to Theology Survey**

This course is an introduction to the basic tenets of Christianity.

College Credits: 4

PLST 220 (PLW 3210) – Civil Practice

This course is the study of the rules and principles governing the process by which courts adjudicate civil disputes. The subject matter covered includes study of the judicial process and the relationship between procedural and substantive law; pleadings; principles of jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over persons and subject matter; service of process and allocation of jurisdiction between state and federal court systems; and the discovery of evidence.

College Credits: 3

PLST 230 (PLW 3230) – Criminal Practice and Procedures

This course will introduce the general principles, sources, and purpose of criminal law, including the following doctrinal issues that apply to crimes in general: the act requirement, the *mens rea* requirement, causation, liability for attempted crimes, accomplice liability, defenses, and criminal code interpretation. The course will also introduce the limitations imposed on law enforcement activities by the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution as applied to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment. The course generally considers the criminal justice process from investigation through arrest and initial court appearance.

College Credits: 3

Course Prerequisites: PLST 200 & PLST 205

PSYC 101 (ASC 3101) – General Psychology

Introduction to Psychology as a scientific discipline concerned with the study of behavior. Consideration will be given to such topics as human development, motivation, emotion, perception, learning, personality, intelligence, measurement, and applied areas.

College Credits: 3

**Subject material may be considered sensitive by some students*