

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Legal Services

Career and Technical Education Series



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Legal Services Course Overview

The Legal Services course will provide students with an overview of the system of laws in the United States and the practice areas and career options in the field. Students will learn about how the legal system operates to control how society punishes those who commit crimes and settles disputes, as well as how criminal and civil cases reach court and are resolved. They will learn about the courtroom and the basics of a typical court case. Students will learn about constitutional rights and legal safeguards, as well as how technology has changed the practice of law. They will also learn about legal education and careers in law for attorneys and non-attorneys with an interest in the field.

- **The Law:** Origins and Structure: This unit focuses on the origins of law in the United States and the structure of the U.S. legal system, so students understand the basis of the current legal structure.
- **The Courtroom and the Case:** This unit explores the people and procedures involved in legal cases.
- **Contemporary Law Topics:** This unit focuses on two areas of law relevant today—civil rights and the use of technology in law enforcement and throughout the legal system.
- **Evidence and Forensics:** This unit focuses on the concepts of evidence and testimony—two ways that parties in a lawsuit provide proof for their side of the case.
- **Post-secondary Legal Education and Careers in the Legal Field:** This unit focuses on legal education and careers in the legal field.

Unit 1: The Law: Origins and Structure		
Legal Services	Assignments	
	1. Course Overview	9. Project: Researching a Civil Lawsuit
	2. Rule of Law, Magna Carta	10. Criminal Law
	3. Common Law, Stare Decisis, and the U.S. Legal System	11. Appealing a Ruling
	4. Project: Where Does the Law Come From?	12. Project: An Appeals Case
	5. Drafting Written Law	13. Quiz: Civil, Criminal, and Appellate Law
	6. Project: Dealing with Disputes	14. Special Project*
	7. Quiz: The Rule of Law and Origins of Our Legal System	15. Test
	8. Civil Law	16. Course Project Part 1: Criminal Law*
		17. Glossary and Credits

Unit 2: The Courtroom and the Case		
Legal Services	Assignments	
	1. Attorneys, Jurors, and Civic Responsibility	9. Trial
	2. Project: Who Participates in a Trial?	10. Project: Death Penalty Appellate Process
	3. Victims, Defendants, and Litigants	11. The Appellate Process
	4. Project: Representing a Client at Trial	12. Quiz: The Legal Process
	5. The Judge and Support Staff	13. Special Project*
	6. Quiz: Roles Within the Courtroom	14. Test
	7. Pre-trial	15. Course Project Part 2: Trial*
	8. Project: Writing an Opening Statement	16. Glossary and Credits

Unit 3: Contemporary Law Topics		
Legal Services	Assignments	
	1. Freedoms in the Bill of Rights	9. Technology for the Attorney
	2. Precedent; Judicial Activism; Evolution of Law	10. Project: Researching Case Law
	3. Project: Investigating Judicial Interpretation	11. Technology's Impact on Discovery
	4. Federal Statutes; 42USC1983 and 42USC1985	12. Quiz: The Law and Technology
	5. Project: Considering Federal Civil Rights Protections	13. Special Project*
	6. Quiz: Civil Rights	14. Test
	7. Technology and Issues in Law	15. Course Project Part 3: Technology*
	8. Project: Analyzing Copyright Protection	16. Glossary and Credits
Unit 4: Evidence and Forensics		
Legal Services	Assignments	
	1. Types of Evidence	9. Hearsay and Rules of Evidence
	2. Project: Researching DNA Evidence	10. Admissions and Confessions
	3. Scientific Evidence	11. Project: Admitting Guilt
	4. Evidence Rules and Chain of Custody	12. Quiz: Testimonial Evidence
	5. Project: Examining Evidence	13. Special Project*
	6. Quiz: Documentary and Forensic Evidence	14. Test
	7. Depositions	15. Course Project Part 4: Depositions*
	8. Project: Diagramming a Deposition	16. Glossary and Credits
Unit 5: Post-Secondary Legal Education and Careers in the Legal Field		
Legal Services	Assignments	
	1. The Juris Doctor Degree	9. Careers as a Legal Paraprofessional
	2. Project: Practicing the LSAT	10. Career Advancement in the Legal Field
	3. Other Legal Educational Paths	11. Project: Planning a Career in Law
	4. Beyond the J.D.	12. Quiz: Careers in the Legal Field
	5. Project: Comparing Jobs	13. Special Project*
	6. Quiz: Post-secondary Legal Education	14. Test
	7. Careers as an Attorney	15. Course Project Part 5: Paralegals*
	8. Project: Researching Legal Practice Areas	16. Glossary and Credits
Unit 6: Course Project, Review, and Exam		
Legal Services	Assignments	
	1. Course Project Part 6: Representing a Criminal Client*	2. Review
		3. Exam

(*) Indicates alternative assignment