Why Enroll?

The paralegal profession is cited by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics as having a faster than average growth rate with an increasing focus on specialization. Paralegals play an important role in the legal system, performing the background work required before cases are presented in court. The experience gained as a paralegal is a great advantage for professionals working toward law school. Paralegals may not provide legal services directly to the public except as permitted by law, but they are highly sought by law firms, government agencies, corporate legal departments and more. The Certificate in Criminal Law at Hunter College’s Continuing Education Programs prepares students for a career as a Criminal Law Paralegal, providing assistance to criminal defense attorneys and prosecutors’ offices.

Prospective students should be aware that some employers require training from an American Bar Association (ABA) approved program. The ABA, for a fee, approves programs that meet certain standards relating to how the program is administered and most ABA approved paralegal programs are credit based at an associate degree level. Although CE's certificate program is not ABA approved, we remain committed to our students in offering high quality continuing education courses that prepare students for paralegal jobs in a short amount of time and at an affordable price.

Summer 2019 at CEP:

CEP's Summer semester runs from June 1 to August 11. Classes do not meet on major holidays - please note skip dates.

The Criminal Law Open House will be held on:
Thursday, May 23, 2019 @ 6pm

RSVP by phone or online at http://bit.ly/CEP_RSVP

Course Schedule

Required

- Criminal Law (LSCRILAW) Not available this semester
- Criminal Procedure (LSCRIPRO) Not available this semester
- Evidence (LSEVIDEN) Not available this semester
- Constitutional Law (LSCONLAW) Not available this semester
- Federal Criminal Law (LSFECRL) Not available this semester
- Criminal Litigation & Mock Court (LSCRLIM) Not available this semester
- Science & Technology in Criminal Law (LSCITEC) Not available this semester
- Ethics (LSETHIC) Not available this semester
The Certificate in Criminal Law consists of 8 required courses. Tuition for the certificate is $3,800 plus a one-time $35 registration fee, or you can register for each course individually plus the registration fee per semester. Payment plan options are available for students who register in person. Please see ‘Legal Studies’ payment plan.

To register for courses online, visit our online registration portal. You may browse courses and register as a new or returning student. Certificate students, please visit or contact the registration office to select your course schedule per semester.

Required Courses:

Criminal Law $550 (LSCRILAW)
This course covers selected topics in substantive criminal law: principles underlying the definition of crime such as the requirements of actus reus and mens rea and general doctrines such as ignorance of fact and ignorance of law, causation, attempt, complicity and conspiracy. Principles of justification and excuse are examined with particular attention to the doctrines of necessity, intoxication, insanity, diminished capacity and automatism. The substantive offense of homicide is extensively reviewed, and from time to time other offenses such as theft.

Criminal Procedure $550 (LSCRIPRO)
The objectives of this course are to (1) learn the law of criminal procedure through an understanding of the principles of law by examining real problems, challenges and cases. (2) gain knowledge of constitutional rights in the context of criminal law, (3) focus on the concept of reasonableness of restraints on those rights, (4) gain an understanding of the public policy considerations underlying the substantive criminal law and the manner in which such policies are effectuated through criminal procedural requirements, and (5) study specific procedural law issues/requirements, including right to counsel, exclusionary rule; search warrant; permissible warrantless searches; stop and frisk, entrapment, wiretapping, confessions, lineups, jury selection, voir dire, negotiated pleas, post-conviction relief.

Evidence $500 (LSEVIDEN)
This course will examine the rules governing the admission, exclusion, and presentation of evidence in judicial proceedings. Topics to be covered in this course include relevancy; authentication; the ‘Best Evidence’ doctrine; categorical rules of exclusion; character and habit evidence; competency of witnesses; examination and impeachment of witnesses; opinion and expert testimony; presentation of evidence; privilege; the hearsay rule and its exceptions; presumptions and burdens of proof; and the scope of judicial notice.

Constitutional Law $550 (LSCONLAW)
The United States Constitution is the foundation of the United States government and its legal system and the supreme law of the land. It sets up and delineates each branch of the federal government and sets forth the basic rights citizen have with respect to their government. This course introduces students to the United States Constitution, its Articles, the Bill of Rights and its various amendments. It addresses the powers and responsibilities of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government and the relationship of the Federal government to the States. The course will focus on the provisions of the Constitution and how courts have interpreted its provisions to resolve disputes and decide cases.

Federal Criminal Law $550 (LSFECR)
This course studies federal criminal prosecution, focusing on the crimes of fraud and political corruption, drug trafficking and money laundering, group/organizational crimes such as conspiracies and RICO violations, false statements to federal officers, and obstruction of justice. Will also consider the federal/state prosecution relationships and overlap of their respective jurisdictions, as well as the federal forfeiture statutes. The working and application of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines will also be studied.

Criminal Litigation & Mock Trials $550 (LSCRLLIM)
This course simulates a moot court exercise as conducted in law school. In the course, students prepare and present a legal argument before a simulated court. Working in teams of two, students are assigned a criminal law legal problem, which they are required to analyze, research, prepare and argue. Argument is made both in writing with the submission of a formal legal memorandum and orally in a simulated court setting. The course also includes a visit to a New York Supreme Court, where students observe an actually hearing.

Science & Technology and Criminal Law $550 (LSCITEC)
This course focuses on advancements in science and technology, and how they are utilized in the investigation, prosecution, defense and appeal of criminal cases. DNA testing, GPS systems, advanced cameras, automatic license plate and facial recognition systems and high-powered computers and social media have improved investigation, surveillance, and analysis procedures for law enforcement. The development of new technologies has also provided criminals with the ability to victimize larger groups of individuals at greater distances. This course will explore what is required to admit scientific evidence in a criminal proceeding; from evidence collection, documentation, analysis and maintenance of chain of custody as well as the laws and guidelines associated with these matters and the new challenges presented to the criminal justice system.

Ethics $550 (LSETHIC)
Ethics for Paralegals attempts to animate the study of ethics. It is critical for the paralegal student to understand the parameters of not only their job, but also the ethical rules that define the proper practice of law. It is only after understanding legal ethics that the paralegal understands why they do things a certain way in the law office. Files are kept in a certain manner to maintain client confidentiality, retainers are collected in a certain way to comply with the rules relating to fees, and even a paralegal’s business card has ethical implications regarding the “unauthorized practice of law”. This text attempts to put these ethical rules into perspective. Attorneys and paralegals deal with these rules everyday, so everyday examples and hypotheticals are used for in-class discussion.