

Undergraduate Certificate in Legal Nurse Consultant Paralegal

The American Bar Association defines a paralegal as a person “who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency or other entity and who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible.” In this context, a legal nurse consultant (LNC) paralegal augments his or her substantive legal knowledge with specialized nursing education and experience. The LNC Paralegal Undergraduate Certificate is designed for registered nurses who hold an associate or baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited institution. The program provides students the same core legal education all paralegal students receive, along with specialized courses directed toward medical issues in the practice of law. It prepares students to work with lawyers providing medical expertise to law firms, health care institutions, insurance companies, government agencies and other organizations handling legal matters associated with health care; disabilities, physical or mental injury, or death; medical credentialing, licensing or privileges; workers’ compensation; or medical benefits. The program is approved by the American Bar Association.

Students obtaining a certificate are not authorized to provide direct legal services to the public. The program offers training for paraprofessionals who are authorized to perform substantive legal work under the supervision of a licensed attorney. The program does not train lawyers. Students completing the program may wish to sit for the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants Certification Exam accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties. The program is not accredited as a nursing specialty.

Admission Requirements

- Satisfy the Application and Admission Requirements for Undergraduate Certificate Programs (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/undergraduate>).
- Students must hold an Associate of Arts or baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited institution before receiving the LNC Paralegal Certificate. Students holding an Associate of Applied Science in nursing who have satisfied the university’s General Education Requirements may also receive the certificate. Nursing majors and pre-majors who have not completed their degree will be admitted to the program as pre-majors and may proceed through the Legal Studies and Justice courses in the program provided all individual course prerequisites are met. Courses with the LNC prefix are open to nursing graduates only.
- Students must have completed the equivalent of WRTG A111 with a minimum grade of C and (WRTG A211 or WRTG A212 or WRTG A213 or WRTG A214 or ENGL A311 or ENGL A312 or

ENGL A313 or ENGL A414 or ENGL A487 with a minimum grade of B.

- Students must have achieved a minimum GPA of 2.00 in their degree program or hold a 2.00 overall GPA at UAA to be admitted to the program as majors or pre-majors.
- Students who do not meet the admissions requirements will be admitted as pre-majors. Students may take up to 12 credits of Legal Studies courses while in pre-major status.

Advising

- Students who have not completed the English prerequisites for admission to the program should begin their English coursework in their first semester as a pre-major.
- Proficiency in the use of computers and standard office software is an important component of the work of LNC paralegals. Students are strongly encouraged to build their technological skills through coursework in Computer Information and Office Systems (CIOS), Computer Information Systems (CIS), or Computer and Networking Technology (CNT) as they progress through the program.
- Campus restrictions for this program are enforced in accordance with American Bar Association Guidelines for the Approval of Paralegal Education Programs. Therefore, the certificate cannot be completed at extended campuses. Courses designated in this catalog as legal specialty courses may be taken only at the Anchorage campus.
- Students interested in the LNC Paralegal Certificate should consult a faculty advisor in the Justice Center before enrolling in Legal Studies or LNC courses.

Graduation Requirements

- Satisfy the General University Requirements for Undergraduate Certificates (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduateprograms/certificaterequirements>).
- Complete the Program Requirements below.
- Students must achieve a minimum grade of C in each required course to receive the certificate. Courses may be repeated twice to improve grades.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
LEGL A101	Introduction to Law	3
LEGL A215	Legal Ethics and the Role of the Legal Professional	3
LEGL A356	Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing	3
LEGL A367	Civil Procedure and Pretrial Practice	3
LEGL A377	Evidence, Investigation, and Discovery	3
LEGL A380	Torts, Workers' Compensation and Insurance Law	3

LEGL A385	Health Care Law and Regulatory Compliance	3
LEGL A487	Trial and Advanced Litigation Processes	3
LNC A347	Legal Nurse Consultant Paralegal Principles and Practices	2
LNC A348	Medical Records Review	1
NS A442	Introduction to Forensic Nursing	3
Total Credits		30

All LNC paralegal students must take the Legal Studies Exit Examination. There is no minimum score required for graduation.

A total of 30 credits is required for the certificate.

Pro Bono Service Honors

The Justice Center awards pro bono service honors to those legal studies students who work toward improving access to justice by contributing volunteer service to Alaska legal aid agencies. Students majoring in any of the legal studies programs, as well as legal studies minors, are eligible to graduate with pro bono service honors upon satisfactory completion of the following requirements:

1. Meet the catalog requirements for the minor, degree or certificate sought.
2. Complete the following number of volunteer hours with a legal services agency approved by the Legal Studies Department program coordinator:
 - a. Undergraduate Certificate, Legal Nurse Consultant Paralegal: 50 hours
3. Students intending to graduate with pro bono service honors must obtain written verification of their hours of service from the legal service agency or agencies assisted.
4. In the semester they intend to graduate, students must submit their verification of service hours and written notice of their intent to graduate with pro bono service honors to the Legal Studies Department program coordinator. The verification and notice must be received by the coordinator on or before the date established by the Office of the Registrar as the deadline to apply for graduation.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with an Undergraduate Certificate in Legal Nurse Consultant Paralegal will be able to:

- Produce superior university-level written documents and oral reports.
- Identify and accurately apply the rules of professional ethics governing lawyers and nonlawyer staff, and the rules governing the unauthorized practice of law in Alaska.
- Interpret and accurately apply legal terminology and foundational principles of substantive and procedural law in the analysis of legal issues.
- Develop and execute legal and medical research plans using law and medical library resources and commonly used legal and medical research databases.

- Synthesize primary and secondary legal authorities and draft memoranda of legal analysis.
- Prepare legal investigation and discovery plans and draft legal pleadings that conform to the rules of civil procedure and incorporate standard techniques and resources for managing a case in litigation.
- Integrate substantive principles of law and medical/clinical practice in the analysis of medical evidence.
- Formulate theories of injury causation pursuant to accepted principles of forensic nursing.
- Construct from the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants (AALNC) Code of Ethics and Conduct, the AALNC's Scope and Standards of Practice, and the Alaska Bar Association's Rules of Professional Responsibility coherent principles of ethical practice for the legal nurse consultant paralegal.