

Program Proposal: Law Pathway Certificate of Achievement

Sara Malmquist-West (Counselor) &

Nancy Willet (Faculty) & Julian Solis (Admin)



Basic Program Information

- Title: Law Pathway
- Degree Type: Certificate of Achievement
- Units: 24 - 27 units
- TOPS code: 1401.00
- Note: Subset/Companion of Law, Public Policy and Society AA-T

PCAH Development Criteria

- Criteria A: Appropriateness to Mission
- Criteria B: Demonstrable Need
- Criteria C: Curriculum Standards (Title§ 55130)
- Criteria D: Adequate Resources
- Criteria E: Compliance

A. Appropriateness to Mission

COM Mission

College of Marin's commitment to educational excellence is rooted in **equity** practices and fostering success for all members of our **diverse community** by offering:

- preparation for **transfer** to four-year colleges and universities
- associate degrees and **certificates**

The District believes that our commitment and accountability to **diversity, equity,** and belonging enriches the District's mission and **supports students** in **achieving their educational goals.**

Appropriateness to Educational Master Plan

STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

- GOAL 4 - *Build awareness in students of educational goal options and paths to achieve these goals.*

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

- GOAL 1 - *Clarify various educational pathways, strengthen existing and develop new curriculum to **support** those pathways, connect pathways in new ways, and educate faculty to become more knowledgeable about pathway opportunities.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & RESPONSIVENESS

- GOAL 2 - *Enhance and optimize **partnerships** between COM and the K-12 educational system.*

California Law Pathways Mission

The legal profession in California, and indeed throughout the United States, and specifically in California, fails to reflect the state's **diversity** in all areas of the population. It is our belief that this lack of diversity negatively impacts the administration of justice and the principle of "equal access under the law." A legal system made up of lawyers who do not reflect the people they serve in gender, ethnicity, race, LGBTQ, disability and age erodes public trust and confidence in the courts and justice system, endangers fairness and equality, and opens doors to bias (both implicit and explicit). We believe it is the responsibility, and opportunity, of everyone in the legal profession to help build a **profession that looks like California** to ensure a justice system where all are **equal under the law**.

Mission

- To **establish a pathway of diverse students** from high schools, **community colleges**, four-year institutions, and law schools into law or law-related careers so that the **legal profession reflects the diverse population** of the State of California.

Community Colleges Pathway to Law School Initiative (Cal LAW)

- California Leadership-Access-Workforce (Cal LAW) was established under the leadership of the State Bar of California's Council on Access and Fairness (COAF) and with support from the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) to provide a clear **educational pathway for diverse students** from high schools, **community colleges**, and four-year institutions into law schools or law-related careers. In support of this goal, Cal LAW provides the foundational structure that connects, communicates, collaborates, and coordinates the programs essential to the **educational pathway for the students** we serve.
- Member schools of Cal LAW include the Community College Pathway to Law School (formerly the 2+2+3) initiative with **35 California community colleges**. Additionally, we serve **23 high school law academies** created under the California Partnership Academy model in a unique partnership between the State Bar of California and the California Department of Education (CDE).
- Started in 2011, **high school law academies** provide a 3-year curriculum starting in 10th grade with a focus on law and/or law-related careers and supported by the local legal community through advisory councils, mentoring, internships, classroom presentations, field trips, and other law-related activities.
- To round out the full academic journey, Cal LAW also includes **16 undergraduate universities** and **15 ABA-accredited California law schools**, resulting in an impactful educational pathway into the legal profession..

B. Demonstrable Need

- Certificate of 7 required courses (as outlined by Cal LAW) provides a clear pathway (and degree opportunity) for students interested in Law
- Students develop a range of skills which foster a broad and deep understanding of the law as well as develop abstract and critical thinking, practical problem-solving skills and strong communication skills
- Allows students to explore disciplines related to Law starting in high school and college
- Prepares students in multiple disciplines for both UC and CSUs

Examples of Law-related Majors at CSU/UC

CSU

- CSU East Bay: Political Science, Criminal Justice, Global Studies
- SF State: Criminal Justice, Philosophy
- Sonoma State: Criminal Justice, Philosophy, Political Science

UC

- UC Berkeley: Legal Studies B.A.
- UC Davis: Political Science with specialization in Public Service B.A., Communication B.A.
- UC Irvine: Philosophy B.A. with a Specialization in Law and Society
- UC Santa Barbara: History of Public Policy and Law B.A.
- UC Santa Cruz: Legal Studies B.A.
- UC San Diego: Political Science/Public Law B.A. or Sociology/Law and Society

Participating CA Community Colleges

- Antelope Valley College
- Bakersfield College
- Chabot College
- Chaffey College
- College of Alameda
- College of the Canyons
- East Los Angeles College
- Fresno City College
- Gavilan College
- Hartnell College
- Los Angeles City College
- Los Angeles Mission College
- Merritt College
- Rio Hondo College
- Riverside City College
- Sacramento City College
- Saddleback College
- San Joaquin Delta College
- San Jose City College
- Santa Ana College
- Santa Monica College
- Solano Community College
- Southwestern College
- Ventura College
- Victor Valley College
- West Los Angeles College

Participating CA Law Schools

- Chapman University
- Loyola Marymount Law School
- Pepperdine University
- Santa Clara University School of Law
- Southwestern Law School
- University of California, Berkeley School of Law
- University of California, Davis School of Law
- University of California, Irvine School of Law
- University of California, San Francisco School of Law
- University of the Pacific, McGeorge Law School
- University of San Francisco School of Law
- University of San Diego School of Law
- University of Southern California, Gould School of Law
- Western State College of Law

C. Curriculum Standards

CAL LAW:7 Course Pattern of Success Factors

- The **Pathway to Law School Initiative** requires students to complete **seven courses** based on a defined set of “**success factors**” that help make effective lawyers.
- There are reports describing the factors or **qualities of an effective or good lawyer**. One report followed by the California Law Pathways program is the “**26 Effectiveness Factors of a Good Lawyer**” produced by Professors Marjorie Shultz and Sheldon Zedeck of the University of California at Berkeley. These effectiveness factors were the **focus of the course selection** for the curriculum.
- For California Community Colleges, a final curriculum with the seven course patterns, cross-referenced with the **CAL-GETC** (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) allows transferability of credit hours to California State Universities. This curriculum was provided to all participating community colleges. The community colleges, following the “**Required 7 Course Pattern**” and cross-referencing them with its own course offerings, created its own curriculum for the Pathway program. Two additional courses were included to provide an experience in service or civic learning and to ensure college success.

Curriculum Standards – COA Design

LAW PATHWAY CERTIFICATE OF ACHEIVEMENT (Total Units: 24 – 27)

Required Courses (7)

1. Understanding Law : BUS 107/110 or AJ 110/111(3 units)
2. Written Communication (Area 1A): ENGL 150 (4 units)
3. Critical Thinking (Area 1B): ENGL 151/155 or COMM 109 (3-4 units)
4. Oral Communication (Argumentation/Debate/Persuasion) (Area 1C): COMM 103/104 (3 units)
5. Quantitative Reasoning (Area 2): MATH-115 or STAT 115 (4 units)
6. Intro to American Government (Area 4): POLS 100/101(3 units)
7. US History (any time period) (Area 4 or 6): HIST 117/118/151/211/212/213/216/238 or ETST 110/111/112/121/151/152 (3 units)

Recommended Elective(s)

- Service /Civic Learning: BEHS 252AB
- College Success: COUN xxx
- or, any course not previously used that is part of the LPPS AA-T degree (1-3 units)

D. Adequate Resources

- N/A
- All COA courses are currently offered regularly at COM (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Courses are offered in F2F, hybrid and online modalities
- Many courses use OER and ZTC
- COM Outreach working with local high schools that have Street Law/Mock Trial programs to establish Law Pathway **dual enrollment** courses (e.g. Terra Linda HS, Redwood HS)
- Partners with Career Ladders Project - Cal LAW Pathways Dual Enrollment COP (April 2024)

MOU for CA Diversity Pathway to Law

Community College Requirements (see Exhibit C)

In Progress:

- **Course Offerings** (required 7 offered at least 1 ce/academic year)
- **Civic Service & College Success Courses** (offered frequently)
- **Dual Enrollment Partner Program** (pending)

Next Steps:

- Extracurricular Activities (e.g. Mock Trial competition, Law Summit, Marin County Bar)
- Cal-LAW Scholar - provide notice and identify participating Law Pathway students
- Community College Personnel: Faculty, Counselor, Admin and Student Liaison

E. Compliance

- N/A

Career Education (Only)

- N/A

CELEBRATING



California LAW PATHWAYS

10 YEARS

Resources

<https://calawpathways.org/>

<https://www.lsac.org/>

"Building a diversity pipeline into the law"

Questions?

