

# LEGAL NURSE CONSULTANT PROGRAM OUTLINE



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(19 sem. credit hours / 38 lessons / 855 clock hours)

**Legal Nurse Consultants fulfill a unique role in bridging the gap between healthcare and medically related issues in the litigation process.**

The Legal Nurse Consultant (LNC) program provides a foundation in legal studies to professionals that possess an R.N. credential that choose to expand their professional career in the legal field. It is **recommended that students have a minimum 2-3 years** of nursing experience to be familiar with medical standards of practice, interpret medical records, and analyze the performance of other healthcare providers.

Building on your education and clinical experience, this program provides nursing professionals with fundamental skills necessary to advise law firms, health care providers, insurance companies, and governmental agencies on medically related issues. A comprehensive analysis of the principles and practices of legal nurse consulting, with an emphasis on legal research, personal injury and torts, civil litigation, and the medical-legal system are included.

# PROGRAM OUTLINE

Unit 1 | Paralegal Today | 6 Lessons

Unit 2 | Legal Research and Writing | 6 Lessons

Unit 3 | Civil Litigation | 6 Lessons

Unit 4 | Personal Injury and Torts | 6 Lessons

Unit 5 | Medical Law and Ethics | 6 Lessons

Unit 6 | Legal Nurse Consultant Principles | 8 Lessons

# PARALEGAL TODAY

6 LESSONS | 3 CREDIT HOURS



## OVERVIEW

Students will learn the past, present, and future of the paralegal profession, including the paralegal defined, educational options, techniques for marketing skills, and career opportunities. Instruction on ethics and professional responsibility, the organizational structure of the legal workplace, and office culture and politics will prepare students for the challenges of today's paralegal. Students receive a formal introduction to law by examining sources of American law, the court system and alternative dispute resolution, substantive law in its various forms, as well as administrative law, and government regulation. Legal procedures and advanced skills involving civil litigation and trial procedures, criminal law, conducting interviews and investigations, using primary and secondary sources for legal research, the emerging technology of computerized assisted legal research, in addition to legal analysis and writing provide valuable insight and a solid foundation for the future legal assistant.

## OBJECTIVES

1. List aspects of the paralegal profession, including career opportunities, the inner workings of the law office, and ethics and professional responsibility in the legal field.
2. Paraphrase procedures, including the sources of American law, the court system, and alternative dispute resolution.
3. Describe legal research and analysis, contemporary online legal research, and legal writing and its form and substance.
4. Explain civil litigation, how to conduct interviews and investigations before a trial, and trial procedures.
5. Identify the key elements of the law in the following areas: criminal law and procedures, tort law, product liability, and consumer law, contracts, intellectual property law, real property and insurance law, contracts, family law and estates, business organizations and employment law, bankruptcy, and environmental law.

# LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

6 LESSONS | 3 CREDIT HOURS



## OVERVIEW

This course will provide students a foundation in legal research and writing which is a fundamental skill for paralegals. The differences between federal and state law, civil and criminal law, and substantive and procedural law will be discussed. The importance of primary sources used in legal research, such as constitutions and statutes are covered along with secondary sources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and periodicals. A special focus on computer-assisted legal research (CALR) and how to execute searches using online legal research platforms such as LexisAdvance. Students will learn how to update and verify their legal research. The second half of this course will introduce the basics of legal writing and the writing process. Students will practice their legal writing skills by drafting a demand letter and legal memorandum. The most formal type of legal writing, appellate briefs, and appellate procedures are discussed.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the role paralegals play in conducting legal research.
2. Distinguish between primary and secondary sources for conducting legal research.
3. Identify key terms and phrases in a research question.
4. Demonstrate the Shepardizing process.
5. Discuss the IRAC formula of legal analysis.
6. Draft legal documents such as a demand letter and legal memorandum.
7. Understand the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure used for appellate briefs.

# CIVIL LITIGATION

6 LESSONS | 3 CREDIT HOURS



## OVERVIEW

The course addresses the skills students must develop to become effective paralegals from the first contact with the client, through trial and post-judgment. The course provides a deeper understanding of the litigation process, including the relevant rules and procedures. It also explores the role students will play as paralegals in litigation trials. The presentation of procedural rules and realistic examples of motions, pleadings, and discovery requests are discussed. Students will learn the legal terms of litigation, receive tips on drafting documents commonly used in litigation, and read about popular alternatives to litigation.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the skills and tasks performed by a litigation paralegal.
2. Describe the various courts within the federal and state court systems.
3. Identify the paralegal's role in the case investigation and the gathering of evidence.
4. Define and describe the responses to the initial pleading and outline the steps involved in drafting, serving, and amending the complaint.
5. Explain the procedures for making and opposing a motion.
6. Define the paralegal's role in the discovery process.
7. Compare and contrast the different types of depositions.
8. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of interrogatories.
9. Describe the duties a litigation paralegal might perform regarding settlements.
10. Explain the appellate brief process.

# PERSONAL INJURY AND TORTS

6 LESSONS | 3 CREDIT HOURS



## OVERVIEW

The Personal Injury/Torts course covers the essential topics that students need to know if they plan to work in tort law or the personal injury field. It addresses the skills necessary to become an effective paralegal during the discovery and review of medical records, and during the tort litigation process before and after trial. The e-text that comes with this course will help students gain a deeper understanding of substantive torts topics. The course explores the role students will play as a paralegal on a personal injury case. The textbook contains expanded coverage of medical malpractice and enhanced treatment of ethics. It also presents the legal terms of torts and personal injury law, definitions of the various types of torts, and the defenses a defendant can raise to each and receive instruction in drafting documents commonly used in this area of law.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Define tort law and list its categories and purposes.
2. Discuss the role of foreseeability in tort law.
3. Differentiate between battery and assault.
4. Define and explain strict liability.
5. Identify the elements and defenses of negligence.
6. Discuss the role of product liability in the media.
7. Define and identify torts against and within the family and torts connected to the land.
8. Explain defamation and related terms.
9. Discuss misrepresentation, tortious interference, and tort defenses.
10. Define workers' compensation and identify covered diseases and injuries.

# MEDICAL LAW AND ETHICS

6 LESSONS | 3 CREDIT HOURS



## OVERVIEW

This course provides an overview of the laws and ethics needed to give competent, compassionate care to patients that is within acceptable legal and ethical boundaries. This course can serve as a guide to help resolve the many legal and ethical questions a health care practitioner will face in the work environment.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the workings of the American legal system including the court system and legal procedures and principles of liability (including intentional and nonintentional torts and defenses to lawsuits).
2. Outline the concepts and theories of ethics.
3. Summarize both legal and ethical issues central to health information management.
4. Explain the concepts of risk management in a health care setting.
5. Describe the kinds and qualities of information systems in health care.
6. Describe the role of law and ethics in the workplace including employee rights, discrimination, and workplace protections.
7. Explain health care fraud and abuse.



# LEGAL NURSE CONSULTANT PRINCIPLES

8 LESSONS | 4 CREDIT HOURS



## OVERVIEW

This core course includes in-depth coverage on topics on the legal nurse consultant's role. Topics include professional negligence, product liability, toxic tort, criminal litigation, life care planning and damage assessment, the nurse as an expert witness, working with experts, preparation for and evaluation of deposition and trial testimony, medical records and case analysis, medical literature research, client interviews and communication, independent medical examinations, discovery/disclosure, alternative dispute resolution and mediation, trial preparation and trial practice, and the legal nurse consultant's role in the insurance industry and in risk management. The course includes guidance on business principles for legal nurse professionals in the areas of ethics, professionalism, and standard practices.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the legal system – civil and criminal systems.
2. Explain and review the different disciplines of law.
3. Explain legal writing and research (i.e., what is a burden of proof and admissibility of evidence).
4. Review and explain the necessary elements to prove negligence claims and the regulations of the medical profession.

# PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Identify primary and secondary sources of law, and legal issues in a case

Demonstrate proficiency in the use of research tools, and techniques necessary to find the law

Describe the legal system, the legal principles, the legal analysis process, the rule of law, and the litigation process

Apply problem-solving and critical analytical skills, with the context of identifying issues in a case, the rule of law, its application, and the use of counterarguments and conclusions

Evaluate and prepare professional legal documents, establish case files, and interview expert witnesses

Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of medical ethics and proficiently access, locate, and research the law by both traditional and electronic methods

Recognize the Legal Nurse Consultant's role in identifying cases involving negligence, product liability, torts and criminal litigation



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