The Department of Political Science at Texas State University offers a master of arts degree in legal studies and certificates in paralegal studies and mediation. The legal studies and paralegal studies programs are the only graduate-level paralegal programs in Texas approved by the American Bar Association.

The mediation certificate program meets the state’s requirements for the training of entry-level court-appointed mediators. Students in these programs receive a balance of instruction in theory and practice and have the opportunity for a close intellectual exchange with our highly qualified and dedicated faculty.

The department emphasizes analytical and conceptual thinking, legal research and writing, the evolution of various legal theories, substantive areas of law, and practical paralegal training.

“Your concern for the educational well-being of your students is exceptional, and your knowledge and teaching skills are what all faculty should strive for.”

— Robert Dickens LEGAL STUDIES ALUMNUS
Course Work

Master of Arts with a Major in Legal Studies
Texas State’s master of arts with a major in legal studies was the first degree of its kind in Texas and one of only a few in the United States. The degree provides students interested in law at a graduate level with an understanding of the American legal system, legal theories, legal analysis, legal research, and legal writing. Students use this knowledge to pursue career opportunities in law, government or business, as well as career enhancement in law-related fields and as a background for further graduate work in law or related fields.

The non-thesis, 36-semester-credit-hour program consists of a core of 27 required hours, including a cumulative research project, an internship and nine hours of electives.

Paralegal Studies Certificate Program
Texas State has offered quality paralegal education at the postgraduate level since 1978. This program is designed to prepare students to perform as highly qualified paralegals with both a theoretical knowledge of substantive law as well as practical skills.

Students complete 24 semester credit hours of graduate course work, including 18 hours of required core courses, an internship and six hours of electives.

Mediation Certificate Program
This program is offered at the graduate level and is designed to provide entry-level skills for mediators. Mediation is an alternate dispute resolution process often used to resolve employment, landlord-tenant, neighborhood and other interpersonal disputes.

Students must enroll in the Alternative Dispute Resolution course, attend at least 40 hours of class and complete all course requirements with a grade of B or higher. The ADR course combines lectures with practical assignments and role-play. Students not only learn negotiation and mediation theory, they also acquire the practical skills necessary to mediate interpersonal disputes.

Associations
The master of arts in legal studies and the paralegal studies programs at Texas State have been approved by the American Bar Association. The legal studies program is a member of the American Association for Paralegal Education. However, these programs do not qualify an individual to practice law.

Admission Policy
Applicants for legal studies programs must have a:
• bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university; and
• GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work leading to the bachelor’s degree will be required for the master’s program. Conditional admission may be allowed in appropriate circumstances. See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/lglst.html for details about conditional admission.
• GPA of 2.75 in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work leading to the bachelor’s degree for the certificate programs.
• interview with the director of legal studies.

Each applicant must submit the following to The Graduate College:
• the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
• application fee
• one official transcript from each college or university attended, including community colleges.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application and additional details. Admission deadlines are June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester and April 15 for the summer semester. The priority deadline to be considered for funding opportunities is February 15.

Financial Assistance
Graduate assistant positions are available for master’s degree-seeking students through the Department of Political Science. Interested students should write or call the department to request applications.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education.

Contact
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