



TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Office of Continuing Education  
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<http://www.tamtu.edu/ce>

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**Education & Training Plan**  
**Legal Writing Specialist Certificate Program with Externship**  
**Texas A&M International University (TAMTU)**

Student Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Program includes National Certification & an Externship Opportunity**  
**Mentor Supported**

**Legal Writing Specialist Certificate Program with Externship**

Course Code: TAMIU-L-WRIT  
Program Duration: 6 Months  
Course Contact Hours: 375  
Student Tuition: \$3,799

**The Legal Writing Specialist**

The Legal Research & Writing course is designed to introduce students to legal thought, writing styles and research methods used in the profession every day. Students will be introduced to various methods used to solve clients' problems by using effective research techniques, accurate and in-depth legal analysis, and the clear and concise written and oral communication that are paramount to the legal profession. As these skills can only improve with a great deal of practice, this course offers the foundation from which students can build on these skills for years to come.

**The Legal Writing Specialist Program**

For those students looking toward law school or who are interested in the paralegal profession, this program offers an incredibly useful and realistic look into the actual work that lawyers and legal professionals do every day. Using a problem-solving approach, students will use the tools and techniques introduced to represent a fictional client and provide the clients with legal advice. Students will learn essential skills of successful lawyers, including researching legal authorities, applying the law to a client's situation, and communicating that analysis both in writing and verbally. This program is designed to provide students with a solid working knowledge of the tools available in law libraries, including both state and federal primary and secondary materials. Students will find, analyze, and solve problems in the legal world. In addition, students will adapt the research material into legal memoranda, briefs and other useful work product while communicating the results in a competent and ethical manner.

## Education and National Certifications

- Students should have or be pursuing a high school diploma or GED.
- There are no state approval and/or state requirements associated with this program.
- There is a National Certification exam available to students who successfully complete this program:
  - **Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certification Exam.**

## Program Objectives

At the conclusion of this program, students will be able to:

- Summarize research practices used by a paralegal
- Analyze ethical issues related to research
- Describe the main products of legal research
- Analyze the facts in a case
- Classify legal research sources
- Differentiate mandatory authority from persuasive authority
- Research and analyze enacted law
- Research and analyze case law
- Use secondary sources as part of legal research
- Compare researched cases with client cases
- Validate case law using a citator
- Apply professional writing styles appropriate for legal communication
- Write a case brief and an internal memorandum of law
- Prepare other legal documents
- Use Microsoft Office

## National Certification

Upon successful completion of this Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) program, students would be eligible to sit for the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) exam. Although there are no state approval, state registration or other state requirements for this program, students who complete this program at TAMIU will be prepared and are eligible to sit for this national certification exam. Students who complete this program are encouraged to complete the externship option with their program. Students who complete this program can and do sit for the MOS national certification exams and are qualified, eligible and prepared to do so. TAMIU works with each student to complete the exam application and register the student to take their national certification exam.

## Externship / Hands on Training / Practicum

Although not a requirement, once students complete the program, they have the ability to participate in an externship and/or hands on practicum so as to practice the skills necessary to perform the job requirements of a professional in this field. Students will be assisted with completing a resume and/or other requirements necessary to work in this field. All students who complete this program are eligible to participate in an externship and will be placed with a participating organization near their location. TAMIU works with national organizations and has the ability to place students in externship opportunities nationwide.

**TAMIU contact:** If students have any questions regarding this program including national certification and externships, **they should call Jacqueline Arguidegui of Texas A&M International University at 956-326-3068 or via email at [ce@tamiu.edu](mailto:ce@tamiu.edu).**

Note: No refunds can be issued after the start date published in your Financial Award document.



## About Texas A&M International University

**Welcome to TAMIU!** Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) is an international university, poised at the Gateway to Mexico and serving as the cultural and intellectual hub of a vibrant bilingual and bicultural community. A Member of The Texas A&M University System, TAMIU provides nearly 7000 students with a learning environment anchored by the highest quality programs built on a solid academic foundation in the arts and sciences. To fulfill its mission, the University offers a range of baccalaureate, masters and certificate programs. Programs focus on developing undergraduate and graduate offerings with a progressive international agenda for global study and understanding across all disciplines.

**OUR MISSION:** The mission of the Office of Continuing Education is to engage the public by improving the quality of life through academic courses, facilitating conferences and workshops, providing personal enrichment courses, professional certificate and certification programs, facilitating CE Units, community outreach endeavors, and facilitating camps and programs for minors throughout the year.

<http://www.tamtu.edu>



### Texas A&M International University and Pearson Education

Texas A&M International University Continuing Education / Extension (CEE) division eLearning programs were developed in partnership with Pearson Education to produce the highest quality, best-in-class content and delivery necessary to enhance the overall student learning experience, boost understanding and ensure retention. Pearson Education is the premier content and learning company in North America offering solutions to the higher education and career training divisions of colleges and universities across the country aimed at driving quality education programs to ensure student success. Please visit us at [www.pearson.com](http://www.pearson.com).

### About Pearson Education

Welcome to Pearson. We have a simple mission: to help people make more of their lives through learning. We are the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 80 countries helping people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives. We provide a range of education products and services to institutions, governments and direct to individual learners, that help people everywhere aim higher and fulfil their true potential. Our commitment to them requires a holistic approach to education. It begins by using research to understand what sort of learning works best, it continues by bringing together people and organizations to develop ideas, and it comes back round by measuring the outcomes of our products.

## **Legal Writing Specialist Program Detailed Student Objectives:**

### **THE BASICS OF THE RESEARCH SYSTEM**

- Describe the research responsibilities of a paralegal
- Give examples of situations requiring legal research
- Describe the sources and products of legal research
- Summarize the proper ethical procedure for legal research
- Determine ethically appropriate responses to research-related situations

### **THE PRODUCTS OF RESEARCH**

- Describe the purpose and components of an internal memorandum of law
- Describe the purpose and components of a case brief
- Describe the purpose and components of a trial brief
- Describe the purpose and components of an appellate brief

### **LET'S START**

- Distinguish key facts, explanatory facts, and legally unimportant facts in a case
- Summarize the legal issues in a client case or reported case
- Identify the legal history of a reported case
- Summarize the holdings, reasoning, and disposition in a case

### **BASIC RESEARCH TOOLS**

- Describe sources for legal research
- Differentiate between primary and secondary sources
- Identify appropriate uses of primary and secondary sources
- Define mandatory authority
- Define persuasive authority
- Differentiate between the uses of mandatory and persuasive law

### **FINDING ENACTED LAW**

- Describe types of enacted law
- Distinguish when to use each type of enacted law
- Distinguish when to use enacted federal versus enacted state law
- Locate enacted law relevant to a case

### **ANALYZING ENACTED LAW**

- Determine whether enacted law applies to a case
- Explain relevance of a type of enacted law to a case
- Apply enacted law to a case's facts

### **FINDING CASE LAW**

- Describe types of case law
- Distinguish when to use each type of case law
- Distinguish when to use federal case versus state case law
- Locate case law relevant to a case

### **ANALYZING CASE LAW**

- Identify the components of a court decision
- Analyze similarities and differences between cases
- Apply an example of case law to another case or client situation

### **FINDING THE LAW: SECONDARY SOURCES**

- Apply secondary sources to a relevant case
- Locate secondary sources relevant to a case
- Use secondary sources when researching a topic

### **MAKING COMPARISONS**

- Define the concepts of *stare decisis* and precedent
- Identify precedents favoring a client and favoring the opponent
- Compare a researched case to a client's case
- Explain the relevance of a researched case to a client's case

### **FINDING CURRENT LAW**

- Explain validation in the context of case law
- Describe the purpose of a citator
- Describe how various types of authority can be validated
- Confirm that a case is correctly updated using print and online resources
- Find parallel citations to a case in other legal resources

### **PREPARING TO PRESENT THE RESULTS**

- Apply fundamentals of good writing to legal documents
- Write legal documents applying an advocacy tone
- Write legal documents applying a neutral tone

### **PRODUCING A CASE BRIEF**

- Document the case name and its citations
- Document the judicial history of the case
- Document the facts in the case
- Document the issues in the case
- Document the relevant primary sources for the court's reasoning
- Document the court's reasoning and its holding
- Identify components of a case brief

### **PRODUCING AN INTERNAL MEMORANDUM OF LAW**

- Document the facts of a case
- State the legal issues in a case
- Discuss the issues in a case
- Explain the purpose of an internal memorandum of law

### **OTHER LEGAL DOCUMENTS**

- Write a settlement letter applying a persuasive tone
- Write legal documents applying an informational tone
- Write legal documents applying an appropriate adversarial tone
- Describe the components of an appellate brief
- Describe how a memorandum of law can serve as the basis for an appellate brief

**Note: This program can be completed in 6 months. However, students will have online access to this program for a 24-month period.**

## **MICROSOFT OFFICE Module**

- Use an integrated software package, specifically the applications included in the Microsoft Office suite
- Demonstrate marketable skills for enhanced employment opportunities
- Describe proper computer techniques for designing and producing various types of documents
- Demonstrate the common commands & techniques used in Windows desktop
- List the meaning of basic PC acronyms like MHz, MB, KB, HD and RAM
- Use WordPad and MSWord to create various types of documents
- Create headings and titles with Word Art
- Create and format spreadsheets, including the use of mathematical formulas
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of computer database functions, including putting, processing, querying and outputting data
- Define computer terminology in definition matching quizzes
- Use the Windows Paint program to alter graphics
- Use a presentation application to create a presentation with both text and graphics
- Copy data from one MS Office application to another application in the suite
- Use e-mail and the Internet to send Word and Excel file attachments
- Demonstrate how to use the Windows Taskbar and Windows Tooltips
- Explain how copyright laws pertain to data and graphics posted on the Internet
- Take the college computer competency test after course completion
- Follow oral and written directions and complete assignments when working under time limitations

**Note:** Although the Microsoft Office Module is not required to successfully complete this program, students interested in pursuing free Microsoft MOS certification may want to consider completing this Microsoft Office Module at no additional cost.

### **System Requirements:**

#### **Windows Users:**

- Windows 8, 7, XP or Vista
- 56K modem or higher
- Soundcard & Speakers
- Firefox, Chrome or Microsoft Internet Explorer

#### **Mac OS User:**

- Mac OS X or higher (in classic mode)
- 56K modem or higher
- Soundcard & Speakers
- Apple Safari

#### **iPad Users:**

- Due to Flash limitations, eLearning programs are NOT compatible with iPads

#### **Screen Resolution:**

- We recommend setting your screen resolution to 1024 x 768 pixels.

#### **Browser Requirements:**

- System will support the two latest releases of each browser. When using older versions of a browser, users risk running into problems with the course software.
- Windows Users: Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Mac OS Users: Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox

#### **Suggested Plug-ins:**

- Flash Player
- Real Player
- Adobe Reader
- Java