



The State Bar of California

**EXCERPTED FROM THE
FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
CALIFORNIA PARAPROFESSIONAL PROGRAM WORKING GROUP
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

Licensing Requirements

Requirement	Recommendations		
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JD or LLM from American Bar Association (ABA) or California accredited or registered law school; or • Paralegal qualified pursuant to Business and Professional Code § 6450(c): or • Legal Document Assistant qualified per Business and Professions Code § 6402.1(b)³ 		
Education	Practice Area	Course	Units
	All Practice Areas	Ethics and Professional Responsibility	3
		Pretrial Discovery and Evidence	3
		Court Procedure	3
		Court Advocacy	3
		Trauma-Informed Representation	1
		Total	13
	Collateral Criminal	Expungement, Reclassifications, and Infractions Must include potential immigration consequences or noncitizens in Collateral Criminals matters.	3
	Consumer Debt & General Debt	Debt Collection and Creditor Harassment	6
		Enforcement of Judgments (including wage	3
		Name and Gender Change	0.5
		Total	9.5
	Family, Children, and Custody	Family Law and Procedure	6
		Adoption	2
		Violence Prevention	2
		Conservatorship/Guardianship	3
		Total	13

	Employment & Income Maintenance	Administrative Agency Procedure	3
	Housing	Landlord-Tenant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leases/rental agreement • Security deposits • Types of tenancies • Tenant protections • Housing discrimination and landlord retaliation • Warranty of habitability • Rent control and evictions • Ground and procedures for nonjudicial termination of tenancies • Unlawful detainer procedure • COVID-19 tenant protection laws tenant assistance (until such laws expire) • Rental assistance programs • Benefits and risks of demanding a jury trial • Small claims court actions • Subsidized housing and mobilehomes • Benefits of demanding a jury trial in unlawful detainer cases 	12
		Lien cleaning	1
		Total	13
	<p><i>With the exception of one unit of paraprofessional Ethics and Responsibility, coursework taken as part of a law school or paralegal program may satisfy the program's educational requirements.</i></p>		
Practical Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 hours over a minimum of six months • 500 hours must be in practice area in which paraprofessional will be Licensed • Must include trauma-informed training • Experience working as a paralegal or in a law school clinic may satisfy the experience requirements, subject to certification by the supervising attorney or law clinic instructor that it meets the specified criteria. 		
Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject matter-specific testing • Professional Responsibility Exam modeled after attorney exam 		
Moral Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fingerprinting and background check equivalent to attorney requirements • Not disbarred or resigned with charges pending in any jurisdiction • Moral character determination requirements to mirror attorney requirements 		