



# Research Brief #148

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## Paralegal Studies Five Year Student Profile

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At the request of the Chair of Paralegal Studies, the office of Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness examined the profile of students who completed and did not complete the Paralegal Studies program within the past five years (Fall 2012-Spring 2017). Specifically, this research intended to answer the following questions:

- 1.) Of the students who completed the Paralegal Studies program,
  - a. What was their education level prior to entering the program compared to students enrolled in the college as a whole?
  - b. What was their demographic profile (age, ethnicity, sex, and area of residence) compared to students enrolled in the college as a whole?
  - c. What math courses did they complete?
  - d. What was the highest math course completed?
- 2.) Of the students who did not complete the Paralegal Studies program and enrolled in at least two courses,
  - a. How many completed at least two courses and what were those courses?
  - b. What math courses were they enrolled in? If they did not enroll in any math courses, what math course did they place into?

Results from this analysis will help inform outreach efforts and program planning.

### Results:

#### Paralegal Studies Program Completers

##### **Program Completers Prior Education Level:**

Overall, students completing the Paralegal Studies program enter the program having already completed beyond a high school diploma (6 percent – college as a whole and 33 percent – Paralegal Studies completers). More specifically, a higher percentage of Paralegal Studies program completers entered the program with an Associate Degree (3 percent - college as a whole and 12 percent – Paralegal Studies completers) and a Bachelor's Degree or higher compared to the college as a whole (3 percent – college as a whole and 21 percent – Paralegal Studies program completers). Note: Ten percent of non-completers entered the program having already completed a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

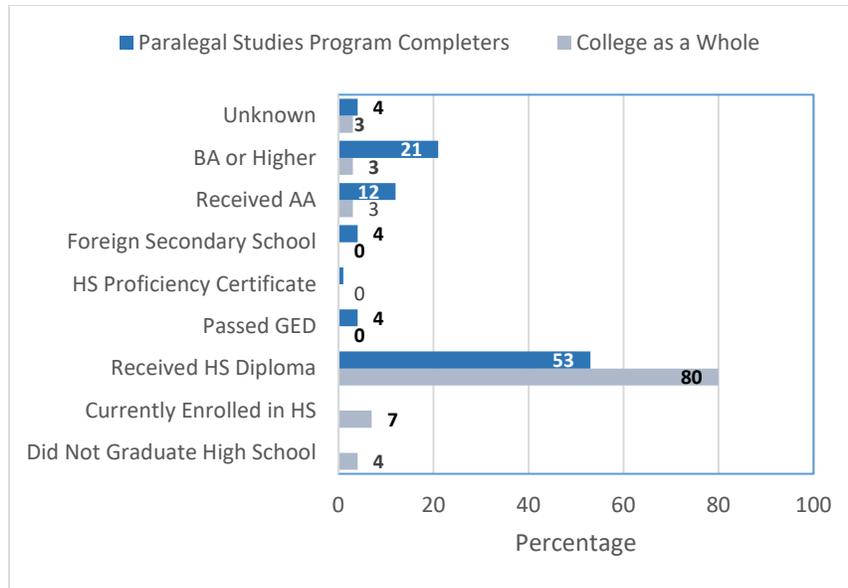


Figure 1 Distribution of Prior Education Level for Students Enrolled in the College as a Whole and Paralegal Studies Completers (Percentage)

## Demographic Profile

### Age:

Overall, the majority of students completing the Paralegal Studies program are non-traditional students (age 25 and older). Specifically, 70 percent of Paralegal program completers are age 25 and older compared to 26 percent of students for the college as a whole. See Table 1 for details.

Table 1 Age of Paralegal Studies Completers (Number and Percentage)

	Students Enrolled in the College as a Whole	(Fall 2012-Spring 2017)	Paralegal Studies Program Completers	(Fall 2012-Spring 2017)
Age	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<b>19 or Less</b>	21,253	48%	7	7%
<b>20-24</b>	11,763	26%	22	23%
<b>25-29</b>	4,580	10%	17	17%
<b>30-34</b>	2,110	5%	16	16%
<b>35-39</b>	1,335	3%	9	9%
<b>40-49</b>	2,020	5%	17	17%
<b>50+</b>	1,467	3%	10	10%

### Ethnicity:

Compared to the college as a whole, just about the same percentage of Paralegal Studies program completers were Latinx (44 percent – college as a whole and 45 percent – Paralegal Studies program completers), and White (34 percent – college as a whole and 38 percent – Paralegal

Studies program completers). Compared to the college as a whole, a lower percentage of Paralegal Studies completers were Asian/Pacific Islander (10 percent – college as a whole and 3 percent – Paralegal Studies program completers); however, compared to the college as a whole, a higher percentage of Paralegal Studies completers were African American (6 percent – college as a whole and 10 percent – Paralegal Studies program completers). See Figure 2 for details.

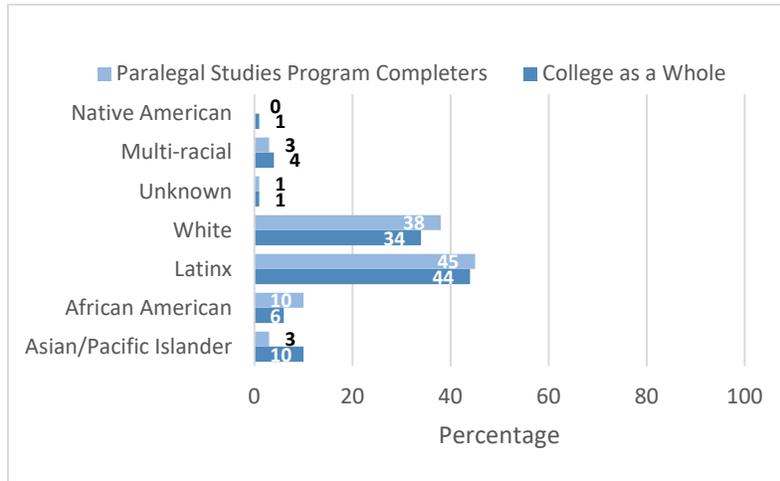


Figure 2 Distribution of Ethnicity for Students Enrolled in the College as a Whole and Paralegal Studies Completers (Percentage)

**Sex:**

There was a higher percentage of female Paralegal Studies program completers (47 percent – college as a whole and 90 percent – Paralegal Studies program completers) compared to the female population for the college as a whole. See Table 2 for details. Note: **excludes unknown/no response.**

Table 2 Sex of Students Enrolled in the College as a Whole and Paralegal Studies Completers (Number and Percentage)

	Students Enrolled in the College as a Whole	(Fall 2012-Spring 2017)	Paralegal Studies Program Completers	(Fall 2012-Spring 2017)
Sex	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Female	22939	50%	88	90%
Male	21346	47%	10	10%

**Area of Residence:**

Overall, the community of residence for Paralegal Studies program completers reflects the population for the college as a whole with the exception of out-of-district students. As seen in Figure 3, 41 percent of students were from out of the district for the college as a whole compared to half for the Paralegal Studies program completers (50 percent). The next largest proportion for area of residence was Canyon Country (18 percent – college as a whole and 19 percent – Paralegal

Studies program completers), followed by Valencia/Santa Clarita (13 percent - college as a whole and 12 percent – Paralegal Studies program completers), and Saugus (12 percent – college as a whole and 9 percent Paralegal Studies program completers).

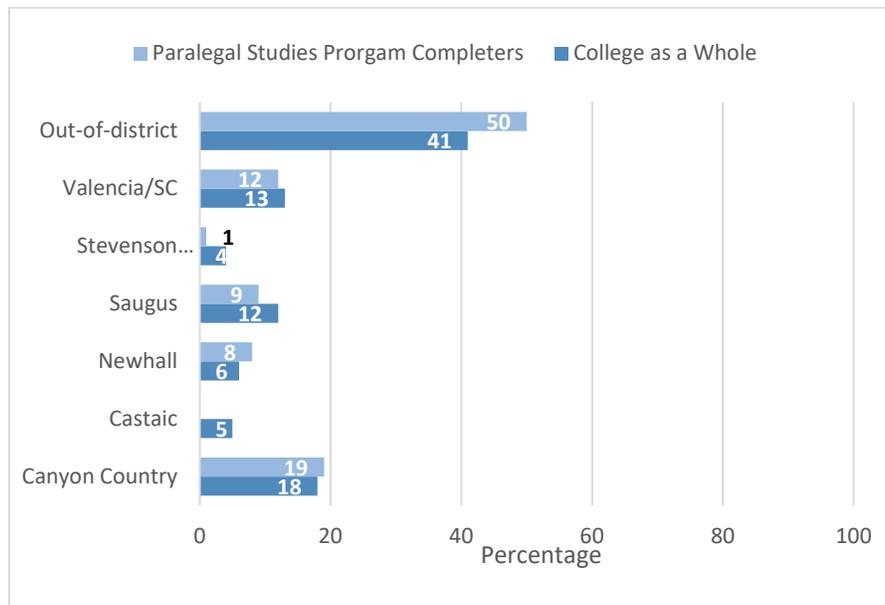


Figure 3 Distribution of Area of Residence for Students Enrolled in the College as a Whole and Paralegal Studies Completters (Percentage)

**Out-of-District Residents – Paralegal Studies Program Completters:**

The majority of Paralegal Studies completers who resided outside the district were from Palmdale and Lancaster (N=22). See Table 3 for other cities in which Paralegal Studies completers resided.

Table 3 Outside of District Cities in Which Paralegal Studies Completters Reside (N)

Out-of-district	N	Out-of-district	N
Palmdale	13	Northridge	1
Lancaster	9	Pacoima	1
Chatsworth	3	Pine Mountain Club	1
Camarillo	2	Reseda	1
Granada Hills	2	San Fernando	1
North Hills	2	Sherman Oaks	1
Bakersfield	1	Stockton	1
Burbank	1	Sylmar	1
Calabasas	1	Van Nuys	1
Mission Hills	1	Winnetka	1
North Hollywood	1		

**Math Course Success for Paralegal Studies Program Completters:**

Paralegal Studies program completers enrolled in a variety of math courses at College of the Canyons. Table 4 shows math courses in which they were and were not successful. More than 50 percent of Paralegal Studies completers completed Math-070 (Intermediate Algebra) and -075 (Intermediate Algebra for Statistics) (N=86). Fifty-seven Paralegal Studies completers were successful in transfer-level math courses. The transfer-level math course with the highest enrollment and success was Math-140 (Introductory Statistics).

*Table 4 Math Courses in Which Paralegal Studies Completers Enrolled in and Passed. Note: Math-101, -025, and -026 moved to noncredit*

Math Courses	Enrolled (N)	Success Rate (%)
MATH-025	30	83%
MATH-026	7	57%
MATH-058	--	100%
MATH-059	--	100%
MATH-060	--	100%
MATH-063	--	100%
MATH-070	60	88%
MATH-075	--	100%
MATH-083	4	75%
MATH-102	7	71%
MATH-103	20	70%
MATH-130	--	100%
MATH-140	32	84%
MATH-211	6	67%
MATH-212	2	50%
MATH-240	4	50%

### **Highest Math Course Completed by Paralegal Studies Program Completers:**

The top three highest math course Paralegal Studies program completers enrolled and succeeded in were Math-070, Math-140, and Math-075. See below for all highest math courses completed:

- Math-070 (N=27)
- Math-075 (N=15)
- Math-083 (N=1)
- Math-103 (N=5)
- Math-130 (N=3)
- Math-140 (N=25)
- Math-211 (N=2)
- Math-212 (N=2)
- Math-240 (N=3)

Note: Thirteen students who completed the Paralegal Studies program included in this analysis met their degree applicable/transfer level math requirements prior to attending COC.

### **Paralegal Studies Non-Completers**

#### **Non-Completers and Paralegal Studies Course Enrollments:**

Two hundred forty-four students were identified in the analysis as previously declaring themselves a Paralegal Studies major, but did not complete the program within the past five years. Of these students, 144 (59 percent) completed two or more Paralegal Studies courses. The top three courses with the highest enrollments by these students were Paralegal Studies -101 (Introduction to Law, N=137), Paralegal Studies – 105 (Tort Law, N=96), and Paralegal Studies – 104 (Contract Law, N=71). See Table 5 for a detailed list of courses taken by non-completers.

*Table 5 Paralegal Studies Courses in Which Non-Completers Were Enrolled In (Number)*

Paralegal Studies Courses	Enrollments (N)
Paralegal Studies -101 (Introduction to Law)	137
Paralegal Studies -105 (Tort Law)	96
Paralegal Studies -104 (Contract Law)	71
Paralegal Studies -109 (Computer Literacy for Paralegals)	51
Paralegal Studies -111 (Civil Litigation I)	51
Paralegal Studies -107 (Legal Ethics)	50
Paralegal Studies -108 (Legal Research and Computerized Legal Research)	50
Paralegal Studies -106 (Legal Analysis and Writing)	49
Paralegal Studies -150 (Family Law)	48
Paralegal Studies -112 (Civil Litigation II)	40
Cooperative Work Experience - 188	25
Paralegal Studies -180 (Estate Planning)	21
Paralegal Studies -200 (Paralegal Seminar)	16
Paralegal Studies -140 (Bankruptcy)	13
Paralegal Studies -201 (Aging and the Law)	4

Table 6 summarizes the number of non-completers who enrolled in two or more Paralegal Studies courses by number of Paralegal courses taken. The number of Paralegal Studies courses non-completers enrolled in ranged between two and 12.

*Table 6 Paralegal Studies Course Enrollments by Non-Completers (Number and Percentage)*

Paralegal Studies Course Enrollments	N	%
2	40	28%
3	28	19%
4	21	15%
5	13	9%
6	8	6%

Paralegal Studies Course Enrollments	N	%
7	3	2%
8	5	3%
9	6	4%
10	5	3%
11	9	6%
12	6	4%

### Paralegal Studies Program Non-Completers and Math Courses:

Paralegal Studies non-completers enrolled in a variety of math courses at College of the Canyons. Table 7 shows math courses in which they were and were not successful. Over a third of Paralegal Studies non-completers completed Math-060 (Elementary Algebra) and -070 (Intermediate Algebra for Statistics) (36 percent, N=86). Almost a quarter of Paralegal Studies non-completers were successful in transfer-level math courses (25 percent, N=58). The transfer-level math course with the highest enrollment and success was Math-140 (Introductory Statistics). The top two math courses in which non-completers were not successful in were Math-070 (27 percent, N=23) and Math-058 (Algebra Preparation) (17 percent, N=14).

*Table 7 Math Courses in Which Paralegal Studies Non-Completers Enrolled in, and Passed. Note Math -010, -025, and -026 moved to noncredit*

Math Courses	Enrolled (N)	Success Rates (%)
MATH-010	5	--
MATH-025	29	10%
MATH-026	7	--
MATH-058	46	13%
MATH-059	11	3%
MATH-060	52	19%
MATH-070	64	17%
MATH-075	27	8%
MATH-083	8	--
MATH-102	3	--
MATH-103	17	4%
MATH-104	5	--
MATH-130	3	--
MATH-140	40	14%
MATH-211	2	--
MATH-212	1	--
MATH-240	2	--

## **Recommendations:**

Consider outreach to students identified in the analysis as not completing the Paralegal Studies program, but enrolled in several Paralegal Studies courses, to examine reasons for which they did not complete the program.

## **Methodology**

To conduct the analysis, data were obtained through Informer and the Chancellor's Office UST and USX referential files from Fall 2012 to Spring 2017. Within these files, courses included in the analysis were identified by section type. To perform the analyses data obtained were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS, 2017) and Excel (2016).

Definitions:

- 1.) **Course Success:** defined as the percent of students successful in courses out of total enrolled in courses: Numerator = Number of students (duplicated) with A, B, C, CR/P; Denominator = Number of students (duplicated) with A, B, C, D, F, FW, CR/P, NC/NP, W, I. (This analysis uses the RP Group definition, which facilitates statewide comparisons.)
- 2.) **College as a Whole:** Students Enrolled between Fall 2012 and Spring 2017, excluding ISA students.

For more detailed information on this research brief, stop by the Institutional Research office located in BONH-224, or call Catherine Parker, Research Analyst at 661.362.5879 or Daylene Meuschke, Dean of Institutional Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness at 661.362.5329.