

## Legal and Correction Services

2017-18 Program of Study	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Legal and Correction Services	Principles of Law, Corrections, and Security (6155)	Criminal Justice I (5987)	U.S. Government and Civics 1 (3417)	Court Systems and Practices (6150)

### Description

Legal and Correction Services is designed for students interested in the law, and the legal aspects of public safety, and corrections. In this program of study, course content covers a wide range of knowledge and skills related to the criminal court system process, with particular emphasis on the elements and procedures of the justice system. Upon completion of this program of study (POS), students will be prepared to pursue advanced study in law and criminal justice, or to enter a variety of careers in law enforcement, public safety, and corrections.

### Job Outlook

**Figure 1** is a graphic depicting the outlook for lawyers in the United States. As you can see the outlook is below average in most of the Southern states.<sup>1</sup> This is not the case for paralegals and legal assistants in Tennessee. They will see an increase by 20 percent with a job market of approximately 5,790 jobs in 2024 in Tennessee and a median salary of \$46,550. Currently there are 83 openings for paralegals in Tennessee.<sup>2</sup>

Nationally, employment of probation officers and correctional treatment specialists is projected to grow 4 percent from 2014 to 2024, slower than the average for all occupations. For Tennessee, growth is estimated at 5 percent. Limited state and local government funding for corrections will temper employment growth. However, job openings should be plentiful because many people leave the occupation each year.<sup>3</sup> **Figure 2** projects jobs for probation officers and correctional treatment specialists to be concentrated around urban areas.

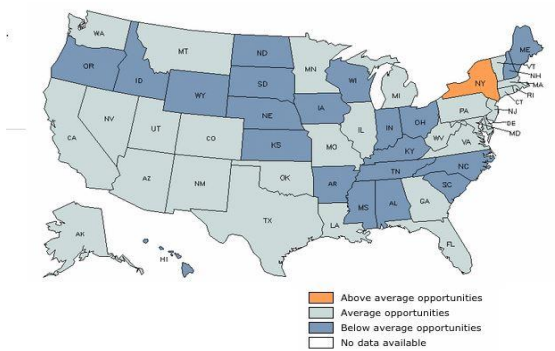
<sup>1</sup> Lawyers. (2014). Retrieved from My Next Move: <http://www.mynextmove.org/profile/state/23-1011.00?from=profile>

<sup>2</sup> Paralegals and Legal Aides. (2016). CareerOneStop. [www.careerinfonet.org](http://www.careerinfonet.org)

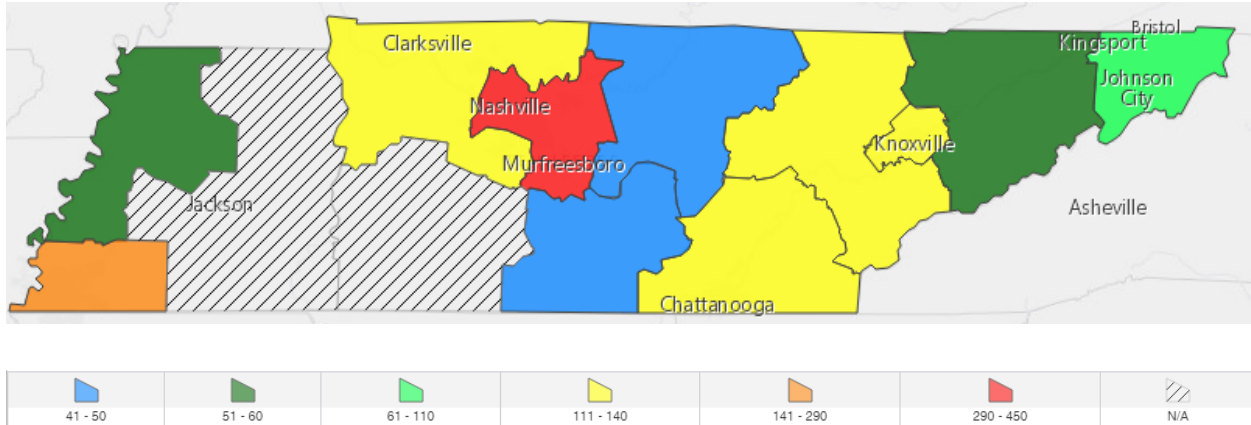
<sup>3</sup> United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2017, June 21). *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/probation-officers-and-correctional-treatment-specialists.htm>

Other careers in Legal Services can include court reporters, municipal clerks, license clerks, and legal secretaries, **Figure 3**. These careers are lower skill level, but students can enter these careers while preparing for higher-level occupations.

**Figure 1.** National job outlook for Lawyers<sup>4</sup>



**Figure 2.** 2024 projected employment for Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists<sup>5</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Lawyers. (2014). Retrieved from My Next Move: <http://www.mynextmove.org/profile/state/23-1011.00?from=profile>

<sup>5</sup> Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development. (2016). *Occupational Projections*. Retrieved from <https://www.jobs4tn.gov/vosnet/analyzer/results.aspx?session=occpj>

**Figure 3.** Tennessee employment projections for law enforcement and related occupations<sup>6</sup>

Occupation	2014 Estimated Employment	2024 Projected Employment	Total 2014 - 2024 Employment Change	Annual Avg. Percent Change	Median Salary
<b>Probation officer/Correctional Treatment Specialist</b>	1,800	1,880	80	0.5%	\$37,560
<b>Legal Secretary</b>	2,110	2,010	-100	-0.5%	\$37,990
<b>Protective Service Worker</b>	1,130	1,280	150	1.8%	\$28,980
<b>Lawyer</b>	7,990	8,690	700	0.9%	\$102,880
<b>Paralegal/ Legal Assistants</b>	4,820	5,790	970	1.8%	\$46,550

**Figure 4.** State and national trends for paralegals with positive projections 2014-24<sup>7</sup>

	Employment		Percent Change	Projected Annual Job Openings
	2014	2024		
<b>National</b>				
Paralegal	279,500	300,800	8%	8,270
<b>Tennessee18</b>	Employment		Percent Change	Projected Annual Job Openings
	2014	2024		
Paralegal	4,820	5,790	20%	170

<sup>6</sup> Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development. (2016). *Occupational Projections*. Retrieved from <https://www.jobs4tn.gov/vosnet/analyzer/results.aspx?session=occproj>

<sup>7</sup> United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2017, April 26). *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*. Retrieved from <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/23-2011.00>

### ***Postsecondary Pathways***

There are currently five community colleges offering an Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal Studies. This includes Chattanooga State, Nashville State, Roane State, Volunteer State, and Southwest Tennessee Community College.

To become a court reporter, students must become certified. Southwest Tennessee Community College currently offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Office Administration with a concentration in Court Reporting/Closed Captioning. Though physical campuses offering court reporter training are limited in Tennessee, a quality education is very much within reach. Many reputable educational institutions from around the country offer court reporter training through online programs. This type of training can be completed from home according to the student's schedule.<sup>8</sup>

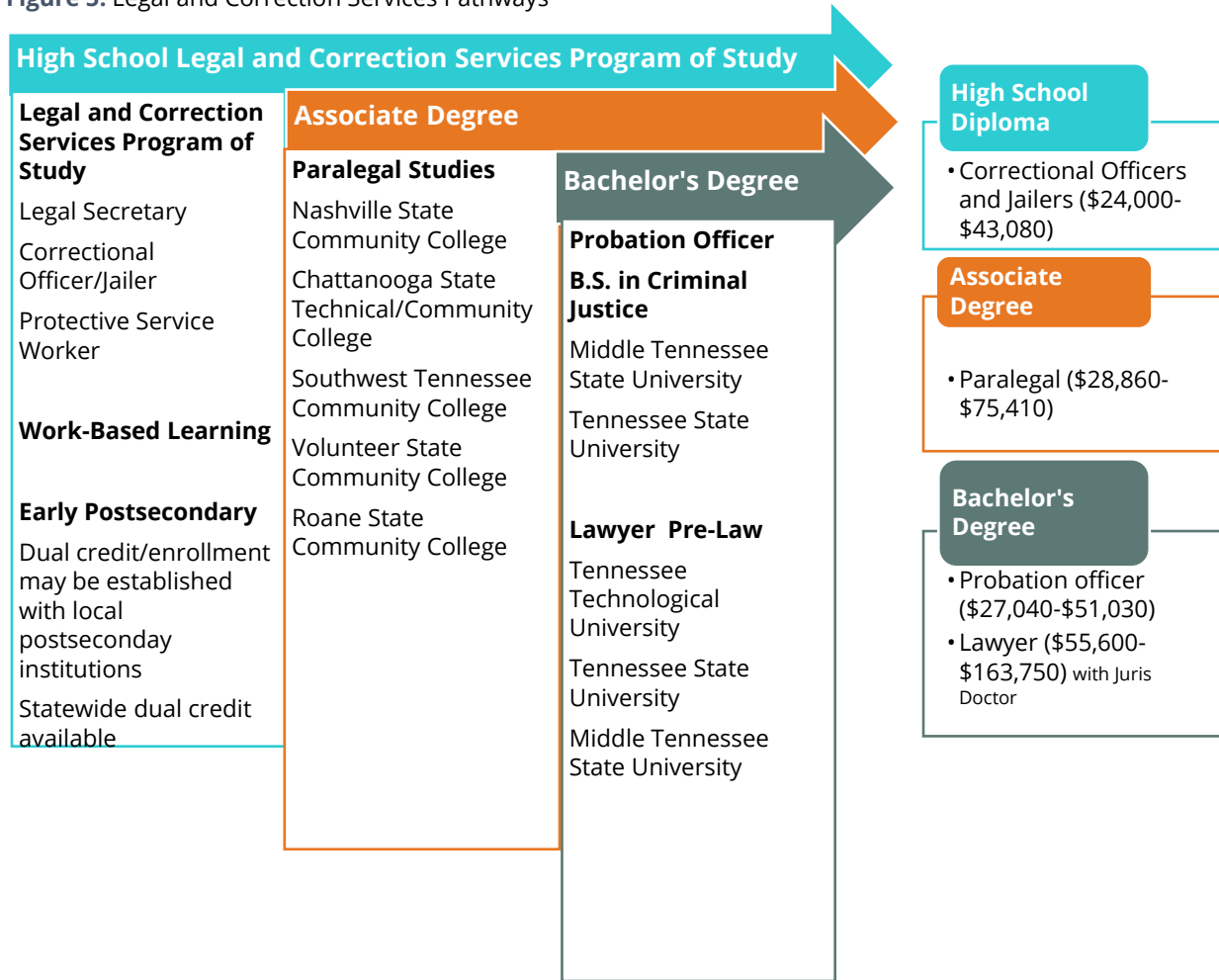
To qualify for employment as a probation officer, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice is required. Austin Peay, Tennessee State, East Tennessee State University, University of Memphis, and Middle Tennessee State University all offer a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

Should students prefer to enter the workforce or work while pursuing postsecondary education, they will have a robust portfolio and be well prepared for entry level positions such as legal secretary, corrections officer, or protective service worker; see **Figure 3**.

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<sup>8</sup> Court Reporting Schools Online. (2012). *Tennessee Court Reporting Schools*. Retrieved from <http://www.courtreportingschoolsonline.net/Tennessee.html>

Figure 5. Legal and Correction Services Pathways



### Current Secondary Landscape

In the 2014-15 school year, 14 schools in Tennessee offered courses in the Legal and Correction Services program of study, and 2,631 students were enrolled in a the Level 1 course. The Level 2 course, Criminal Justice I, had 6345 enrolled. The number Legal and Correction Services programs of study offered in Tennessee has stayed the same in the past two years. **Figure 4** shows the open enrollment analysis for 2014-15 SY and 2015-16 SY as well student enrollment for 2014-15 in the Legal and Corrections Services program of study.

**Figure 6.** Open enrollment analysis<sup>9</sup>

SY	Legal and Correction Services
2014-15	14
2015-16	14
2016-17	18
2017-18	29

#### Student Enrollment

SY	Principles of Law, Corrections & Security	Criminal Justice I	Court Systems and Practices
2013-14	0	6521	0
2014-15	2325	5451	125
2015-16	2958	6134	180

#### Legal & Correction Services Concentrators

SY	Legal and Correction Services
2013-14	n.d.
2014-15	20
2015-16	70

<sup>9</sup> Tennessee Department of Education. (2015). *Student Enrollment Data*. Retrieved from Author's calculation of student enrollment data.

### **Recommendations**

Based on conversations with secondary educators, industry, and postsecondary instructors in collaborative settings, I recommend revising the Legal and Corrections Services program of study to Legal Services. The Law, Public Safety Corrections & Security Industry Advisory Council feels very strongly this change more accurately reflects their industry. The council also believes changing the name of the POS to Legal Services more fully represents the industry. In making this change, the Law Enforcement Services program of study will become Criminal Justice Services.

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<b>Legal Services</b>	<b>Principles of Law, Corrections, and Security (6155)</b>	<b>Court Systems and Practices I</b>	<b>Court Systems and Practices II</b>	<b>Legal Services Practicum</b>

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