

Pre-Law

2019-20 Program of Study	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Pre-Law	Pre-Law I (6195)	Pre-Law II (6196)	Pre-Law III (6197)	Success Skills in Service Learning (6104) -or- AP U.S. Government and Politics (3445) -or- Dual Enrollment Pre-Law (4119)

Description

The *Pre-Law* program of study is designed for students interested in legal services careers. In this program of study, course content covers a wide range of knowledge and skills related to the American legal system including basic principles common to business, personal, criminal and civil law. Other topics include legal careers, the justice system, juvenile justice, immigration law, ethics, and professionalism. Upon completion of this POS, students will be prepared to pursue advanced study in law and criminal justice.

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.¹ 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.²

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

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

² Paralegals and Legal Aides. (2016). CareerOneStop. www.careerinfonet.org

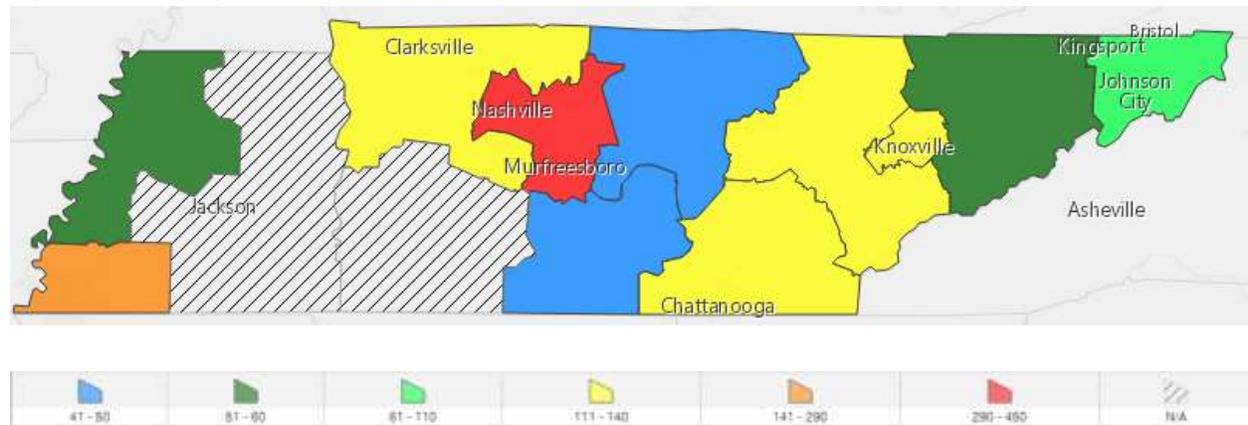
the occupation each year.³ **Figure 2** projects jobs for probation officers and correctional treatment specialists to be concentrated around urban areas.

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 Lawyers⁴



Figure 2. 2024 projected employment for Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists⁵



³ 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>

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

⁵ 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 legal and related occupations⁶

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

Figure 4. State and national trends for paralegals with positive projections 2014-24⁷

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

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

⁷ 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.

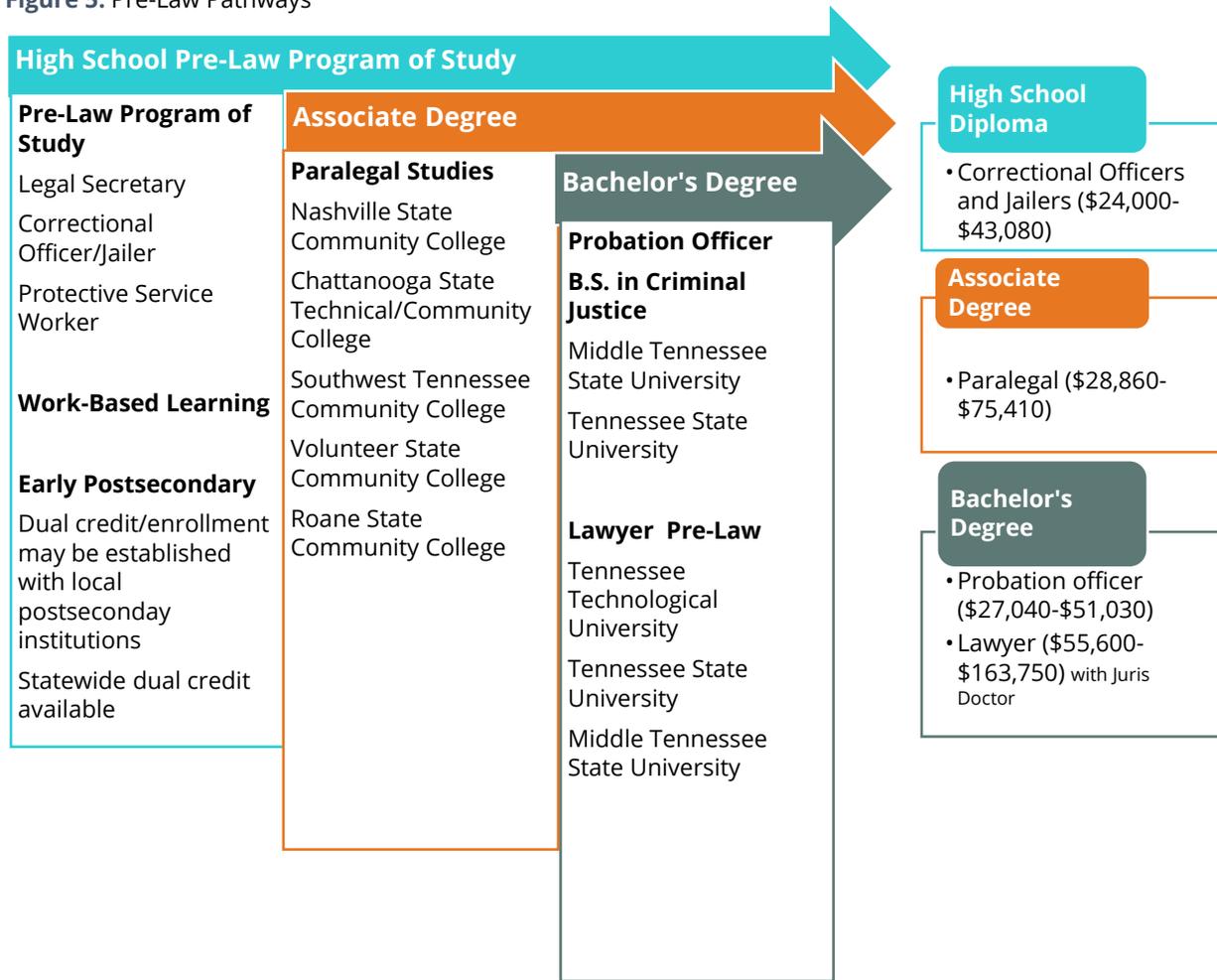
To become a court reporter, students must become certified. Southwest Tennessee Community College currently offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Office Administration with a concentration in Court Reporting/Closed Captioning. Though physical campuses offering court reporter training are limited 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.⁸

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**.

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

Figure 5. Pre-Law 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. This program of study became Pre-Law in the 2018-19 SY.

Figure 6. Open enrollment analysis⁹

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

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

Recommendations

No Recommendations at this time.

2019-20 Program of Study	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Pre-Law	Pre-Law I (6195)	Pre-Law II (6196)	Pre-Law III (6197)	Success Skills in Service Learning (6104) -or- AP U.S. Government and Politics (3445) -or- Dual Enrollment Pre-Law (4119)

References

American Job Center Network. (2014). *Lawyers*. Retrieved from My Next Move:
<http://www.mynextmove.org/profile/state/23-1011.00?from=profile>

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

Tennessee Department of Education. (2015). Student Enrollment Data. Retrieved from Author's calculation of student enrollment data.

Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Jobs4TN Online. (2016). *Employment Wage and Data*. Retrieved from <https://www.jobs4tn.gov/vosnet/analyzer/results.aspx?session=occproj>

Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Jobs4TN Online. (2016). *Occupational Projections*. Retrieved from <https://www.jobs4tn.gov/vosnet/analyzer/results.aspx?session=occproj>

United States Department of Labor, Career One Stop. (2016). *Paralegals and Legal Aides*. Retrieved from www.careerinfonet.org