Lewis University Accelerated Programs

The School for Professional and Continuing Education provides adult students an opportunity to complete a college degree with a learner-centered, accelerated delivery format compatible with their needs and lifestyles. Most three semester credit hour courses are completed in five- or eight-week sessions.

The academic focus is on the integration of theory and practice emphasizing application, analysis and synthesis through collaborative learning experiences. Through small class size, group interaction and one’s unique life experiences, the classroom becomes a dynamic environment in which each student is an active participant.

Lewis faculty are prepared as teachers, scholars, researchers and practitioners. In the adult classroom, they serve as coaches, role models and facilitators. Faculty hold a master’s or doctoral degree, providing a rich blend of academic knowledge in their discipline with practical, professional experience.

Paralegal Studies

The National Association of Legal Assistants defines paralegals, also known as legal assistants as persons who, through formal education and training “have knowledge and expertise regarding the legal system and substantive and procedural law which qualify them to do work of a legal nature under the supervision of an attorney.” A paralegal cannot perform attorney functions, such as providing legal advice or representing a client in court, but a paralegal, may perform functions delegated by an attorney, such as conducting interviews with clients and witnesses, conducting legal research, and drafting documents. Paralegals are typically employed by lawyers, law offices, corporations, or governmental agencies.

Program Entrance Requirements

Applicants should be at least 24 years of age; have earned a minimum of 12 semester (18 quarter) hours of transferable credit at a regional accredited post-secondary institution; have earned a minimum of a 2.0 (4.0) cumulative transfer GPA, based on all transferable courses to be considered for admission; and have at least three years of full-time work experience. Credits earned through Prior Learning Assessment cannot be used for satisfying the transfer credit hour requirement for admission into an accelerated degree program.

Degree Requirements

- Successful completion of a minimum of 128 semester credit hours.
- Completion of final 32 semester graded credit hours at Lewis University including four upper division foundation courses and/or major courses (12 semester credit hours).
- Achievement of an overall grade point average of at least 2.00 (“C”) for all courses taken at Lewis University and a 2.20 average for the foundation and major area courses.
General Education*
- College Writing I (3)
- College Writing II (3)
- Introduction to Human Communication (3)
- Mathematics (3)
- Natural Science (3)
- Natural Science (3)
- Social Science (Satisfied by American Government or State and Local Government) (3)
- Social Science (3)
- Social Science (3)

Three of the following courses:
- Culture and Civilization I (3)
- Culture and Civilization II (3)
- Fine Arts Requirement (3)
- Introduction to Philosophy (3)
- Literature Requirement (3)

Two of the following Mission-based courses must be taken at Lewis:
- Christian Action and Values (3) OR Ethics (3)
- Cultural Diversity and Intergroup Relations (3)
- Theology (3)

*If ≥ 29 hours transferred into Lewis.

Foundation Courses
Requirements (21 sem. hours)
- LV-101 Introduction to Paralegal Studies
- LV-201 Fundamentals of Litigation for Paralegals
- LV-202 Law Office Management and Computer Use for Paralegals
- LV-301 Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing for Paralegals (Fulfills advanced writing requirement in major)
- LV-302 Interviewing and Investigating for Paralegals
- LV-303 Ethics and Professional Responsibility for Paralegals
- LV-401 Paralegal Capstone: Practicum

Specialty Electives (12 sem. hours)
- LV-310 Torts and Personal Injury Law for Paralegals
- LV-312 Basic Contracts for Paralegals
- LV-314 Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning for Paralegals
- LV-316 Real Estate Transactions and Property Law for Paralegals
- LV-318 Family Law for Paralegals
- LV-320 Sole Proprietorship, Corporations and Partnerships for Paralegals
- LV-322 Commercial Law for Paralegals
- LV-324 Elder Law for Paralegals
- LV-326 Bankruptcy Law for Paralegals
- LV-328 Environmental Law for Paralegals
- LV-330 Immigration Law for Paralegals
- LV-332 Intellectual Property for Paralegals
- LV-334 Taxation for Paralegals
Law-Related Courses
(6 semester hours from the courses listed below)
Note: Paralegal students with an interest in criminal law are encouraged to take the substantive and procedural criminal law courses (81-430 and 81-445) as part of their related electives. Paralegal students with an interest in business law are encouraged to take

- **LB-250** Business Law
- **L8-371** Constitutional Law
- **L8-372** Civil Liberties
- **LX-260** Juvenile Justice System*
- **LX-430** Elements of Criminal Law
- **LX-445** Criminal Procedure: Rules of Evidence

Program Electives
(6 semester hours from courses not taken above or courses listed below)

- **L9-325** United States Since 1941
- **L8-XXX** Judicial Politics
- **L8-321** Comparative Government
- **L8-331** International Relations
- **LC-350** Sociology of Criminal Behavior
- **LC-345** Sociology of Delinquent Behavior
- **81-200** Court Systems and Probation*

*These courses will be listed with 81 as the department number until further notice.

The Context and Role of Law in Society
(6 semester hours from the courses listed below)

- **L8-361** History of Political Thought I
- **L8-362** History of Political Thought II
- **L8-363** American Political Thought
- **LY-310** Philosophy of Law

Minor (24 sem. hours)
Eighteen of the 21 required hours in the major (A.1) above are required for the paralegal minor; the capstone practicum experience course is optional in the minor. Minors take at least one specialty elective, and students not electing the practicum course are required to take two specialty electives. Students in the minor would also be eligible to sit for the Certified Legal Assistant (CLA) examination.
Lewis University Campuses

1. **Lewis Main Campus**
   One University Parkway
   Romeoville, IL 60446
   [Phone] (815) 836-5610

2. **Chicago/De La Salle Institute**
   3434 S. Michigan Avenue
   Chicago, IL 60616
   [Phone] (312) 326-1673

3. **Hickory Hills Campus**
   9634 S. Roberts Road
   Hickory Hills, IL 60457
   [Phone] (708) 233-9768

4. **Oak Brook Campus**
   2122 York Road, Suite 170
   Oak Brook, IL 60523
   [Phone] (630) 573-1740

5. **Shorewood Campus**
   247 Brookforest Avenue
   Shorewood, IL 60404
   [Phone] (815) 744-0504

6. **Tinley Park Campus**
   18501 Maple Creek Drive
   Tinley Park, IL 60477
   [Phone] (708) 444-3180

For More Information

**Office of Graduate and Adult Admission**
One University Parkway, Romeoville, IL 60446-2200
(815) 836-5610, toll-free (800) 897-9000, fax (815) 836-5578
acceleratedprogram@lewisu.edu

**Office Hours**
M - F, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.