

<u>Program</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Date Updated</u>
Paralegal	Amy Snider-Wells	March 2022

State	Meets educational Requirements	Does not meet educational requirements	Undetermined	State	Meets educational Requirements	Does not meet educational requirements	Undetermined
Alabama			*	Nebraska			*
Alaska			*	Nevada			*
American Samoa			*	New Hampshire			*
Arizona			*	New Jersey			*
Arkansas			*	New Mexico			*
California			*	New York			*
Colorado			*	North Carolina	*		
Connecticut			*	North Dakota			*
Delaware			*	Northern Mariana Islands			*
Florida			*	Ohio			*
Georgia			*	Oklahoma			*
Guam			*	Oregon			*
Hawaii			*	Pennsylvania			*
Idaho			*	Puerto Rico			*
Illinois			*	Rhode Island			*
Indiana			*	South Carolina			*
Iowa			*	South Dakota			*
Kansas			*	Tennessee			*
Kentucky			*	Texas			*
Louisiana			*	US Virgin Islands			*
Maine			*	Utah			*
Maryland			*	Vermont			*
Massachusetts			*	Virginia			*
Michigan			*	Washington			*
Minnesota			*	West Virginia			*
Mississippi			*	Wisconsin			*
Missouri			*	Wyoming			*
Montana			*				

Comments: There is no single authority in the United States which oversees the paralegal profession. The state bar associations in Ohio, North Carolina, and Florida offers paralegals the option of earning state certification through the state bar association.

Paralegal Technology

STATE AUTHORIZATION INFORMATION

This professional licensure and certification information is proprietary to the North Carolina Community College System.

This information is provided to NCCCS institutions to provide the appropriate compliance disclosures so students can make informed decisions about their educational goals.

REQUIREMENT

Colleges offering Paralegal Technology are required to provide general and direct disclosures to each student regarding the reciprocity of the program against other states.

State Authorization Professional Licensure\Certification\Credentialing

Effective July 1, 2020 the U.S. Department of Education requires colleges to provide general and direct disclosures to students prior to making a financial obligation for all professional licensure and certification programs. Refer to the SA Requirements tab for specific details on this new regulation.

Paralegal Technology Licensure\Certification \ Credentialing\ Information:

There is no single authority in the United States which oversees the paralegal profession.

Certification at the state level is almost always offered through the state's paralegal professional association, not the state bar association, and not through a state government licensing authority of any kind – and, it is always voluntary. Realistically in 2021, you need at least an associate's degree to work as a paralegal.

Even in the handful of states of states where certification is available through the bar or some other authority, for most paralegals in most roles it is completely voluntary and usually completely unnecessary.

The only gray points that exist are in a few states (CA, AZ and WA) where paralegals that choose to offer certain services independently, would be required to be registered, certified or licensed. In CA, independent paralegals that choose to offer legal document preparation must be registered as Legal Document Assistants.

In AZ, paralegals who choose to offer legal document services independently must earn the Legal Document Preparer certification. The operative word here is choose, in that there is no legal obligation to go through a credentialing process unless the paralegal chooses to offer expanded services or work independently.

Expanded Information for Paralegal Technology:

Many courts and paralegal organizations believe that any mandatory regulation of paralegals may hinder the growth of the profession. For example, NALA opposes mandatory regulation, instead encouraging voluntary self-regulation through its national certification program.

The state bar associations in Ohio, North Carolina, and Florida offers paralegals the option of earning state certification through the state bar association.

The Texas bar association has taken certification one step further by offering certification in one or more of six areas of law.

In Indiana, paralegals can voluntarily register through the state bar association, and once accepted, use the credential "IRP" (Indiana Registered Paralegal) provided they meet specified education and experience requirements.

Last Revised 9/13/21

State Authorization Professional Licensure Information:

34 CFR 668.43(c) Direct Disclosures

1. Prior to enrollment, students must be notified in writing (direct disclosure) if the program does not meet OR the institution has not made a determination whether the program meets education requirements for licensure and/or certification in the state where the student is located.
2. The regulations state regarding the timing of these disclosures, the U. S. Department of Education (DOE) expects that the institution will provide this disclosure before a student enrolls into a program or in the event that an institution does not provide an enrollment agreement, before the student makes a financial commitment to the institution.
3. If the student is enrolled in a program and the institution makes a determination that the program does not meet educational requirements in the state where the student is located, the institution has 14 calendar days to notify the student in writing.

NOTE: Be sure to document that any required direct notifications (pre enrollment and/or address change) were sent. An easy way to do this is to ensure that a copy of the letter or email is kept within the student's academic record.

Complete details can be found on the NCCCS Virtual Learning Community website.

<https://vlc.nccommunitycolleges.edu/faculty/state-authorization/>