

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
WEBSTER UNIVERSITY AND SOUTHWESTER ILLINOIS COLLEGE  
RESULTING IN A B.A. IN LEGAL STUDIES

**PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**Webster University Advising: (314) 968-6991**

**To Apply to Webster University, contact:**

**Webster University  
Undergraduate Admissions  
470 East Lockwood  
St. Louis, Missouri 63119-3194**

**Legal Studies Director: Robin Jefferson Higgins, J.D.**

**PART II: GENERAL RATIONAL FOR THE PROGRAM**

Webster University's Legal Studies Program proposes this articulation agreement for graduates of Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) who have earned a SWIC Paralegal Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS). The primary objective in creating this transfer program is to provide the opportunity for prospective students to combine SWIC's excellent foundational paralegal program with a high quality liberal arts and law-specific Legal Studies program available from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. The Legal Studies Program at Webster University believes this combination creates opportunities for students and the two institutions in the following manner:

1. The potential graduates of this program will be provided a well-balanced, in-depth paralegal education, capitalizing on the best aspects of teaching and learning performed by each institution. Program graduates will integrate their outstanding fundamental paralegal skills acquired from SWIC and the liberal arts, law-oriented, intellectual and professional education acquired from Webster University.
2. The potential graduates of this program will benefit from this program's creation because it creates a cohesive fit between SWIC's paralegal AAS program and Webster University's Legal Studies Bachelor of Arts degree (BA). Most importantly, 66 credit hours from a student's SWIC paralegal degree will transfer to Webster University and count toward a B.A. in Legal Studies. In addition, students graduating with a SWIC paralegal AAS degree will have automatically satisfied some of Webster University's general education requirements (as delineated in the general transfer agreement between SWIC and Webster University). Finally, a SWIC paralegal AAS degree satisfies up to 21 of the 51 departmental requirements for a B.A. in Legal Studies.
3. The potential graduates will receive the best aspects that each institution offers without the need for any new physical or human resources, by making use of the physical and human resources presently in place, thereby reaping the foundational

skills instilled by SWIC and the liberal arts, law oriented, intellectual and professional education instilled by Webster University.

4. The potential graduates will be more efficiently and effectively served by more judicious advising and course planning, sequencing and staffing in light of the common outcome envisioned by this program.

### **PART III: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

The Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies consists of a total of 128 credit hours, comprised of three main components, as follows:

- **Fifty-One (51) departmental required credit hours;**  
18 of these hours must be taken at Webster  
A minimum of a “C” grade is required for each of the courses in this category.
- **Twenty-Seven (27) general education credit hours;**  
To obtain a B.A. in Legal Studies from Webster University, a student must take and pass with a “C-” or better 27 general education credit hours, with one course satisfying each of nine distinct goals. Some of the courses required for SWIC’s paralegal degree satisfy Webster University’s general education requirements, as delineated by the general transfer agreement between SWIC and Webster University.
- **Fifty (50) elective credit hours.** Credit hours that are not counted toward the 51 departmental required credit hours or toward general education credit hours will be credited as elective hours. With proper planning, a student may use elective credits to obtain a certificate, a minor or even a second major.

**In addition to the foregoing, students should keep in mind the following guidelines:**

- All of a SWIC student’s course work up to a limit of 66 semester hours will be accepted toward the total 128 hours required for a BA degree in legal studies from Webster University.
- Thirty of the final thirty-six credit hours must be completed at Webster University.
- All Webster University degree-seeking and non-degree students must maintain academic standing defined as a resident grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 system.

### **PART IV: SPECIFIC PROGRAM INTEGRATION**

**Sixty-six of a SWIC student’s course work transfers to Webster University.** The credit hours from a student’s SWIC paralegal AAS degree will be used to satisfy: A) Webster University’s departmental requirements for the B.A. in Legal Studies; B) general education requirements; or C) electives. Webster University will integrate SWIC’s paralegal AAS degree according to the following guidelines.

**A. Fifty-One (51) departmental required credit hours:**

Students who have obtained a Paralegal AAS degree from SWIC will have sixty-six of their credit hours transfer to Webster University. Those sixty-six credit hours will be included in their total of one hundred and twenty-eight (128) credit hours needed for a BA in Legal Studies. Credit hours that are not counted toward the 51 departmental required credit hours or the 27 general education hours will be credited as elective hours. The following chart reflects the 21 credit hours from a student's SWIC paralegal AAS degree that may satisfy specific departmental requirements.

**Webster University Required Courses  
45 credit hours including:**

**SWIC equivalents**

<b>LEGL 2080: Topics in Law</b>	<b>PARL 240, PARL 245, or Any 3-hour PARL elective course</b>
<b>LEGL 2400: Introduction to Law</b>	<b>PARL 120 Introduction to Paralegal Studies</b>
<b>LEGL 3000: Legal Ethics</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 3490: Civil Litigation</b>	<b><u>Need both</u> PARL 230: Civil Procedure and PARL 250: Litigation Support for Paralegals</b>
<b>LEGL 3500: Criminal Litigation</b>	<b>PARL 270: Criminal Law</b>
<b>LEGL 4460: Methods of Legal Research and Writing I</b>	<b><u>Need both</u> PARL 220: Legal Research and Writing I and 225 Legal Research and Writing II</b>
<b>LEGL 4470: Methods of Legal Research and Writing II</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 4480: Computerized Legal Research</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 4490: Advanced Paralegal Procedures</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 4810: Torts</b>	<b><u>Need both</u> PARL 240: Torts I and PARL 245: Torts II</b>
<b>LEGL 4820: Contract Law Practice</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 4830: Real Estate Law Practice</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 4840: Corporations &amp; Business Organizations</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 4850: Computers &amp; the Law</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 4910: Senior Overview</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>Additional Elective Courses – 6 Credit hours must come from the following:</b>	
<b>LEGL 4910: Paralegal Clinical Studies</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 4600: Legal Seminar</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>LEGL 4800: Advanced Topics in Law</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>INTL 2030: International Law</b>	<b>PARL 240, PARL 245, or Any 3-hour PARL elective course</b>
<b>POLT 3010: American Constitutional Law</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>
<b>POLT 3020: Civil Liberties and the Law</b>	<b>No equivalent</b>

**B. Twenty-Seven (27) General Education credit hours**

Students who graduate from SWIC with an AA degree will have satisfied all of Webster University's general education requirements. However, since SWIC's paralegal program awards an AAS degree, SWIC paralegal students can refer to the general transfer guidelines established between SWIC and Webster University for general education equivalencies.

**C. Fifty-Six Elective Hours**

All sixty-six hours of a student's SWIC paralegal AAS degree transfer to Webster University. Those sixty-six credit hours will be credited first toward specific courses within the 51 departmental required credit hours as described in Part IV (A) above, with the remaining hours credited either as general education credit hours or elective credit hours.

**D. Contacts**

SWIC students can contact the following for further information and application materials:

Webster University's Graduate and Evening Admissions office

e-mail: [gadmit@webster.edu](mailto:gadmit@webster.edu)

(314) 968-7100 or 1-800-753-6765.