THE PARALEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM offered by Samford University's Cumberland School of Law has been training individuals to become paralegals since 1978. Approved by the American Bar Association, our program offers the specific education paralegals need to build successful careers in the legal field. Faculty have decades of experience as practicing attorneys and paralegals, and work hard to provide the knowledge and skills required of today's paralegals.

Paralegals are professionals trained both in the substance of the law and in legal procedure. They use that knowledge and skill to provide a broad range of legal services under the supervision and direction of an attorney. Our curriculum reflects the skills and content knowledge today's employers expect their paralegals to possess. Paralegals may not provide legal services directly to the public except as permitted by law.

Quality
- Samford University is ranked 4th in the South among regional universities by U.S. News & World Report.
- Founded in 1841, Samford is the 87th oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.
- Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law is one of the oldest law schools in the nation, established in 1847, and is nationally recognized in the areas of trial advocacy and quality instruction.
- The paralegal program at Samford is the oldest ABA-approved program in Alabama and the only ABA-approved program in Birmingham.

Convenience
- Classes meet online, in the evening or in a combination of both formats.
- The 22-credit hour program, while comprehensive, can be completed in a little over one calendar year.

Value
- Samford is nationally recognized for affordability by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, Forbes, The Princeton Review and other prestigious publications and rankings. Financial aid is available to all qualifying students in the program.

Reputation
- Samford University’s Paralegal Studies Program enjoys an outstanding reputation in the Birmingham legal community with a “good” or “excellent” rating from 95% of surveyed employers. The Paralegal Studies Program is often the first stop for employers seeking new hires. We routinely receive job openings from solo practitioners, large and small law firms, as well as corporate legal departments.

"The paralegal program provides students with knowledge of the law and the opportunity to exercise that knowledge through practical, skills-based assignments.”
- Joey Duke, paralegal studies faculty member since 1998

"I completed the paralegal program and worked as paralegal before starting law school. That experience not only helped me to realize definitively that I wanted to become an attorney, it also gave me an advantage in my first year classes.”
- Sharidan Hollis, Paralegal Certificate ’13, Cumberland School of Law JD ’17

"The courses provided me with excellent working knowledge of the paralegal field. Because of the wonderful instructors and staff, I felt confident interviewing and beginning my first job as a paralegal.”
- Bobi Ezell, Paralegal Certificate ’14

CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:
- Individuals who have previously earned a bachelor’s degree or transferable associate’s degree from a regionally accredited institution may apply for admission to the Paralegal Studies Certificate Program.

APPLICATION PROCESS:
- Please go to www.samford.edu/go/paralegal and click the "Apply Now" button to begin your application, which can be completed entirely online.

A completed application includes the following:
1. Official transcript(s) sent directly from all institutions attended
2. Current résumé
3. Personal essay
4. Letter(s) of reference
5. Interview with the Director
Our Curriculum

CORE:
- Introduction to Paralegal Studies
- Legal Research and Writing I
- Litigation
- Technology in the Law Office

ELECTIVES:
- Estates and Trusts
- Employment Law
- Environmental Law
- Family Law
- Torts
- Business Organizations
- Elder Law

Our graduates support the nation’s best law firms, corporations and administrative agencies.

Administrative Office of Courts, State of Alabama
Alabama Power
Alexander Shunnarah Injury Attorneys, P.C.
AT&T
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
Baker & Botts LLP
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
Bally & Brenn LLP
Baxley, Dillard, McIver, James & McElroy
Bayer Proprietors, LLC
Law Offices of Nakita R. Blount, LLC
Brady Anant Boulton Cummings LLP
Brooks, Hubbard & Jones, P.C. (Columbus)
Buttle Law Firm, LLC
Burr & Forman LLP
Burkett & White LLP
Campbell, Gun, Williams, Guy & Gidiere, LLC
Capstone Development Corporation
Smith & Pace, PC
Carr Allison
City of Birmingham
Cory Watson Attorneys
Cumberland School of Law Class of 2017
Cumberland School of Law Class of 2018
D. Mark Price Attorney at Law
David P. Condon, PC
Dominick Feld Hyde, P.C.
EBSCO Industries, Inc.
Engel, Hainstock & Johnson, P.C.
Environmental Litigation Group, PC
Exida, Sanders & Williams, LLC
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Finnis, Riley & Pitt, LLP
Ford & Harrison LLP
Freeman, Martin & Associates, LLC
Friedman, Dabir, Zafar & Bowling, P.C.
Gaines Gault Hendrix, PC
Gaines, PC
Gilbert LLP
Glotzer & Glotzer, PC
Gottlieb, Cohn, Warren & Gossett, PC
Hans Wein & Newell & Newton
Healthcare Business Solutions, LLC
HealthSouth Corporation
Haynes & Haynes, P.C.
Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office
Kaufman & Johnson, LLP
Kramer, Trapane, LLP
Kramer & Ferris, LLP
Kunzelman, LLP
Lightstone & Landau LLP
Locke, Brinser, & Klein, LLC
Luna, A. Jones, P.C.
Mabry, Bickford & Bryan, P.C.
Mays, Cooper & Gale
Maurice Wutscher, LLP
Gina A. McDonald & Associates, LLC
Metcalf, Bryan, & Hollingshead, LLC
Motor Carrier Safety Consulting, Inc.
Mogensen, Simon, & Stewart, P.C.
Morgan, Luke, & Johnson, P.C.
Portoflio Recovery Associates, LLC
Protective Life Corporation
Quinn, Connor, Weaver, Davis & Reus, LLP
Ragsdale, LLC
Regions Financial Corporation
Ray & Jackson, P.C.
Samford University
Smith, Spears & Poole, P.C.
Southern Research
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Jackson & Tucker, P.C.
Social Security Administration (Tampa, FL)
Stewart Peery Construction
Taylor & Taylor
C. Taylor Crockett, PC
The Kullman Firm
The University of Alabama, Office of Counsel
Trammel Pursley & Associates, LLC
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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Vulcan Materials Company
Waldrop, Stewart & Kendrick, LLC
Waller, Lansford, & Davis, LLC
Wallace, Jordan, Rafter & Brandt, LLC
Webber, Church, & Black, P.C.
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Whitaker, Mudd, Luke & Wells, LLC

Tamula Yelling, faculty member since 2013

Visit our website for more information on the following:
- Class Schedules
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Paralegal Studies at Cumberland School of Law

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY