There are two trends in healthcare that contribute to a real demand for healthcare paralegals: dramatic growth in the healthcare industry fueled by an aging population and implementation of new models of care delivery and payment systems, and unprecedented scope and complexity of legal and regulatory corporate compliance requirements necessitating a level of expertise and mastery of a new skill set.

This innovative program allows paralegal students to dually enroll in the Master of Professional Studies in Paralegal Studies program and in the Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Corporate Compliance. Graduates will attain both the master’s degree and the graduate certificate and will have the skills, knowledge, and abilities required to enter the healthcare field.

THE MARKET FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES

Both elements of this combined program serve strong current and future employment fields. The paralegal field is among the fastest-growing in the United States; employment outlook has been and remains strong. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) places it in the highest category of growth through 2016. All local indications support this. GW paralegal graduates enjoy high rates of employment and report high levels of professional satisfaction.

The healthcare professions are similarly strong. The BLS predicts that employment in healthcare will continue to grow due to many factors, including an aging population, attrition in the field, and complex new healthcare legislation. As one of the largest industries in 2008, healthcare provided 14.3 million jobs for wage and salary workers. Ten of the 20 fastest growing occupations are healthcare related, and the BLS predicts that healthcare will generate 3.2 million new wage and salary jobs between 2008 and 2018, more than any other industry, largely in response to rapid growth in the elderly population.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Graduates of this program will be able to:

• Understand and navigate the health care fraud and abuse laws that form the background and framework for healthcare corporate compliance as well as the federal and state agencies that enforce them
• Design and implement a corporate compliance program
• Develop relevant policies, procedures and practice
• Develop and coordinate internal education compliance programs
• Identify, investigate, analyze and respond to compliance-related issues
• Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of their corporate compliance programs and initiate updates and modifications as necessary
• Frame and resolve legal questions
• Provide paralegal services in an ethical, professional, efficient and effective manner in compliance with legal and ethical standards
COURSES AND STRUCTURE

Students who enroll in the PLX – HCC master’s degree program will take the 18-credit graduate certificate in paralegal studies, the 12-credit graduate certificate in healthcare corporate compliance, the two-credit thesis, and the non-credit practicum, as outlined below.

The paralegal portion of the program will comprise the four core courses, two legal specialties, the thesis and the practicum. We would recommend but not require that students take PSLX 6214 Administrative Law and PSLX 6215 Government Contracts.

Core Courses - Students take all four of the Core Courses

PSLX 6210 American Jurisprudence (3 credits)
An introduction to law and the legal system, including material on legal history and philosophy, the U.S. Constitution, jurisdiction and venue, ethics and professionalism, legal procedure and evidence.

PSLX 6217 Prosecution and Litigation in Intellectual Property Practice (3 credits)
This course introduces students to the legal structure of the various parts of an intellectual property practice, including patent, trademark, and copyright, and surveys the instruments, laws, sources of research, and supporting practice concomitant to each element.

PSLX 6211 Legal Research and Writing (3 credits)
Training and practice in Lexis and Westlaw; print and online location and use of primary, secondary, and tertiary sources; Bluebook citation forms; drafting memorandums of law and other legal documents; cost-effective research strategies.

PSLX 6212 Litigation (3 credits)
The federal, state, local, and courtroom rules of procedure and evidence; interviewing, investigation, and research strategies and techniques; file, document, and exhibit management.

PSLX 6213 Contracts (3 credits)
A basic overview of contract law and basic corporate and business organizations Legal Specialty Courses - Students take two of the six available Legal Specialty Courses.

PSLX 6214 Administrative Law (3 credits)
This course covers administrative and regulatory sources of law and processes.

PSLX 6215 Government Contracts Law (3 credits)
This course covers the law of government contracts. Students will study the law regarding procurement, formation, and execution of government contracts.

PSLX 6216 Elements of Intellectual Property Law (3 credits)
This course introduces students to the legal structure of the various parts of an intellectual property practice, including patent, trademark, and copyright, and surveys the instruments, laws, sources of research, and supporting practice concomitant to each element.

PSLX 6218 International Law (3 Credits)
Students will learn international law, including the law of international trade, licensing and investment; the basics of the practice and procedures of buying and selling goods in foreign countries; documentary sale, international commercial and contract law, collections and letters of credit.

PSLX 6219 International Litigation (3 Credits)
Students will apply the principles they learned in PSLX 212 Litigation and PSLX 218 International Trade and Finance to the legal specialty of international litigation and study how basic litigation principles apply to international issues. This course will also provide an overview of international organizations.

CPS 6294 Independent research (2 credits)
Students write a 20 – 30 page thesis paper.

CPS 298 Practicum (non-credit)
Students will participate in paid or unpaid internships. Students with significant professional experience in this field or a closely related field may apply that experience to satisfy this requirement.
The HCC portion of the program (Students do the entire HCC certificate program)

Students attend two residencies at GW’s Alexandria Graduate Education Center, with an online distance learning segment between.

In-classroom Residency

**PSHC 6201 Introduction to Healthcare Corporate Compliance (3 credits)**

This course provides an intensive in-person/on-site overview of healthcare corporate compliance core elements and strategies for compliance plan development and implementation. It introduces key statutes, regulations, policy guidance, and enforcement initiatives that are the framework for developing a corporate compliance plan.

**Featured Topics**
- Anti-Kickback Statute
- Stark Law
- Civil False Claims Act
- Governance and Corporate Responsibility
- Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Exemption from Federal Income Tax
- Federal Anti-Trust Law

Online Distance Learning

**PSHC 6202 (A and B) Compliance with Specific Laws and Regulations (two 3 credit sections for a total of 6 credits)**

These courses cover discrete compliance topics providing students with an in-depth exploration of the healthcare laws and regulations of particular concern to regulators.

**Capstone Residency**

**PSHC 6203 Case Studies in Health Care Corporate Compliance (3 credits)**

This course allows students to apply the principles, laws, and regulations learned during the development of their corporate compliance workplans in PSHC 6201 and PSHC 6202. Utilizing a case study approach, students investigate and analyze compliance issues and and test their diagnostic and remediation skills in applying this knowledge to real-world situations.

**Partners**

The healthcare corporate compliance graduate certificate is offered through the College of Professional Studies in partnership with the School of Public Health and Health Services Department of Health Policy and the Washington DC based law firm of Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP.

**SPHHS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY**

Dedicated to health policy education and research, the Department of Health Policy is home to more than $45 million in funded research and programs. Its core and adjunct faculty include some of the nation’s best known health policy experts as well as leaders from across the public and private health policy sector. The Department’s training includes both stimulating classroom offerings, as well as hands-on experience with the major health policy issues of the day.

**FELDESMAN TUCKER LEIFER FIDELL LLP**

Located in the heart of downtown Washington DC, Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP is much more than a law firm: It is a group of professionals with decades of experience in our practice areas committed to providing the highest quality representation and counsel to our clients. Founded in 1970 with the mission of advising federal grantees, the firm remains at the forefront of federal grants law and, over the last 30 years, has expanded its practice to include one of the metropolitan area’s leading healthcare corporate compliance practices. FTLF’s Health Care Corporate Compliance attorneys provide a full range of health care corporate compliance counseling services for the development, evaluation, implementation, operation, and support of effective compliance programs.