

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

PARALEGAL STUDIES 121 – SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY LAW

1 hour lecture, 1 unit

Catalog Description

This course is intended to be an introduction to Social Security Disability Law and the role of Paralegals in the Social Security Administration. Statutory law, case law and Social Security rules will be utilized to develop an understanding of the role and authority of the Social Security Administration. Students will also be able to assist applicants with the processing of their disability applications and claims. Students completing this course will have the foundation to advance into other specialty areas of Administrative Law.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Social Security Law Overview
- 2) History of the Social Security Act
- 3) Special programs
- 4) Eligibility
 - a. Who can get benefits and who is not eligible (qualifying)
 - b. Eligibility requirements
 - c. Wages, quarters, age, etc.
 - d. Special Situations (survivors and children's benefits)
 - e. When to apply
- 5) Disability Law: Two Programs
 - a. Social Security Disability, Title 2
 1. What is needed to qualify
 2. Eligibility-credits
 - b. Supplemental Security Income, Title 16
 1. Eligibility-need based
- 6) Medical Evidence
 - a. Lists of Impairments
 - b. Role of the medical care provider
 - c. Specialists
- 7) Discovery
 - a. Electronic discovery
 - b. E-Folders
- 8) Appeals
 - a. Request for reconsideration
 - b. State's role
 - c. Forms and Pleadings

- d. Appeals to the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)
- e. Forms and Pleadings
- f. Appeals

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Determine who is eligible for benefits
- 2) Evaluate claims on a case by case basis
- 3) Research, review, draft and serve complaints, pleadings and requests for formal and informal social security matters and appeals.
- 4) Explain the role of professional and ethical responsibilities of the paralegal.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Online discussions
- 2) Exams (written, aural, subjective, objective)

Special Materials Required of Student

- 1) Computer
- 2) Internet access

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Computer
- 2) Internet access

Method of Instruction

- 1) Weekly online lectures and case studies
- 2) Group discussions
- 3) Written assignments and document drafting
- 4) Preparation of various motions

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading assignments
- 2) Short Writing assignments
- 3) Completing and processing appeals and motions

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Nolo's Guide to Social Security Disability, David Morton, 11th Ed. 2022.
 - b. Social Security Law & Practice, A Handbook for a Live-Client Clinical Course, Bloch, Frank, West Academic, March 2012.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Research and evaluate social security disability issues.
- 2) Assist in the evaluation, completion and filing of appeals (Work-Based Learning Outcome).
- 3) Explain the professional and ethical responsibilities of the paralegal.