

# DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

This division offers A.S. and A.A. degree programs designed to prepare students for transfer to 4-year institutions, and A.A.S. degree and certificate programs designed to prepare students for careers in social sciences upon graduation. Programs are distributed across disciplines of anthropology, criminal justice, education, health, physical education, political science, psychology, and sociology.



Students majoring in Human and Social Services have a mandatory internship experience required as part of the curriculum. Students who wish to take specific career courses for employment advancement are encouraged to meet with the chairperson of the Division or coordinators of respective programs for assistance in selecting courses that will fulfill their special needs. Faculty hold advanced degrees, are professionally active, and involved in research and publication. They serve on numerous boards and committees, and many are leaders in human service fields.

**Location:** Level III, Yellow

**Divisional Contact Number:** 973-877-3250

**Chairperson:** Mamie Bridgeforth (bridgefo@essex.edu), (973-877-3251)

**Administrative Assistant:** Patricia Seward (seward@essex.edu, 973-877-3250)

Faculty	Discipline
Patrice Davis (davis@essex.edu, x3253)	Criminal Justice
Gerald Freedman (freedman@essex.edu, x3248)	Physical Education
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Clare Kajura (ckajura@essex.edu, x3372)	Psychology
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Christina Pennington (chpenning2@essex.edu, x3554)	Paralegal Studies

Bridget Turner (bturner@essex.edu, Education x1897)

The A.S. degree in Paralegal Studies is approved by the **American Bar Association**, <https://www.americanbar.org> (<https://www.americanbar.org/>).

The A.A.S. degree in Human and Social Services is accredited by the **Board of the Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE)**, <https://www.cshse.org/>.

## Degrees

### Criminal Justice

Curriculum Code: 0898

**Will Earn Upon Program Completion: Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree**

#### *Why major in Criminal Justice?*

Program prepares students to transfer to four-year institutions for a bachelor's in criminal justice or related fields, or to enter the job market directly. Prepares students to enter and/or progress in professional law enforcement, pre-law, corrections, probation, parole, criminology, homeland security, forensic science, cybersecurity, corporate security, crime prevention, crime mapping, race and crime analysis, juvenile youth services, forensic psychology, international criminal justice systems, data analysis, gender crime, white collar crime, gangs, media and criminology, mass incarceration, criminal justice crime control and prevention, criminal justice management, human services and community justice, law and society, police studies, security management, child advocacy and policy, justice studies, environmental justice, national security studies, fire science, corporate security, juvenile youth services, and sky marshal.

#### *If I major in Criminal Justice, can I transfer to a four-year college or university?*

Yes, ECC has transfer/articulation agreements with the following: Rutgers University, New Jersey City University, Kean University, William Paterson, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Curriculum is matched for seamless transfer so freshman and sophomore years are done at affordable ECC with a high-quality education; and then transfer as a Junior to bachelor's at less expense. There is also articulation with Thomas Edison State University, which offers an alternate route to a bachelor's with blended courses, online classes, and continued study at ECC to satisfy baccalaureate requirements. Consult with advisor or transfer coordinator to review requirements for transferring with junior status.

#### *Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?*

Based on placement, you may have to take developmental courses in English and/or Mathematics before taking courses in your major.

#### *How long will it take for me to complete this degree?*

If you do not need developmental courses and you register for an average of 15 credits each semester, degree can be completed in two years, which may be shortened by taking summer courses.

#### *Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to:*

- Describe functions of various components of the criminal and juvenile justice system (i.e., law enforcement, courts, and corrections) and explain interrelationship of these components;
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of criminal law and rights of individual citizens;
- Describe role and ethical responsibilities of criminal justice professionals in the community and organization and administration of various entities in the criminal justice system;
- Analyze nature of crime and criminal behavior (e.g., theories, policies, and research);
- Explain social, political, economic, and cultural factors within society influencing development of criminological theory, corrections, laws, and criminal justice practices and application to criminal behaviors and sanctions;
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluating complexity of criminal justice issues; and
- Communicate effectively with accurate criminal justice terminology in written and/or oral form, with demonstrated proficiency in the use of technology.

**Where should I direct specific questions about this program?**

Call the Division at (973) 877-3250.



## Education

Curriculum Code: 0206

**Will Earn Upon Program Completion: Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree**

**Why major in Education?**

Program is for students interested in teaching careers in public, private, parochial, or charter schools. It provides tools and information to become professional teachers; and, is designed to meet challenges of teaching in today's society.

***If I major in Education, can I transfer to an upper-division college or university?***

Transfer/articulation agreements with allow students to transfer to appropriate baccalaureate programs.

***Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?***

Based upon your placement, you may have to enroll in developmental courses in Mathematics and/or English before taking courses in your major.

***How long will it take me to complete the A.A. degree.***

If you do not need developmental courses and you register for an average of 15 credits per semester, you can complete the degree in two years or less.



***After completing this A.A. degree program at E.C.C., how do I secure teacher certification?***

Earn baccalaureate degree from regionally accredited college or university with grade point average of at least 3.0, and pass PRAXIS Examination; and

Complete student teaching in public-school setting through accredited four-year college/university.

***Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to:***

- Demonstrate knowledge of basic principles of educational theory and practice;
- Exhibit broad-based knowledge necessary to prepare for teacher education programs;
- Demonstrate understanding and appreciation of basic principles of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, and Mathematics;
- Demonstrate knowledge of and appreciation of various learning styles within diverse environments; and
- Express themselves in appropriate written and oral forms.

***Where should I direct specific questions about this program?***

Call the Division at (973) 877-3250 or (973) 877-1897

## Human and Social Services

Curriculum Code: 2202

**Will Earn Upon Program Completion:**  
**Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree**

The A.A.S. degree in Human and Social Services is accredited by the **Board of the Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE)**, <https://www.cshse.org/>.

***Why major in Human and Social Services?***

The Human and Social Services program provides an opportunity for students interested in Human and Social Services careers to receive an Associate in Applied Science Degree. Upon graduation, the students will

have gained a broad-based professional education in preparation for a wide variety of employment opportunities such as: Community and Social Service Specialists; Social Services Assistants; Human Services Case Managers; Community Health Workers; Gerontology Worker; and Social Worker Aid, etc. The Human and Social Services program also provides the foundation for students who wish to become Social Workers, Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselors, Clergy Counselors, Psychologists, and other mental health professionals.

***If I major in Human and Social Services, can I transfer to an upper-division college or University?***

This program is designed for immediate employment. However, four year institutions will apply most or all of your courses toward a bachelor's degree, depending upon their program requirements. Consult your departmental advisor to obtain information about transferability. Most of our students transfer to Rutgers University, Kean University and Montclair University. Students pursuing the Clergy Counselor option are, upon graduation, accepted into the Pillar College Clergy Counseling Program.

***Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?***

Based on your placement, you may have to take developmental courses in mathematics, English and/or reading before taking courses at the 100 level and above.

***How long will it take for me to complete this degree?***

If you do not need developmental coursework, you can complete the degree in two years or less by taking an average of 15 credits each semester. You may shorten the time required by taking summer courses.

***Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to:***

- Students will be able to utilize their strong and diverse knowledge base and clinical/practical experience in the delivery of human services to clients
- Students will be able to explain the historical and philosophical foundation of human services
- Students will be able to utilize theoretical framework and empirical evidence to understand development and the interactions among human systems- individuals, groups, families, organizations, communities and societies
- Students will be able to analyze and assess the needs of clients or client groups
- Students will be able to conduct various types of mental health assessments for screening clients/patients
- Students will be able to utilize the knowledge of organizational and social policies, human systems, the conditions that influence human functioning, evidence-based practices, and client-specific data to advocate on behalf of clients

***Program Outcomes***

<https://www.essex.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Human-and-Social-Services-AAS-Student-Outcomes.pdf>

***Where should I direct specific questions about this program?***

Call the Division of Social Sciences at (973) 877-3250.

## Paralegal Studies

Curriculum Code: 2015

*Will Earn Upon Program Completion: Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree*

The AS degree in Paralegal Studies is approved by the **American Bar Association**, <https://www.americanbar.org> (<https://www.americanbar.org/>).



**ESSEX**  
COUNTY COLLEGE  
Exceed Expectations

**ASSOCIATE OF  
SCIENCE IN  
PARALEGAL  
STUDIES**

[www.essex.edu](http://www.essex.edu)

The Paralegal Program prepares students to work under the supervision of an attorney. A paralegal shall not engage in the unauthorized practice of law. Only attorneys can provide legal services directly to the public.

**Why major in Paralegal Studies?**

Paralegal Studies prepares students to work in entry-level positions in various legal settings such as law firms, corporations, government and other entities. Paralegals typically perform variety of tasks including, but not limited to, interviewing clients, investigating cases, preparing legal documents, performing legal research, writing legal memoranda, and assisting in trials and appeals. In addition to introducing students to fundamental legal principles, program develops students' practical skills to prepare them to work effectively in any legal environment.

***If I major in Paralegal Studies, can I transfer to a four-year college or university?***

Yes, Paralegal Studies prepares students to transfer for baccalaureates in many fields. Typically, credits are applied to the first two years of a bachelors. While at ECC, we encourage you familiarize yourself with requirements of program wishing to transfer to upon graduation.

***Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?***

Based on placement, you may have to take developmental courses in English and/or Mathematics before taking courses in your major.

***How long will it take for me to complete this degree?***

If you do not need developmental courses and you register for an average of 17 credits each semester, degree can be completed in two years, which may be shortened by taking summer courses.

***May I transfer Paralegal courses from another college?***

Students may transfer up to 15 legal specialty credits from ABA-approved institutions into the program. Transcripts are evaluated by Paralegal Program Coordinator to determine legal courses considered for transfer. Program Coordinator evaluates legal specialty courses from ABA-approved institutions on a case-by-case basis. In addition, students who wish to apply credits to the Paralegal Studies Program must also have courses evaluated by Program Coordinator within six (6) months of entry into program; time limitation is necessary for advisement and to avoid possible course duplication.

***Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to:***

- Explain role of a paralegal in today's legal system;
- Demonstrate knowledge of American legal system, fundamental legal principles, and the litigation process;
- Demonstrate knowledge of principles of legal ethics and of the Model Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility and Guidelines for Enforcement of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.;
- Proficiently access, locate, and research the law by both traditional and electronic methods;
- Demonstrate problem-solving and critical, analytical thinking skills within context of evaluating legal issues; and
- Communicate effectively with accurate legal terminology in written and/or oral form, with demonstrated proficiency in use of technology.

***Where should I direct specific questions about this program?***

Call the Division at (973) 877-3250.

**Physical Education**

Curriculum Code: 0899

**Will earn upon Program Completion: Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree*****Why major in Physical Education?***

Curriculum parallels first two years of baccalaureate in a four-year college or university and also prepares one for careers such as teacher of health and physical education, recreation director, private fitness center administrator/instructor, and personal trainer/coach.

***If I major in Physical education, can I transfer to an upper-division college or university?***

The Physical Education degree may be transferred to a bachelor's degree program at upper-level institutions to obtain a Bachelor's in Physical Education and Recreation.

***Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?***

Based on placement, you may have to take developmental courses in Mathematics and/or English before taking courses in your major.

***How long will it take for me to complete this degree?***

If you do not need developmental courses and you register for an average of 16 credits each semester and attend summer courses, you can complete the degree in two years or less.

***Upon Completion of this program, graduates will be able to:***

- Demonstrate competency in varied physical skills, and techniques and mechanics of activity;
- Receive First Aid Certification;
- Practice preventative measures and first aid in event of accidents or illness;
- Demonstrate mastery of concepts related to health and physical fitness;
- Demonstrate knowledge of fundamentals and techniques of specific sports; and
- Qualify for employment opportunities.

***Where should I direct specific questions about this program?***

Call the Division at (973) 877-3250

**Social Sciences**

Curriculum Code: 0710

**Will Earn Upon Completion: Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree*****Why Major in Social Sciences?***



Program provides foundation for majors such as Sociology, Psychology, Pre-Law, Social Work, Gerontology, Anthropology, Political Science, Counseling, and Urban Studies at four-year colleges or universities. Curriculum parallels first two years at such institutions and is best suited for those interested in human behavior and in helping individuals and communities.

***If I major in Social Sciences can I transfer to an upper-division college or university?***

Curriculum prepares for transfer to upper-division colleges and universities. Consult catalog where you plan to transfer to, to select courses toward your baccalaureate.

***Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?***

Based on placement, you may be required to take developmental courses in English and/or Mathematics before taking courses in your major.



***How long will it take me to complete this degree?***

If you do not need developmental courses and you register for an average of 17 credits each semester, you can complete the degree in two years or less. You may shorten time by taking summer courses.

***Upon Completion of this program, graduates will be able to:***

- Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and social structures;
- Demonstrate knowledge of psycho-social factors influencing human behavior;
- Recognize social and political trends within societies;
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of formal research on varied Social Science topics;
- Demonstrate knowledge of ways of thinking and of analysis associated with Social Sciences;
- Demonstrate knowledge of skills and attitudes of professional practice in Social Sciences occupations;
- Demonstrate competency in use of technology to gather and interpret Social Science data; and
- Advance to a Bachelor's in disciplines like Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Social Work, Pre-Law, Urban Studies, and Gerontology.

***Where should I direct specific questions?***

Contact the Division (973)877-3250

## Academic Certificate

### Massage Therapy

Curriculum Code: 6013

**Will Earn Upon Program Completion: Academic Certificate (AC)**

### **Why major in Massage Therapy?**

Massage therapists use manual techniques and adjunctive therapies to relieve effects of stress, ease tension, and promote health and well-being. Employment includes in settings such as massage offices, medical offices, health clubs, fitness centers, and spas.

Field is rapidly growing and many massage therapists specialize in areas such as sports massage, Shiatsu, pregnancy massage, relaxation therapy, or onsite massage. Professional growth continues through broadening and deepening manual skills. Massage therapists, in conjunction with other healthcare professionals, make referrals as appropriate to a client's needs.

### **If I major in Massage Therapy, can I transfer to an upper-division college or university?**

Major is career oriented and not designed for transfer to a baccalaureate. Credits earned can be applied to Health Sciences program at ECC. Other colleges and universities may apply most or all of courses taken toward a baccalaureate, depending upon program requirements.

### **Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?**

Based on placement, you may have to take developmental courses in English and/or Mathematics. Massage sessions with a professional massage therapist is strongly recommended prior to taking major courses.

### **How long will it take for me to complete this certificate?**

This is a one-year program starting in the Fall semester.

### **Upon Completion of this program, graduates will be able to:**

- Take National Certification Examination to become certified as a professional massage therapist;
- Be licensed by State of New Jersey as a Massage Therapist;
- Demonstrate Shiatsu and Swedish massage;
- Work with general population as well as special populations like athletes, pregnant clients, and geriatric clients to build and maintain health;
- Demonstrate massage techniques used in medical settings to assist in the healing process;
- Develop a vision of the ideal business plan and identify steps to achieve it; and
- Prepare client records as well as financial records for success in business practice.

### **Where should I direct specific questions about this program?**

Call the Division at (973) 877-3250

## **Certificates of Achievement**

### **Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Curriculum Code: 3058

**Will Earn Upon Program Completion: Certificate of Achievement (COA)**

### **Why major in the Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate?**

The Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate Program consists of five courses (15 credits) designed to prepare students to work with children

diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. These courses provide both a theoretical and practical foundation for supporting children, equipping students with the essential skills needed to work as paraprofessionals and professionals in the field of education.

### **If I major in Autism Spectrum Disorders, can I transfer to a four-year college or university?**

This program is career-oriented; however, the transfer of credits is at the discretion of the receiving college or university.

### **Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking the courses in my major?**

Students must have a high school diploma or possess a GED.

### **How long will it take for me to complete this program?**

The program may be completed within one year. Students must complete Early Care and Education Field Experience.

### **Where should I direct specific questions about this program?**

Call Dr. Bridget Turner in the Division of Social Sciences (973) 877-1897

### **Social Sciences Division Education Department Proudly Presents**

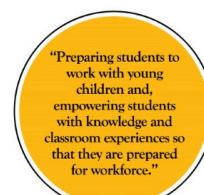


### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL (CDA)**



The Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) will provide opportunities for working with children in the following professional setting...

- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Child care centers
- Family child care homes
- Preschool
- Public schools
- Charter Schools
- Private Schools



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
Dr. Bridget Turner  
Assistant Professor  
Social Sciences Division/Education Department  
973-877-3431 | Bturner4@essex.edu

## **Child Development Associate**

Curriculum Code: 0204

**Will Earn Upon Program Completion: Certificate of Achievement (COA)**

### ***Why enroll in Childhood Development Associate Certificate of Achievement program?***

Child Development Associate program offers three courses preparing students for the National Childhood Development Certification (CDA) examination. Courses provide theoretical and practical foundation for obtaining CDA Certification, which is necessary for working as paraprofessionals in Early Childhood classrooms or Family Child Care settings.

### ***If I complete the Childhood Development Associate program, can I transfer to an upper-division college or university?***

This program is career-oriented and not designed for transfer.

### ***Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in the program?***

Students must be a high school graduate or possess a GED.

### ***How Long will take for me to complete this program?***

Depending upon prior education and work experience, program may be completed within one year. Students must complete 480 hours working with children from infancy through five years of age in group settings. If any of these hours have been accumulated within five years of enrolling in the program students may utilize those hours toward the required 480 hours.

### ***Upon Completion of this program, graduates will be able to:***

- Demonstrate understanding of principles of instruction in Early Childhood settings;
- Prepare and complete professional resources files;
- Demonstrate understanding of professional standards and practice skills in professional settings;
- File application and successfully sit for National Childhood Development Certification (CDA) exam; and
- Secure employment in Child Care industry.

### ***Where should I direct specific questions about this program?***

Call the Division at (973) 877-3250 or (973) 877-1897



## **Human and Social Services**

Curriculum Code: 3057

### ***Will Earn Upon Program Completion: Certificate of Achievement (COA)***

### ***Why major in Human and Social Services Certificate?***

The Human and Social Services certificate program allows student to begin a career that permits satisfaction of helping individuals and communities.

### ***If I major in Human and Social Services, can I transfer to a four-year college or university?***

Human and Social Services certificate is career oriented and not designed for transfer. However, four-year institutions may apply most or all the courses toward a bachelor's depending upon program requirements.

### ***Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?***

Based on placement, you may have to take developmental courses in English and/or Mathematics before taking courses in your major. In addition, students must be currently employed by a human service organization, which must be approved by the Division prior to admission to the program.

### ***How long will it take for me to complete this degree?***

If you do not need developmental courses and you register for an average of 14 credits each semester, certificate can be completed in one year.

### ***Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to:***

- Demonstrate knowledge of structure, policies, procedures, purposes, and offerings of agencies and institutions providing human and social services to individuals, families, groups, and communities;
- Demonstrate knowledge of theoretical approaches of various levels of practice in social work, gerontology, addictions counseling, and mental health;
- Conduct client intake and process client referrals to appropriate support services; and
- Conduct home visitations and participate in client mentoring.

### ***Where should I direct specific questions about this program?***

Call the Division at (973) 877-3250.

## **Paralegal**

Curriculum Code: 3208

### ***Will Earn Upon Program Completion: Certificate of Achievement (COA)***

### ***Why major in Paralegal Certificate?***

Law firms, corporations, government agencies, title and insurance companies, state and federal courts, and other entities increasingly seek paralegals to assist with legal tasks. Duties of paralegals include conducting interviews, investigations, and legal research; preparing legal documents and memoranda; assisting with clients; and being involved in daily operations of law offices.

### ***Are there any requirements I must satisfy before I start taking courses in my major?***

Certificate program is only open to individuals who already earned an A.A., A.S., B.A., B.S., or graduate degree in any discipline from regionally-accredited institutions *and* have completed 18 or more general education credits in: 1) Written & Oral Communications; 2) Society & Human Behavior; 3) Quantitative Knowledge & Skills; 4) Science; 5) Humanities; and 6) History as required by Essex County College.

***May I transfer Paralegal courses from another college?***

Students may transfer up to 9 legal specialty courses from ABA-approved institutions into the program. Upon matriculation, students must submit all academic transcripts to Enrollment Services to determine whether they have successfully completed (with a minimum grade of "C" or better) the 18 or more general education credits required. Subsequently, transcripts are evaluated by Paralegal Program Coordinator to determine legal courses considered for transfer.

***If I major in Paralegal Certificate, can I transfer to a four-year college or university?***

Paralegal certificate is career oriented and not designed for transfer to a bachelor's, but courses completed may be applied to an associate's at ECC. Most or all credits earned in certificates applied to associate's, transfer to four-year institutions. See a Social Sciences Division academic advisor (faculty member) for more information.

***How long will it take for me to complete this degree?***

Depending upon when you matriculate, Paralegal Certificate can be completed in one year taking three to four courses each semester.

***Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to:***

- Explain the role of a paralegal in today's legal system;
- Demonstrate knowledge of American legal system, fundamental legal principles, and the litigation process;
- Demonstrate knowledge of principles of legal ethics and of the Model Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility and Guidelines for Enforcement of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.;
- Proficiently access, locate, and research the law by both traditional and electronic methods;
- Demonstrate problem-solving and critical, analytical thinking skills within context of evaluating legal issues; and
- Communicate effectively with accurate legal terminology in written and/or oral form, with demonstrated proficiency in use of technology.

***Where should I direct specific questions about this program?***

Call the Division at (973) 877-3250.

**NOTE:** To enter this certificate of achievement program, you must possess at least an associate's degree (in any discipline) and be able to demonstrate that you have met the general education requirements of Essex County College by completing 18 or more general education credits.