

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Paralegal Studies 170 – Workers’ Compensation

1 hour lecture, 1 unit

Catalog Description

Overview of California's Workers’ Compensation statutes, including the concept of no-fault insurance and the administration of contested compensation claims for death, disability, and vocational rehabilitation. Students will compute awards based upon current benefit formulae.

Prerequisite

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in PARA 100 or equivalent

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unable to succeed:

- 1) Have a basic understanding of the legal system.
- 2) Be familiar with basic legal concepts and basic legal language.
- 3) Knowledge of the state and federal court system.
- 4) Understand administrative law and the administrative system.
- 5) This course will deal with a major area of substantive law and how it relates to other areas of the law, so an understanding of substantive and procedural law is critical.

Course Content

California Workers’ Compensation coverage:

- 1) Insurance
- 2) Medical treatment
- 3) Compensation benefits
- 4) Death benefits
- 5) Injuries
- 6) Penalties
- 7) Liens
- 8) Settlements: compromise and release
- 9) Damage suits: subrogation
- 10) Jurisdiction
- 11) Procedure
- 12) Appeals
- 13) Vocational rehabilitation

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the functioning of the Workers’ Compensation system in California.
- 2) Analyze the concept of no-fault insurance.
- 3) Evaluate how benefits are claimed and processed.
- 4) Relate how claims disputes are resolved.
- 5) Apply principles of administrative law to compensation claims.
- 6) Calculate entitlement benefits in compensation claims.
- 7) Understand the role and ethical and professional responsibilities of the paralegal in the Workers’ Compensation practice.

Method of Evaluation

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

- 1) Tests (objective)
- 2) Calculation exercises
- 3) Homework

Special Materials Required of Student

Small calculator recommended

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Guest speakers
- 3) Calculations of benefits
- 4) Exercises in rating disabilities

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** course material; other course related multimedia.
- 2) **Writing:** short writing assignments; short research assignments.
- 3) **Other:** N/A.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Borah, Brett, et. al., *California Workers' Compensation Practice*. CEB OnLaw, 2025. <https://onlaw-ceb-com.cuyamaca.idm.oclc.org/onlaw/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=OnLAW:CEB>
- 2) Supplemental: None.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Describe how the Workers' Compensation system works in California.
- 2) Articulate how benefits are claimed and processed and how claims disputes are resolved.
- 3) Apply principles of administrative law to compensation claims to calculate entitlement benefits in compensation claims (Work-Based Learning Outcome).
- 4) Evaluate issues of ethics and professionalism faced by paralegals and attorneys in California and apply ethical and professional responsibilities in the Workers' Compensation practice (Work-Based Learning Outcome).