

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
PARALEGAL EDUCATION
STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission

To provide greater access to legal services by promoting quality paralegal education.

Goals

1. Promote high standards for paralegal education and the paralegal profession
2. Provide a forum for professional improvement for paralegal educators
3. Promote research and disseminate information on the paralegal profession
4. Cooperate with organizations interested in paralegal education.
5. Assist members who seek to achieve and maintain ABA approval status

Objectives

Goal 1: Promote high standards for paralegal education and the paralegal profession

Current Activities:

- Endorses the AAFPE Core Competencies; an integrated set of skills vital to paralegal competency and professionalism;
- Creates and disseminates model syllabi that provide a foundation for development of the Core Competencies;
- Requires its members to adhere to rigorous criteria regarding paralegal curricula;
- Publicly addresses issues in paralegal education through the AAFPE Policy Statements.

Long-Term Objectives:

- Re-evaluate and/or expand the Core Competencies, with input from employers and law-related associations, to appropriately expand the role of the paralegal;
- Create new model syllabi in areas of knowledge/information relevant to the expanding role of the paralegal;
- Educate employers as to the necessity of utilizing paralegals who can demonstrate the Core Competencies;
- Review membership criteria and ensure member compliance with those criteria;

Short-Term Objectives:

- Create and disseminate staff and professional assessment, internal/external surveys directed to AAFPE members, employers, vendors seeking information on current and future trends in the legal marketplace;

- Convene at the 2005 AAFPE annual conference, an educational advisory council, consisting of AAFPE members, employers and vendors, which will undertake throughout 2006:
 1. interpretation of survey data;
 2. recommendations for future Core Competencies and professional standards
 3. ongoing re-evaluation of educational and professional standards in accordance with trends in the marketplace.

Goal 2: Provide a forum for professional improvement for paralegal educators

Current Activities:

- National conferences/ Information Exchange Room
 - Exhibits
 - Sessions
- Regional Conferences
- Various Publication
- List Serv
- Educational Enhancement Tools, i.e. CDs, Course Outlines
- AAFPE Website
- Mentors

Long-Term Objectives:

- New Journal
- CLE
- Certified Paralegal Educator

Goal 3: Promote research and disseminate information on the paralegal profession

Current Activities:

- AAFPE is not doing anything to achieve this goal;

Long-Term Objectives:

- Paralegal Profession Committee to develop a connection with the legal profession;
- Publications--AAfPE members author brochures, co-author books/journal articles; on the profession. Republish this information in ABA publications and State Bar publications;
- Expand our current journal, Tech journal, Educator to include articles on the paralegal profession;
- Create CDs with information about the paralegal profession's expectations for new paralegals. Disseminate this information to judges, attorneys, paralegals;
- Website---create a webpage or links about/to paralegal profession matters;
- Invite speakers from other paralegal organizations/professions to talk about the paralegal profession;

- Expand information that mentors give new members to include paralegal profession information;
- Policy development and analysis and monitor and influence legislation affecting the paralegal profession;

Short-Term Objectives:

- Establish a Committee for policy development and analysis, monitoring and influencing legislation, and general research and dissemination of information. The Committee could also develop a connection between AAFPE and the legal profession;

Goal 4: Cooperate with organizations interested in paralegal education

Current Activities:

- Review ties with other paralegal organizations, NALA, NFPA, IMPA, etc.;
- Contribute to publications of these organizations;
- Seek to strengthen relationships with the ABA and the SCOP;
- Influence legislation that impacts paralegal education and paralegals;

Long-Term Objectives:

- Identify who is connected/interested in paralegal education;
- Solicit substantive contributions from paralegal associations
 - for AAFPE publications
 - as presenters at AAFPE annual conferences/meetings;
- Outreach to state and local bar associations systemic with AAFPE;
- Learn from models of comparable professional organizations to AAFPE;

Short-Term Objectives:

- Research and report findings to the Board and Education Committee on the following questions:
 - Who are the groups that are connected/interested in paralegal education (global, multinational)?
 - What are the models we can learn from?
- Use above research to create models to enhance connections (AAFPE models).
- Explore an “ambassador: function to promote AAFPE

Goal 5: Assist members who seek to achieve and maintain ABA approval status

Current Activities:

- Annual Conference and Regional Conferences:
 - First Time Approval
 - Re-approval
 - Consulting room
 - Training sessions for [enabling members to go on] site visits
- List-serv
- Mentor program
- Approval Commission seats
- ABA Advisors (AAfPE past Presidents)
- Offer syllabi and survey guidelines [reflecting ABA requirements]

Long-Term Objectives:

- AAfPE publication of site visit recommendations
- AAfPE mock site visit consultants (revenue stream)

Short-Term Objectives:

- AAfPE publication of site visit and self-study recommendations
 - Invite submissions – publications, conferences