



BILL DE BLASIO
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF CITYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
BUREAU OF EXAMINATIONS

LISETTE CAMILO
Commissioner

NOTICE OF EXAMINATION

PARALEGAL AIDE

Exam No. 1140

WHEN TO APPLY: From: September 2, 2020

To: September 22, 2020

APPLICATION FEE: \$54.00

If you choose to pay the application fee with a credit/debit/gift card, you will be charged a fee of 2.00% of the payment amount. This fee is nonrefundable.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR READING THIS ENTIRE NOTICE BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION.

WHAT THE JOB INVOLVES:

Paralegal Aides, under the supervision of high level staff and/or attorneys, perform paralegal (legal assistant) work of varying degrees of difficulty and responsibility. Paralegal Aides assist and receive training from attorneys, formal referees and more experienced Paralegal Aides in the management of cases through various stages of legal proceedings; and independently perform routine paralegal tasks that may include but are not limited to drafting legal papers for review by higher level staff and/or attorneys, requesting documents, and conducting legal research. All Paralegal Aides perform related work.

Special Working Conditions:

Paralegal Aides may be required to work various shifts including nights, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

Some of the physical activities performed by Paralegal Aides and environmental conditions experienced are: lifting and carrying large boxes and heavy files; climbing stairs; traveling throughout the City on all types of public transportation, and/or walking up to two miles per day, in all kinds of weather, often carrying heavy files.

(This is a brief description of what you might do in this position and does not include all the duties of this position.)

THE SALARY:

The current minimum salary is \$37,611 per annum. This rate is subject to change. There are two assignment levels within this class of positions. Appointments will generally be made to Assignment Level I. After appointment, employees may be assigned to the higher assignment level at the discretion of the agency.

HOW TO QUALIFY:

You are responsible for determining whether or not you meet the education and experience requirements for this examination prior to submitting your application. If you are found "Not Qualified," your application fee will not be refunded and you will not receive a score.

You will **not** receive credit for education which you obtain after January 31, 2021 or experience which you obtain after the end of the Application Period (September 22, 2020).

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university; or
2. An associate degree or completion of 60 semester credits from an accredited college or university **and** two years of full-time satisfactory experience, acquired in the United States, in the performance of paralegal (legal assistant) services; or
3. A four-year high school diploma or its educational equivalent **and** four years of full-time satisfactory experience, acquired in the United States, in the performance of paralegal (legal assistant) services; or
4. A satisfactory combination of education and/or experience which is equivalent to "1", "2" or "3" above. Paralegal Certification obtained in the United States from an accredited program or from a program approved by the American Bar Association can be substituted for 12 months of experience. Undergraduate credit can be substituted for experience on the basis of 30 semester credits from an accredited college or university for 12 months of experience. However, all candidates must have at least a four-year high school diploma or its educational equivalent.

To be acceptable, experience in paralegal (legal assistant) services must have involved the American Legal System.

Experience which is primarily legal secretarial or includes only incidental paralegal (legal assistant) services is not acceptable.

The education requirement must be met by January 31, 2021. The experience requirement must be met by the last day of the Application Period (September 22, 2020).

The high school diploma or its educational equivalent must be approved by a State's Department of Education or a recognized accrediting organization. The college or university must be accredited by

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regional, national, professional, or specialized agencies recognized as accrediting bodies by the U.S. Secretary of Education and by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

If you were educated outside the United States, you must have your foreign education evaluated to determine its equivalence to education obtained in the United States. This is required only if you need credit for your foreign education in this examination. For more information see the Foreign Education Evaluation Guide in the Required Information section.

During the Education and Experience Exam (EEE), you may answer questions about your experience. If your experience was on a part-time basis working less than 35 hours per week, you will need to convert your part-time experience to full-time experience using the formula below. Once you have determined your full-time experience equivalent, use this amount to answer questions about your experience.

(number of hours worked per week/35) x (number of months worked)

For example, if you worked at a job for 21 hours per week for 12 months, you would make the following calculation: $21/35 \times 12 = 7.2$ months.

You have until midnight Eastern time on the last day of the Application Period (September 22, 2020) to clearly specify in detail all of your relevant education and experience and Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in the Online Application System (OASys). Once you Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in OASys, you will not be permitted to submit new or additional information on your Education and Experience Exam online.

If you do not Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in OASys by midnight Eastern time on the last day of the Application Period (September 22, 2020), your examination will be considered incomplete, you will not be entitled to the appeals process, you will not receive a score, you will not be invited to subsequent portions of this examination (if applicable), and your application fee will not be refunded. An incomplete examination will not be entitled to the appeals process.

You will not receive credit for education which you obtain after January 31, 2021 or experience which you obtain after the end of the Application Period (September 22, 2020).

Residency Requirement Advisory: Under New York City Administrative Code Section 12-120, you might need to be a resident of the City of New York within 90 days of the date you are appointed to this position. Since residency requirements vary by title, appointing agency and length of service, consult the **appointing agency's personnel office** at the time of the appointment interview to find out if City residency is required.

English Requirement:

You must be able to understand and be understood in English.

Proof of Identity:

Under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, you must be able to prove your identity and your right to obtain employment in the United States prior to employment with an agency under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you believe you meet the requirements in the "How to Qualify" section, apply using the Online Application System (OASys) at www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs. Follow the onscreen application instructions for electronically submitting your application and payment and completing any required information. A unique and valid email address is required to apply online. Several internet service providers, including but not limited to Google, Yahoo!, AOL, Outlook.com, and Mail.com offer free email addresses. **All new OASys accounts require verification before a candidate can apply to ensure the accuracy of candidate information. Verification is instantaneous for most accounts and you will receive a confirmation email with instructions to activate your account. For any account creation issues, you will receive onscreen prompts to contact DCAS. This review may require up to two (2) business days to be reviewed and resolved. Please keep this information and the application period deadline in mind when creating your account.**

The following methods of payment are acceptable: major credit card, bank card associated with a bank account, or a prepaid debit card with a credit card logo which you may purchase online or at various retail outlets. If you are receiving or participating in certain forms of public assistance/benefits/programs, or are a veteran, you may qualify to have the application fee waived. For more information on eligibility for a fee waiver and documentation requirements visit the Fee Waiver FAQ on the Online Application System at: <https://a856-exams.nyc.gov/OASysWeb/Home/Faq>. **Effective January 2020, the Online Application System is no longer supported on Windows 7 or earlier versions of Windows operating systems.**

Special Circumstances Guide: This guide is located on the DCAS website at https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dcas/downloads/pdf/employment/pdf_c_special_circumstances_guide.pdf.

This guide gives important information about claiming Veterans' or Legacy credit, and notifying DCAS of a change in your mailing address. Follow all instructions on the Special Circumstances Guide that pertain to you when you complete your "Application for Examination."

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

1. **Application for Examination:** Follow the online instructions, including those relating to the payment of fee and, if applicable, those found in the Special Circumstances Guide.

2. **Education and Experience Exam:** Follow the instructions displayed onscreen to answer the questions. You will have until midnight Eastern time on the last day of the Application Period (September 22, 2020) to clearly specify in detail all of your relevant education and experience and Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in the Online Application System (OASys). Once you Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in OASys, you will not be permitted to submit new or additional information on your Education and Experience Exam online. If you do not Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in OASys by midnight Eastern time on the last day of the Application Period (September 22, 2020), your examination will be considered incomplete, you will not be entitled to the appeals process, you will not receive a score, you will not be invited to subsequent portions of this examination (if applicable), and your application fee will not be refunded.

3. **Foreign Education Evaluation Guide (Required only if you need credit for your foreign education in this examination):** If you were educated outside the United States, you must have your foreign education evaluated to determine its equivalence to education obtained in the United States. The services that are approved to make this evaluation are listed on the Foreign Education Evaluation Guide which is located on the DCAS website at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dcas/downloads/pdf/employment/foreigneducation.pdf>. When you contact the evaluation service, ask for a "**document-by-document**" (general) evaluation of your foreign education. You must have one of these services submit its evaluation of your foreign education directly to the

Department of Citywide Administrative Services no later than eight weeks from the last day of the Application Period (September 22, 2020).

THE TEST:

Your score will be determined by an Education and Experience Exam. You will receive a score of 70 points for meeting the education and experience requirements listed in the Education and Experience Requirements section. After these requirements are met, you will receive additional credit up to a maximum of 100 points on the following basis:

If you have satisfactory full-time experience, acquired in the United States, performing Paralegal (legal assistant) services involving the American Legal System for:	You will receive:
At least 1 year but less than 2 years	Up to 5 points
At least 2 years but less than 3 years	Up to 10 points
At least 3 years but less than 4 years	Up to 15 points
At least 4 years but less than 5 years	Up to 20 points
At least 5 year but less than 6 years	Up to 25 points
6 or more years	Up to 30 points

Experience which is primarily legal secretarial or includes only incidental paralegal (legal assistant) services is not acceptable.

During the Education and Experience Exam (EEE), you may answer questions about your experience. If your experience was on a part-time basis working less than 35 hours per week, you will need to convert your part-time experience to full-time experience using the formula below. Once you have determined your full-time experience equivalent, use this amount to answer questions about your experience.

(number of hours worked per week/35) x (number of months worked)

For example, if you worked at a job for 21 hours per week for 12 months, you would make the following calculation: $21/35 \times 12 = 7.2$ months.

Experience used to meet the minimum requirements cannot be used to gain additional credit.

You must clearly specify in detail all of your relevant education and experience on your Education and Experience Exam and submit it by the end of the Application Period. You will not receive credit for education which you obtain after January 31, 2021 or experience which you obtain after the end of the Application Period (September 22, 2020).

You have until midnight Eastern time on the last day of the Application Period (September 22, 2020) to clearly specify in detail all of your relevant education and experience and Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in the Online Application System (OASys). Once you Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in OASys, you will not be permitted to submit new or additional information on your Education and Experience Exam online.

If you do not Final Submit your Education and Experience Exam in OASys by midnight Eastern time on the last day of the Application Period (September 22, 2020), your examination will be considered incomplete, you will not be entitled to the appeals process, you will not receive a score, you will not be invited to subsequent portions of this examination (if applicable), and your application fee will not be refunded.

Education must be obtained by **January 31, 2021** and experience must be obtained by **the last day of the Application Period (September 22, 2020)**.

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, AND/OR TELEPHONE NUMBER:

It is critical that you promptly notify DCAS of any change to your mailing address, email address and/or phone number. If we do not have your correct mailing address, email address and/or phone number, you will not receive information about your exam(s), consideration for appointment and/or important information that may require a response by a specified deadline. If you need to update your Mailing Address, Email Address, and/or Telephone Number, read below:

- City Employees - update this information in NYCAPS Employee Self-Service (ESS) at www.nyc.gov/ess
- All Others - update this information on your Profile page in the Online Application System (OASys) by logging into your OASys account and navigating to your Dashboard, then your Profile tab at www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs
- Submit a written request by email at OASys@dcas.nyc.gov, by fax (646) 500-7199, or by regular mail: DCAS, 1 Centre Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10007. Your written request must include your full name, social security number, exam title(s), exam number(s), previous mailing and/or email address, and your new mailing and/or email address

CHANGE OF NAME AND/OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:

Use the Data Correction Form and follow all instructions for changing your name and/or social security number with DCAS. The following link will provide you with the DCAS Data Correction Form:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dcas/downloads/pdf/employment/dp148a.pdf>.

THE TEST RESULTS:

If you pass the Education and Experience Exam, your name will be placed in final score order on an eligible list, you will be given a list number and you will be notified by mail of your test results. The eligible list determines the order by which candidates will be considered for appointment. If you meet all requirements and conditions, you will be considered for appointment if your name is reached on the eligible list. Once a list has been established, it will typically remain active for four years. To learn more about the civil service system go to: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dcas/employment/civil-service-system.page>.

If you believe that your test part was rated incorrectly, you may submit an appeal of your score to DCAS, Committee on Manifest Errors, through the Online Application System (OASys). Your appeal must give specific reasons why your score should be higher. Your appeal may result in a higher or lower rating.

To access the appeal portal of OASys, please log into your OASys account at www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs and use the following steps:

1. Navigate to the Dashboard for the Appeals tab.
2. Click the NEW APPEAL button to create and submit your appeal.
3. Select the exam from the Exam drop-down list, and
4. Select the exam part from the Exam Part drop-down list.
5. Select the reason for your appeal from the Appeal Reason drop-down list (if applicable).
6. Enter the details of your appeal by providing specific reasons why your score should be higher.

Note: You may attach up to 5 documents to support your appeal by using the attachment functionality.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Selective Certification for Assignment Level II positions (CM2): If you meet one of the following requirements, you may be considered for appointment to Assignment Level II positions requiring these qualifications through a process called Selective Certification. If you qualify for Selective Certification, you may be given preferred consideration for positions requiring these qualifications. If you wish to apply for this Selective Certification, follow the onscreen instructions when completing the Education and Experience Exam to indicate your interest in such Selective Certification and Final submit it in the Online Application System (OASys). Your experience and education will be checked by the appointing agency at the time of appointment.

Requirements: In addition to meeting the minimum education and experience requirements on page 1 for Paralegal Aide, you must have:

1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university **and** either (a) one year of full-time satisfactory experience, acquired in the United States, in the performance of paralegal (legal assistant) services, or (b) Paralegal Certification obtained in the United States from an accredited program or from a program approved by the American Bar Association; or
2. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, including or supplemented by a combination of 12 semester credits in U.S. history, U.S. political science, U.S. law, U.S. paralegal studies, U.S. criminal justice, U.S. urban studies, international relations and/or U.S. legal studies; or
3. An associate degree or completion of 60 semester credits from an accredited college or university **and** three years of full-time experience, acquired in the United States, in the performance of paralegal (legal assistant) services; or
4. A four-year high school diploma or its educational equivalent **and** five years of full-time satisfactory experience, acquired in the United States, in the performance of paralegal (legal assistant) services.

The above Selective Certification requirements may be met at anytime during the duration of the list. If you meet this requirement at some future date, please submit a request by mail to: DCAS Bureau of Examinations - Exam Development Group, 1 Centre Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10007. Please include the examination title and number, your social security number, and the selective certification you are requesting on your correspondence.

Application Receipt:

You will be emailed a receipt immediately after you have applied for the examination. If you do not receive this receipt, check "Junk", "Trash", or "Spam" folders for the primary email linked to your Online Application System (OASys) account. If you are unable to locate the email, you can view a summary of the notification email to you on your OASys Dashboard, then Notifications. If you are still unable to find the email, please email DCAS via the Contact feature available in OASys with a description of the issue and include the exam number and your profile number located on your Profile page. While on your Profile page, check that the email addresses you provided are correct and/or updated.

PENALTY FOR MISREPRESENTATION:

Any intentional misrepresentation on the application or examination may result in disqualification, even after appointment, and may result in criminal prosecution.

The General Examination Regulations of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) apply to this examination and are part of this Notice of Examination. They are posted at nyc.gov/dcas.

The City of New York is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Title Code No. 30080; Paralegal Occupational Group.

For information about other exams, and your exam or list status, call 212-669-1357.
Internet: nyc.gov/dcas