The Associate Paralegal Degree program offers a flexible weekend schedule along with a combination of evening and online courses. The degree prepares students to work as paralegals under the direction of attorneys in law firms, legal departments of corporations, government agencies or businesses. A paralegal may assist an attorney with client interviews, legal research, preparation of documents and other law office activities. A one-year weekend only Paralegal Certificate is also offered.

Flexible Class Scheduling
As shown in the sample curriculum, Paralegal courses are designed to serve working adults for whom day and evening only schedules have been an obstacle to continuing their education. Students can attend most classes in three hour time blocks on Saturday and Sunday, every other weekend, year round.

Career Options
Paralegals and legal assistants help lawyers prepare for hearings, trials, and corporate meetings. They are found in all types of organizations, but most work for law firms, corporate legal departments, and government agencies. Paralegals and legal assistants do a variety of tasks to support lawyers, including maintaining and organizing files, conducting legal research, and drafting documents.

Is there a Demand for Paralegals?
The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the demand of paralegals and legal assistants will grow 17% from 2012-2022, a growth rate faster than the average for all occupations. It is predicted that competition will be significant due to the popularity of the occupation. Paralegals and legal assistants that have a strong educational foundation should experience the best future career prospects.

Try a class online.
Online courses are an integral part of the business program in that they offer students a broad range of up-to-date business competencies, including written communication, time management and planning, as well as a strong foundation in computer technology. At Maria, we’re all about supporting students, and that goes for those taking online classes, too. We think that for our diverse community, with families and work and very full schedules, learning online can only enhance the experience. Course work for an online class can be completed at convenient locations and times, within a regular semester. While most work is done remotely, some courses may require on-campus meetings for labs or exams.

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