Comparison of National Level Paralegal Certification Exams[©]

PLEASE NOTE: The content of the chart below is verified only as to the information about the NFPA® Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam (PACE®) exam and NFPA's new Paralegal CORE Competency Exam (PCCETM). The information regarding the NALA and NALS exams is unverified, and provided for informational and comparison purposes only. The NALS and NALA information below was obtained from publically available sources about those exams. Please contact NALA and NALS for exact details regarding the CLA/CP or PP exams.

Association	NFPA [®]	NFPA [®]	NALA	NALS
	Paralegal CORE Competency Exam	Paralegal Advanced	Certified	Professional Paralegal
	(PCCE TM)	Competency Exam	Paralegal/Certified Legal	Exam (PP)
		(PACE®)	Assistant Exam (CP/CLA)	
Credential	CORE Registered Paralegal (CRP TM)	PACE Registered Paralegal®	Certified Paralegal (CP);	Professional Paralegal (PP)
		(RP®)	Certified Legal Assistant	
			(CLA)	
Established	2011	1996	1976	2004
Exam Eligibility	A bachelor's degree in any subject, a	Associate's degree in	Graduation from paralegal	Five years of experience
(Education	paralegal certificate, no experience or	paralegal studies obtained	program approved by ABA	performing paralegal/legal
and/or	continuing legal education (CLE);	from an institutionally	or associate degree program	assistant duties.
Experience)		accredited and/or ABA	or post-baccalaureate	OR
	OR	approved paralegal program	certificate program in	Be a graduate from an ABA
		and six (6) years of	paralegal studies; or	approved Paralegal Program.
	A bachelor's degree in paralegal studies,	substantive paralegal	bachelor's degree program in	OR
	no experience or CLE; OR	experience;	paralegal studies, or paralegal	Hold a Bachelor's degree in
		o.p.	program of 60+ hours, with	paralegal studies.
	A bachelor's degree in any subject, no	OR	at least 15 semester hours in	OR
	paralegal certificate, 6 months of	D - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	substantive legal courses;	Be a graduate from an
	experience and 1 hour of ethics taken in	Bachelor's degree in any	OB	accredited paralegal program which consists of a minimum
	the year preceding the exam application	course of study obtained from	OR	
	date;	an institutionally accredited	Docholow's documents one	of 60 semester hours of which a minimum of 15
	OR	school and three (3) years of substantive paralegal	Bachelor's degree in any field plus one year's	hours is substantive law.
	OK	1 0		OR
	An associate's degree in paralegal	experience;	experience as a paralegal (15 semester hours of substantive	Hold a Bachelor's degree in
	studies, no experience or CLE;	OR	legal courses is equivalent to	an unrelated field and have
	studies, no experience of CLE,		one year's experience as a	one year of experience
	OR	Bachelor's degree and	paralegal);	performing paralegal/legal
	OK	completion of a paralegal	paraicgai),	assistant duties.
	An associate's degree in any subject, a	program within an	OR	assistant duties.
	Thi associate's degree in any subject, a	program within an	ON	

paralegal certificate, no experience or institutionally accredited school (which may be High School diploma or CLE: embodied in the bachelor's equivalent plus seven years' degree) and a minimum of experience as a paralegal OR under the supervision of an two (2) years substantive An associate's degree in any subject, no paralegal experience; attorney, plus a minimum of paralegal certificate, 1 year of 20 hours of CLE within the experience and 6 hours of CLE, OR two year period prior to including 1 hour of ethics taken in the sitting for the exam. year preceding the exam application Four (4) years of substantive paralegal experience on or date; before December 31, 2000. OR Active duty, retired or former military personnel qualified in a military operation specialty as a paralegal and 1.0 hour of Ethics CLE within the year preceding the exam application; OR Candidates who are within two months of graduating and registered for the PCC Exam by a Director of a paralegal studies program participating in the PCCE Assurance of Learning (AoL) Program at the Partner level; OR A paralegal certificate from a program that meets or exceeds the requirements set forth in NFPA's Short Term Paralegal Program Position Statement, 1 year of experience and 6 hours of CLE, including 1 hour of ethics taken in

date:

the year preceding the exam application

	OR A high school diploma or GED, 5 years of experience and 12 hours of CLE, including 1 hour of ethics taken in the 2 years preceding the exam application date.			
Exam Fees	\$215 – Non Refundable	Member: \$25 Application Fee; \$225 Exam Fee Non Member: \$25 Application Fee; \$250 Exam Fee	\$250 Member Fee; \$275 Non-Member Fee; plus testing fees per specific section; Fees vary by testing center: One - 1.5 hour session @ each \$40 Two - 2 hour sessions @ \$40 each Two - 2.5 hour sessions @ \$47 each	Member: \$200; Non- Member: \$250
Testing Dates and Locations	Every day except Sundays and Holidays at Prometric Testing Centers across the United States and Guam etc. Candidates must take the exam within 90 days of approval of application.	Every day except Sundays and Holidays at Prometric Testing Centers across the United States and Guam etc. Candidates must take the exam within 90 days of approval of application.	January, May and September at ACT Testing Centers in most major cities.	First Saturday of March and last Saturday in September in most major metropolitan areas.
Retest	\$215; 6 month waiting period to apply to retest.	\$225 Member Fee; Non-Member \$250 Fee. 6 month waiting period to apply to retest	\$60 fee per section for Member & Non-member; plus applicable testing center fees for the length of session required for the specific section. Fees vary by testing center	\$50/part Member Fee; \$60/part Non-member Fee. No waiting period to retest.

Testing Time	Two and one-half (2.5) hours	Four (4) hours	Two years to successfully complete 5 major sections and 4 practice area sections. The time begins on the date any section of the exam is first taken.	One Day
Composition of Exam	Domain 01: Paralegal Practice Paralegal Profession Ethics and Professional Practice U.S. Legal System Legal Research Legal Writing and Critical Analysis Communication Law Office Management and Legal Technology Civil Litigation Domain 02: Substantive Areas of Law Business Organizations Contracts Criminal Estates, Wills and Trusts Family Real Estate Torts For detailed information please see Appendix A of the PCCE Candidate Handbook available on the NFPA website.	Domain I – Administration of Client Legal Matters: conflict checks; develop, organize and maintain client files; develop and maintain calendar/tickler systems; develop and maintain databases; coordinate client services. Domain II – Development of Client Legal Matters: client interviews; analyze information; collaborate with counsel; prepare, file and serve legal documents and exhibits; prepare clients and witnesses for legal proceedings. Domain III – Factual/Legal Research: obtain factual and legal information; investigate and compile facts; inspect, evaluate and analyze evidence; ascertain and analyze legal authority. Domain IV – Factual/Legal Writing: communicate with	Federal law and procedure, major subject areas include communications, ethics, legal research, human relations and interviewing techniques, judgment and analytical ability, and legal terminology Sections of Substantive law include <i>four miniexaminations</i> in the areas of: American legal system, civil litigation, business organizations, and contracts. 1	Part 1 – Written Communications: Grammar and word usage, spelling, punctuation, number usage, capitalization, composition and expression Part 2 – Legal Knowledge and Skills: Legal research, citations, legal terminology, the court system and ADR, and the legal skills of interviewing clients and witnesses, planning and conducting investigations, and docketing Part 3 – Ethics and Judgment: Ethical situations involving contact with clients, the public, coworkers, and subordinates; other ethical considerations for the legal profession; decision making and analytical ability; and ability to recognize priorities Part 4 – All areas of substantive law, including administrative; business organizations and

¹ Information obtained from NALA Website

		client/counsel; draft legal analytical documents. Domain V - Office Administration: personnel management; acquire technology; coordinate and utilize vendor services; create and maintain library and legal resources, develop and maintain billing system.		contracts; civil procedure and litigation; criminal; family; real property; torts; wills, trusts, and estates; admiralty and maritime; antitrust; bankruptcy; environmental; federal civil rights and employment discrimination; immigration; intellectual property; labor; oil and gas; pension and profit sharing; taxation; water; workers' compensation ²
Review Manual	\$75 plus tax and Shipping	\$82.20 plus tax and shipping	Member \$160 plus tax and shipping Non-Member \$170 plus tax and shipping Mock Exam Member \$45 plus tax and shipping Non - Member \$55 plus tax and shipping	
Certification Renewal - CLE	Every two years from anniversary date of exam: 8 hours of CLE, including 1.0 hour of ethics.	Every two years from anniversary date of exam: 12 hours of CLE, including 1.0 hour of ethics.	Every five years – 50 hours of CLE, including 5 hours of legal ethics.	Every five years – 75 hours of CLE, including 5 hours of legal ethics.
Renewal Fees	Member Fee \$35 Non-Member Fee \$50 Late Fee \$50 in addition to renewal fee.	Member Fee \$50 Non-Member Fee \$75 Late Fee \$50 in addition to renewal fee.	\$125	\$75
Number Certified	169 (3/14)	575 (3/14)	17,711 (11/13)	561 (1/14)

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² Information obtained from NALS website