



WPCC Paralegal Coordinator Leslie McKesson (standing) works with a paralegal student on one of the new computer stations installed in the WPCC library.

Paralegal program making several changes for fall

Western Piedmont Community College's Paralegal Technology program will institute several changes this fall quarter in an effort to keep up with rapid technology changes in the field.

"Technology has a big impact on the legal field," says Leslie McKesson, program coordinator, "and we want to ensure that our graduates have the skills they need when they enter the work force."

One change to take effect this fall will be an updated curriculum featuring two new courses. Legal Ethics is a one hour course designed to introduce non-attorney staff to professional responsibility,

and Computer Technology in the Legal Environment emphasizes selecting and utilizing various law office applications and technologies.

In addition to these new courses, a variety of software packages will be introduced, including programs that deal with real estate, child support calculation, estate planning and bankruptcy.

Paralegal students will be able to use new computers installed in the college's Phifer Learning Resource Center, where they will learn to perform on-line and CD-ROM legal research.