

Legal Studies

Degree: Bachelor of Arts
Specializations: Legal Studies Professional, Pre-Law
Minors: Law & Social Issues and Pre-Law
Certificate: Legal Studies
Division: Criminal Justice & Legal Studies
Building 85, Room 160
(850) 474-2336
<http://uwf.edu/justice/>
dcjls@uwf.edu

College: Professional Studies
Semester Hours Required for Degree: 120

Faculty: J.O. Smykla (Chairperson), K.M. Tatum (Coordinator), F.L. Ferguson, R.M. Goodman, S.W. Harrell

The Legal Studies program offers an alternative to law school for those who wish to work in the legal field in a capacity other than that of an attorney, primarily as a paralegal (traditional or nontraditional). Two specializations are available to students seeking the B.A. in Legal Studies. No previous legal/paralegal course work is required to enter the program. The Professional Specialization is for students who desire to pursue a career in the legal field in a capacity other than that of an attorney, primarily as a paralegal (traditional or nontraditional). The Pre-Law Specialization curriculum is for students who have a desire to attend law school but who also want to be able to work as a paralegal/legal assistant.

Contact the division for additional information concerning the post-baccalaureate certificate.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

In addition to general University requirements, students seeking the B.A. in Legal Studies must meet the requirements listed below.

A grade of "C" is required for all courses listed as core courses, specialization courses, and professional elective courses. Any course substitutions for specifically listed courses must be approved in writing, in advance by the Legal Studies Coordinator. All Legal Studies majors must successfully complete PLA 4155 notwithstanding any prior course work in legal research and writing. There are "permission only" courses to facilitate the proper sequencing of courses for students.

Course descriptions are listed alphabetically by prefix in the back of this *Catalog*.

General Studies (36 sh)

Legal Studies majors should take PLA 2013 to fulfill the socio-political component and PHI 2603 to meet the contemporary values and expressions component of General Studies.

For additional information see the General Studies section of this *Catalog*.

Common Prerequisites (0 sh)

Lower Division Electives (24 sh)

Sufficient 1000/2000 level electives to complete at least 60 semester hours in the lower division. Current UWF students may use elective courses at any level (1000-4999) to meet this elective requirement.

Recommended electives include PLA 2013 and PHI 2603 if not taken as part of the General Studies Program.

It is strongly recommended that Legal Studies Professional students take advantage of courses that will strengthen their skills with spreadsheets, databases, and accounting as lower or upper division electives.

It is strongly recommended that Pre-Law students take advantage of courses that will strengthen their communication skills when possible.

LEGAL STUDIES PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZATION

Major Courses (42 sh)

Legal Studies Core (27 sh)

PLA	3003	The Paralegal and the Legal Profession	3
•*PLA	3103	Legal Research & Writing	3
PLA	3429	Contracts and Business Entities	3
•*PLA	4155	Advanced Legal Research & Writing	3
•PLA	4201	Civil Litigation I	3
•PLA	4223	Civil Litigation II	3
PLA	4263	Evidence	3
PLA	4273	Tort Law	3
•PLA	4732	Law Office Computer Applications	3

- Course has prerequisites

- * Legal Studies Advisor permission required.

Professional Specialization Courses (9 sh)

PLA	3020	Law and Society	3
PLA	4763	Law Office Management	3

Choose one:

PLA	3600	Probate & Estate Planning	3
PLA	3610	Real Estate Law	3

Professional Elective Courses (6 sh)

Any two 3000/4000 level PLA courses not listed under "Core Courses" and not taken as a specialization course. Students can satisfy up to 6 semester hours of the degree plan requirements with a combination of service learning/field study, internship, or directed study courses.

Major-Related (15 sh)

CGS	2570	Personal Computer Applications	3
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Communication Skills (3 sh)

Choose one:

COM	4110	Business & Professional Communication	3
•SPC	3301	Interpersonal Communication	3
•SPC	3425	Group & Team Communication	3

- Course has prerequisites.

Ethics (3 sh)

Choose one:

PHI	2603	Ethics in Contemporary Society	3
PHI	3670	Ethics	3
PHI	4633	Biomedical Ethics	3

Restricted Electives (6 sh)

Select two 3000/4000 level courses from courses in a variety of areas. See advisor for approved list.

Upper Division Electives (3 sh)

Sufficient 3000/4000 level electives to meet UWF's requirement of 48 semester hours in the upper division or completion of all departmental requirements at the 3000/4000 level, whichever is greater.

PRE-LAW SPECIALIZATION

Major Courses (42 sh)

Legal Studies Core (27 sh)

Same as Legal Studies Professional

Pre-Law Specialization Courses (9 sh)

Choose one:

PLA	4880	Constitutional Law for the Paralegal	3
POS	3603	American Constitutional Law	3

Choose two:

AMH	4550	U.S. Constitutional and Legal History	3
CJL	3510	Judicial Process (or POS 3283 Judicial Process)	3
EUH	4503	English Constitutional & Legal History	3
PLA	3020	Law & Society	3
POS	3122	Issues in American Government & Politics	3
POS	3623	Bill of Rights	3
POS	3625	First Amendment Freedoms	3
POS	4606	Constitutional Controversies	3
POS	4673	Jurisprudence	3
POT	4204	American Political Thought	3
POT	4601	Masters of Political Thought	3

Pre-Law Elective Courses (6 sh)

Any two 3000/4000 level PLA courses not listed under Core Courses and not used to satisfy Pre-Law Specialization Courses. Students can satisfy up to 6 semester hours of the degree plan requirements with service learning/field study, internship, or directed study courses.

Major-Related (15 sh)

CGS	2570	Personal Computer Applications	3
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Ethics and Philosophy (6 sh)

Choose one:

PHI	2100	Introduction to Logic	3
PHI	3130	Modern Logic	3

(It is strongly recommended that a logic course be successfully completed before taking the LSAT)

Choose one:

PHH	3100	Greek Philosophy	3
PHH	3400	Modern Philosophy	3
PHI	2603	Ethics in Contemporary Society	3
PHI	3670	Ethics	3

PHI 4633 Biomedical Ethics 3

Restricted Electives (6 sh)

Select two 3000/4000 level courses from courses in a variety of areas. See advisor for approved list.

Upper Division Electives (3 sh)

Sufficient 3000/4000 level electives to meet UWF's requirement of 48 semester hours in the upper division or completion of all departmental requirements at the 3000/4000 level, whichever is greater.

It is strongly recommended that students take advantage of courses that will strengthen their communication skills when possible, e.g., Upper Division Electives and Upper Division Major-Related Courses. Suggested courses are COM 4110, SPC 3425, and SPC 3301.

MINORS

Law and Social Issues (15 sh)

The Law and Social Issues Minor requires 15 sh of course work. A minimum of 9 sh of upper division course work must be completed at UWF. The Law & Social Issues Minor is meant as a supplement to majors other than Legal Studies and is for those who want a minimal background in substantive areas of law which impact on their major field of study. This minor also provides an introduction to terminology and basic ideas and skills related to the law and the legal profession. In contrast, the Legal Studies major emphasizes legal career preparation. Legal Studies majors may not earn this minor.

PLA 2013 Survey of American Law 3

Choose four:

PLA 3020 Law and Society 3

PLA 3240 Alternative Dispute Resolution 3

PLA 3471 Employment Law 3

PLA 3800 Family Law 3

PLA 4025 Sex Discrimination Law 3

PLA 4263 Evidence 3

PLA 4304 Criminal Law 3

PLA 4453 Consumer Rights 3

Pre-Law (12-15 sh)

The Pre-Law Minor is meant as a supplement to majors other than Legal Studies and is for those who want a minimal background to prepare for law school or who want an introduction to terminology and basic ideas and skills related to the law and the legal profession. In contrast, the Legal Studies major emphasizes legal career preparation. Contact a Legal Studies advisor who will assist in choosing appropriate courses. A minimum of 9 sh of upper division courses must be completed at UWF. Legal Studies majors may not earn this minor.

Recommended but not required:

PLA 2013 Survey of American Law 3

Choose 6 sh from the following:

CJL 3510 Judicial Process 3

3000/4000-level legal admin (PLA) courses 3-6

Capstone Courses

PLA 3003 The Paralegal & The Legal Profession 3

•PLA 3103 Legal Research & Writing 3

- Course has prerequisites.