

## 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](mailto:dcjls@uwf.edu)  
 College: Professional Studies  
 Semester Hours Required for Degree: 120

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

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.

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## LEGAL STUDIES PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZATION

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### Major (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 (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 .....	3
	(or POS 3283 Judicial Process)	
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
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*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
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*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.