

LEGAL STUDIES

Degree: Bachelor of Arts
Specializations: Professional, Pre-Law
Minors: Law & Social Issues and Pre-Law
Certificate: Legal Studies
Department: 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), S.W. Harrell, J. M. Mosley, 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. It is recommended that PLA 3xx1 (The Legal System and Ethics) be taken as the first course in the major as this course is a pre-/co-requisite for PLA 3103. Also note that PLA 4263 must be successfully completed before taking PLA 4xx2 (Civil Procedure). Any course substitutions for specifically listed courses must be approved in writing, in advance by a Legal Studies Coordinator. All Legal Studies majors must successfully complete PLA 4155 notwithstanding any prior course work in legal research and writing.

All PLA courses presume competency and experience with word processing, spreadsheets, databases, e-mail and Internet. If you do not have experience in these areas, it is suggested that you complete CGS 2570 prior to taking any PLA courses.

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. Legal Studies Pre-Law students should take PHI2100 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 (39 sh)

Legal Studies Core (18 sh)

It is recommended that PLA 3xx1 (The Legal System and Ethics) be taken as the first course in the major as this course is a pre-/co-requisite for PLA 3103.

PLA 3xx1	The Legal System and Ethics	3
PLA 3xx3	Property Law and Transactions	3
* PLA 3103	Legal Research and Writing.....	3
* PLA 4xx1	Advanced Legal Writing	3
PLA 4xx2	Civil Procedure.....	3
PLA 4263	Evidence.....	3

* Course has prerequisites.

Professional Specialization (21 sh)

PLA 4763	Law Office Management	3
	3000/4000 level Legal Studies (PLA) electives	18

Students can satisfy up to 6 hours of the requirement with service learning, internship and/or directed study courses (the combination of these may not exceed 6 hours).

Major-Related (18 sh)

Students are required to complete 18 hours of supporting courses selected with and approved by the student's academic advisor. These courses may vary from student to student depending on individual needs and objectives. A list of approved courses is available which identifies courses need by those seeking to work in the profession in a capacity other than that of an attorney. See Department Academic Advisor for a list of approved courses that have been selected from the following disciplines: Accounting, Anthropology, Business, Criminal Justice, Communication Arts, Computer Science, English, History, Language, Management, Philosophy, Psychology, Political Science, Public Administration, Religion, Social Work, and Sociology.

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 (39 sh)

Legal Studies Core (18 sh)

Same as Legal Studies Professional

Pre-Law Specialization (21 sh)

PLA 4880	Constitutional Law for the Paralegal	3
	3000/4000 level Legal Studies (PLA) electives	18

Students can satisfy up to 6 hours of the requirement with service learning, internship and/or directed study courses (the combination of these may not exceed 6 hours).

Major-Related (18 sh)

Students are required to complete 18 hours of supporting courses selected with and approved by the student's academic advisor. These courses may vary from student to student depending on individual needs and objectives. A list of approved courses is available which identifies courses that are designed to prepare students for law school education. See Department Academic Advisor for a list of approved courses that have been selected from the following disciplines: Accounting, Anthropology, Business, Criminal Justice, Communication Arts, Computer Science, English, History, Language, Management, Philosophy, Psychology, Political Science, Public Administration, Religion, Social Work, and Sociology.

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 3301, and SPC 3425.

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 Law3

Choose 6 sh from the following:

CJL 3510 Judicial Process3

3000/4000-level legal admin (PLA) courses3-6

Capstone Courses

PLA 3xx1 The Legal System and Ethics3

• PLA 3103 Legal Research & Writing3

• Course has prerequisites.