

Legal Studies

The Legal Studies Program provides students with a broad understanding of basic principles of law and the role and function of the legal system. While no specific major is prescribed for admission to law school, many pre-law students elect to major in Legal Studies. The Legal Studies Program, in addition to preparing students for law-related careers, provides a foundation for law school or other graduate education. All of the full-time Legal Studies faculty are attorneys who are graduates of ABA-Approved law schools and are available for law school advising. Legal Studies students are encouraged to work closely with Legal Studies Advisors in planning their programs. Satisfactory completion of program requirements leads to the degree of Bachelor of Arts with a major in Legal Studies.

Program Requirements

In addition to general University requirements, students seeking the Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies must meet the requirements listed below. A grade of "C" is required for all courses listed as core courses.

Students may get credit for a maximum of 6 hours of Field Study / Internship / Directed Study. All PLA courses presume competency and experience with word processing, spreadsheets, databases, e-mail and Internet. Any course substitutions for specifically listed courses must be approved in advance, in writing by the Legal Studies Program Advisor.

General Education

In addition to the General Education requirements listed on this page, students must satisfy all additional University requirements, including the Gordon Rule, multicultural, and foreign language requirements. With appropriate planning and coordination with an academic advisor, students may satisfy some of the general University requirements through the General Education curriculum. For a complete listing of general degree requirements, refer to the "[University Requirements](#)" section of this catalog.

General Education Curriculum:

Communication

ENC 1101	English Composition I	3
ENC 1102	English Composition II	3

Mathematics

Choose one course from Group A and one Additional course from either Group A or Group B 6

Group A

MAC 1105	College Algebra
MAC 1105C	College Algebra with Lab
MAC 2311	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I
MGF 1106	Mathematics for Liberal Arts I
MGF 1107	Mathematics for Liberal Arts II
STA 2023	Elements of Statistics

Group B

MAC 1114	Trigonometry
MAC 1140	Precalculus Algebra
MAC 1147	Precalculus with Trigonometry
MAC 2233	Calculus with Business Applications

MAC 2312	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II
STA 2360	Introduction to Data Science

Social Sciences

Choose one course from Group A and one additional course from either Group A or Group B 6

Group A

AMH 2020	United States since 1877
ANT 2000	Introduction to Anthropology
ECO 2013	Principles of Economics Macro
POS 2041	American Politics
PSY 2012	General Psychology
SYG 2000	Introduction to Sociology

Group B

AMH 2010	United States to 1877
ANT 2100	Introduction to Archaeology
ANT 2400	Current Cultural Issues
CCJ 2002	Survey of Crime and Justice
COM 2023	Death and Communication
CPO 2002	Comparative Politics
DEP 2004	Human Development Across the Lifespan
EUH 1000	Western Perspectives I
EUH 1001	Western Perspectives II
FIN 2104	Personal Financial Planning
GEA 2000	Nations and Regions of the World
GEB 1011	Introduction to Business
HIS 2050	Explore! History
IDH 1041	Honors Core 2
INR 2002	International Politics
MMC 2000	Principles of Mass Communication
PLA 2013	Survey of American Law
SOW 2192	Understanding Relationships in the 21st Century
SPM 2010	Sport in Global Society
SYG 2010	Current Social Problems

Humanities

Choose one course from Group A and one additional course from either Group A or Group B 6

Group A

ARH 1000	Art Appreciation
LIT 2000	Introduction to Literature
MUL 2010	Music Appreciation
PHI 2010	Introduction to Philosophy
THE 2000	Theatre Appreciation

Group B

AML 2010	American Literature I
AML 2020	American Literature II
AML 2072	Sex, Money, and Power in American Literature
ARH 2050	Western Survey I: Prehistory to the Medieval Period
ARH 2051	Western Survey II: Renaissance to Contemporary

ART 1015C	Exploring Artistic Vision
ART 2821	The Self, Creativity, Your Career and Visual Culture
CRW 2001	Introduction to Creative Writing
ENL 2010	History of English Literature I
ENL 2020	History of English Literature II
IDH 1040	Honors Core 1
LIT 2030	Introduction to Poetry
MUH 2930	The Music Experience: Special Topics
PHI 2103	Critical Thinking
PHI 2603	Ethics in Contemporary Society
REL 1300	World Religions
SPC 2608	Basic Communication Skills
THE 2300	Survey of Dramatic Literature

Natural Sciences

Choose one course from Group A and one additional course from either Group A or Group B 6

Group A	
AST 1002	Descriptive Astronomy
BSC 1005	General Biology for Non-Majors *
BSC 1085	Anatomy and Physiology I *
BSC 2010	Biology I
CHM 1020	Concepts in Chemistry *
CHM 2045	General Chemistry I *
ESC 2000	Introduction to Earth Science *
EVR 2001	Introduction to Environmental Science
PHY 1020	Conceptual Physics
PHY 2048	Calculus-Based Physics I **, **
PHY 2048C	Calculus-Based Physics I Studio ***
PHY 2053	Algebra-Based Physics I **, **
Group B	
ANT 2511	Biological Anthropology *
AST 2037	Life in the Universe
BOT 2010	General Botany
BSC 1050	Fundamentals of Ecology
BSC 1086	Anatomy and Physiology II *
BSC 2011	Biology II
BSC 2311	Introduction to Oceanography and Marine Biology *
CGS 2020	Introduction to Machine Learning
CHM 2046	General Chemistry II *
CIS 2530	Introduction to Cybersecurity
GLY 2010	Physical Geology *
MCB 1000	Fundamentals of Microbiology *
PHC 2082	Informatics and Your Health
PHY 2049	Calculus-Based Physics II **, **
PHY 2054	Algebra-Based Physics II **, **

* May be taken with or without lab.

** Algebra-Based Physics is usually recommended for non-science majors, while Calculus-Based Physics is recommended for science majors

*** Although students receive 5 semester hours credit for PHY 2048C, an additional 3 semester science course will be needed to meet General Education requirements.

General Education Electives

Choose an additional course from two of the three areas of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences

Multicultural Requirement

Multicultural Courses

An important component of a liberal education is the study of cultures other than one's own. As such, multiculturalism encompasses the appreciation of the values, expressions, and modes of organization of diverse cultural communities. To further such study, the University of West Florida requires all students pursuing a bachelor's degree to complete at least one course that explores one or more of the dimensions of another culture (language, religion, socio-economic structures, etc.). Students are exempt from this requirement if they have completed an A.A. degree, the general education program at a Florida public institution, or a baccalaureate degree.

The requirement is satisfied by the successful completion of a multicultural course designated on the following list. Several of the selections are General Education courses, and students may enroll in these to meet both the General Education and the multicultural requirements.

**Passed by UWF Faculty Senate on 11/08/2002

This list is continually updated and students are encouraged to check with their advisors for alternative options.

AML 2010	American Literature I	3
AML 2020	American Literature II	3
AML 3604	African American Literature	3
AML 3624	Black Women Writers	3
AML 4015	Topics in Nineteenth-Century American Literature	3
AML 4640	Topics in Native American Literature	3
ANT 1001	Anthropology as a Profession	1
ANT 2000	Introduction to Anthropology	3
ANT 2301	Human Sexuality and Culture	3
ANT 3212	Peoples and Cultures of the World	3
ANT 3312	North American Indians	3
ANT 3363	Japanese Culture	3
ANT 3403	Cultural Ecology	3
ANT 4006	Anthropology of Human Rights	3
ANT 4025	Ritual Use of Human Remains	3
ANT 4516	Modern Human Physical Variation	3
ARH 1000	Art Appreciation	3
ARH 2050	Western Survey I: Prehistory to the Medieval Period	3
ARH 2051	Western Survey II: Renaissance to Contemporary	3
ARH 3590	Non-Western Art	3
ARH 3607	Native American Art	3
ARH 4302	Late Renaissance Art in Italy	3
ARH 4412	The Age of Revolution to Romanticism in Europe: 1750-1850	3

ARH 4450	Modern Art: 1850-1980	3
ARH 4470	Contemporary Art	3
ARH 4563	Art of Japan	3
CCJ 3678	Race, Gender, Ethnicity, and Crime	3
COM 3014	Gender Communication	3
COM 3461	Intercultural Communication	3
COM 4242	Communication and Christianity	3
CPO 2002	Comparative Politics	3
CPO 4792	Geopolitics	3
CRW 2001	Introduction to Creative Writing	3
EDF 2085	Teaching Diverse Populations	3
ENG 4013	Introduction to Literary Theory	3
ENL 2020	History of English Literature II	3
EUH 1000	Western Perspectives I	3
EUH 1001	Western Perspectives II	3
EUH 3203	Modern Europe	3
EUH 3334	Emperors, Sultans, Dictators, and Democrats: The Balkans	3
EUH 3411	Rome and the Mediterranean World	3
EUH 3576	Soviet Union since 1917	3
EUH 4563	The Other Germany: The Lands of the Austrian Monarchy, 1526-1918	3
FRE 4955	Supervised Foreign Language Field Experience Abroad	1-3
GEA 2000	Nations and Regions of the World	3
GEB 4361	International Business	3
GEO 3421	Cultural Geography	3
GEO 3471	Geography of World Affairs	3
HIS 2050	Explore! History	3
HIS 4262	Rise and Fall of the Portuguese Empire	3
IDH 1040	Honors Core 1	3
IDH 1041	Honors Core 2	3
INR 2002	International Politics	3
LAH 4135	Spanish Conquest of the Americas	3
LAH 4131	'Atlantic Indians': How Indigenous and African Peoples Shaped Europe & the Americas	3
LAH 4451	Greater Mexico: Central America from Conquest to the 20th Century	3
LAH 4728	Gender and Sexuality in Latin America from Colonization to Today	3
LIT 2000	Introduction to Literature	3
LIT 2030	Introduction to Poetry	3
LIT 3233	Postcolonial Literature	3
LIT 4036	Topics in Poetry and Poetics	3
LIT 4385	Feminist Theory	3
MAN 4102	Management of Diversity	3
MAR 4156	Seminar in International Marketing	3
MMC 3743	Communicating Fear: Horror Films and Popular Culture	3
MMC 3745	Communicating Fear Abroad: International Horror Films & Popular Culture	3
MUH 2930	The Music Experience: Special Topics	3
MUL 2010	Music Appreciation	3

NUR 4615	Community and Public Health Nursing	3
NUR 4636	Population-based Public Health Nursing	3
PHI 3790	African Philosophy	3
PUR 3404	International Public Relations	3
PSY 3860	Positive Psychology	3
SOP 3730	Psychology, Culture, and Society	3
SOW 4233	Human Diversity and Social Justice	3
SPN 3400	Advanced Stylistics	3
SPN 4520	Latin American Culture and Civilization	3
SYO 4421	Sociology of Health, Illness and Health Care	3
SYO 4530	Inequality in America	3

Civic Literacy Requirement

The 2017 Florida Legislature amended [Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes](#), to require students **initially entering a State University System (SUS) and/or Florida College System (FCS) institution in 2018-2019** and thereafter to demonstrate competency in civic literacy.

The 2021 Legislature further amended Florida Statutes, requiring students to complete both a civic literacy course and exam. As a result, there are three cohorts of students currently matriculating at Florida public institutions subject to varying requirements. As demonstrated in the table below, the exact civic literacy requirements are based on the academic term in which a student first enrolled in a Florida public institution.

Students Included in Cohort	Civic Literacy Competency Requirement
Cohort 1: Students first entering the SUS or FCS prior to fall 2018	None
Cohort 2: Students first entering the SUS or FCS in fall 2018 – summer A 2021	Complete a course or exam
Cohort 3: Students first entering the SUS or FCS in summer B 2021 (on or after July 1, 2021) and thereafter	Complete both a course and exam

Additionally, the 2021 Legislature made two additional exceptions: approving the use of accelerated mechanisms for meeting the course competency requirement and exempting high school students who pass the Florida Civic Literacy Exam in high school from the postsecondary exam requirement. These two changes are in effect for Cohort 3.

There are multiple ways to satisfy this requirement. Students should work with their academic advisor to determine which option is best for their degree requirements/degree plan.

Additional information can be found on our [Civic Literacy](#) website.

*[BOG 8.006; s.1007.25\(4,a-b\)](#)

Lower Division Electives

Students must complete sufficient 1000/2000 level electives 24 to complete at least 60 semester hours in the lower division. Current UWF students may use elective courses at any level (1000-4000) to meet this elective requirement.

Legal Studies students planning to take the LSAT and seek admission to law school are encouraged to take courses that will strengthen their

written and verbal communication skills as these are needed to be successful in law school.

Major

UWF Legal Studies Core - minimum "C" required in all ⁺	18
PLA 2013 Survey of American Law ⁺	
PLA 3020 Law and Society ⁺	
PLA 3106 Legal Research and Writing ^{*,+}	
PLA 3703 The Legal System and Ethics ⁺	
PLA 4155 Legal Advocacy ^{*,+}	
PLA 4885 Constitutional Law for the Legal Professional ⁺	
UWF Legal Studies Major Electives (choose 21 hours) Select any PLA 3/4000 level courses not taken as part of the core; some courses require a minimum GPA or prerequisites. Contact your advisor for additional information. ⁺	21
Total Hours	39

⁺ Courses included in the major GPA

* Students should complete PLA 2013 Survey of American Law and at least one of the following courses: PLA 3020 Law and Society PLA 3703 The Legal System and Ethics PLA 4263 Evidence PLA 4885 Constitutional Law for the Legal Professional before attempting to take PLA 3106 Legal Research and Writing. Students must complete before enrolling in PLA 4155 Legal Advocacy.

All Legal Studies majors must successfully complete PLA 4155 Legal Advocacy notwithstanding any prior course work in legal research and writing.

Students can satisfy up to 6 hours of the Legal Studies Major Electives requirement with internship and/or directed study courses (the combination of these may not exceed 6 hours).

Major-Related

Supporting Electives from Related Programs (12 hours) 12
Criminal Justice (CCJ, CJL, CJE, CJC) History (HIS, EUH, AMH) Philosophy (PHI, PHM) Political Science/Government (POS, POT, INR) Public Administration (PAD, PUP) Business Administration (MAN, INP, GEB, ACG, FIN, BUL)

Suggested/Approved Supporting Elective Courses from Related Programs offered at UWF :

Ethics, Philosophy and Critical Thought:

PHH 3100	Greek Philosophy
PHH 3400	Modern Philosophy
PHI 3130	Modern Logic
PHI 3670	Ethics
PHM 3200	Social and Political Philosophy

Written and Verbal Interactions with Others

COM 4103	Leadership Communication
COM 4110	Business and Professional Communication
COM 4120	Organizational Communication
GEB 3213	Writing for Business: Theory and Practice
INP 3313	Organizational Behavior
MAN 3025	Management Fundamentals
MAN 3240	Behavior in Organizations
MAN 3301	Human Resources Management

SOP 3004	Social Psychology
SPC 3301	Interpersonal Communication
SOW 3350	Interviewing and Recording
Financial Information:	
ACG 3082	Accounting for Non-Majors
FIN 3144	Financial Planning with Business Applications
GEB 3032	Business Foundations for Non-Business Majors
Law-Related:	
AMH 4575	Civil Rights
BUL 3130	Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
BUL 4602	Legal Fundamentals of Healthcare
INR 3503	International Organizations
MMC 4201	Media Law and Ethics
POS 3608	Constitutional Law: Federalism and Separation of Powers
POS 3624	Constitutional Law: Individual Rights and Privileges
POS 3625	First Amendment Freedoms
POS 4602	The Founders' Constitution
POS 4673	Jurisprudence
POT 4204	American Political Thought
POT 4601	Modern Masters of Political Thought
PUP 4004	Public Policy
SPM 4723	Sport Law and Risk Management

Total Hours 12

Upper-Division Electives

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Pre-Law

The Legal Studies 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. Students who are considering attending law school are strongly encouraged to complete PLA 3106 Legal Research and Writing for the elective in this minor. Students who take PLA 3106 Legal Research and Writing should successfully complete at least one or two law-related courses before attempting this course. 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.

PLA 2013	Survey of American Law	3
PLA 3020	Law and Society	3
Choose one:		3
PLA 4263	Evidence	
PLA 4885	Constitutional Law for the Legal Professional	
Choose two:		6
3000/4000 level Legal Studies (PLA) courses (3-6 sh)		