

LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR

Description

The Legal Studies major provides an undergraduate liberal arts degree grounded in the Humanist tradition of law. The focus of the program is to study the historical and contemporary development of the law and its impact and relationship to political decision-making, moral philosophy, evolving theories and concepts of equity, equality and justice, and social and community norms.

The impact of law and legal process on citizens, both at home and abroad, has increased markedly in recent years. Factors contributing to the development of law and legal institutions include rapid growth in the complexity of government, public, private and administrative law, expanded conceptions of individual and group rights, increased public access to knowledge via the internet and increasing exposure to structures of legal ordering, such as healthcare, environment and economic regulation. If citizens are to protect, maintain and advance democratic ideals, civic life and participation, they require greater knowledge of the role of law, its goals, methods, successes and failures.

Coupled with this must be an understanding of the benefits and limitations of evolving methods of alternative dispute resolution and restorative justice.

Legal Studies majors learn about both the theoretical and practical dimensions of law, not only within the American and English common-law model, but within other civil, code-based, global legal systems as well. They gain first-hand experience in legal analysis, argument and advocacy as well as in mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). They learn such substantive areas of law as contracts, real property, family law, etc., and gain an understanding of procedural law in civil and criminal contexts. The program offers coursework in law-related topics involving diversity, multiculturalism, environmental regulation and international law.

Legal Studies programs offer students two options for majors: a 36-credit major in Legal Studies, which would be complemented by a minor of the student's choice, or a 58-credit comprehensive major in Legal Studies with an emphasis in Criminal Justice, which would not require a minor. Additionally, this program offers a 24-credit minor in Criminal Justice. The criminal justice concentration builds on the Legal Studies curriculum to offer both social science perspectives and professional development in the study of justice through the lenses of police, courts, corrections, offenders, and victims.

Legal Studies Major Requirements

35-36 total credits

Completion of 35 or 36 credits is required, including 24 credits in required courses, 3 credits in a procedure course, 2 or 3 credits in a substantive law course and 6 credits from two of three groups.

Code	Title	Hours
Requirements		
LSTU 115	Law and Human Behavior	3.00
LSTU 261	Contemporary Issues in Law and Society	3.00
LSTU 268	Alternative Dispute Resolution	3.00
LSTU 305	Methods of Legal Research and Writing	3.00
LSTU 450	U.S. Constitutional Law, Part I	3.00

LSTU 451	U.S. Constitutional Law, Part II-Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	3.00
LSTU 485 or LSTU 499	Internship Independent Research/Applied Skills	1.00-3.00
LSTU 498	Senior Capstone Presentation	0.00
<i>Legal Procedures Courses</i>		
LSTU 210 or LSTU 220	Criminal Procedure Civil Procedure	3.00
<i>Substantive Law Courses</i>		
Select two credits of the following: (students are strongly encouraged to take more of these courses as electives)		2.00
LSTU 211	Criminal Law	
LSTU 221	Administrative Law	
LSTU 223	Family Law	
LSTU 224	Litigation	
LSTU 228	Contract Law	
Groups		
Select one course from each of the following Groups:		9.00
<i>Group 1: Legal Theory and Practice</i>		
LSTU 333	Great Legal Trials: Stories That Changed Law	
LSTU 354	Jurisprudence	
LSTU 363	Comparative Law and Courts	
<i>Group 2: Legal Process and Systems</i>		
LSTU 233	Law, Citizenship and Civic Engagement	
LSTU 303	Environmental Law and Regulation	
LSTU 321	Judicial Process	
CJUS 316	Crime, Corrections and Punishment	
<i>Group 3: Diversity and Multicultural Issues</i>		
LSTU 365	Race, Ethnicity, and Justice	
CJUS 312	Gender, Crime, and Justice	
Total Hours		33.00-35.00

For students planning to attend law school or graduate school, a preparatory course in the LSAT or GRE examination is highly recommended.