



Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies

Are you intrigued by the law and how it works in our society and around the world? Would you like to learn how to negotiate, mediate, and investigate judicial affairs? The BA in Legal Studies program builds a basic foundation in understanding the roles of law, justice, and governance and the impact these have on society. You will acquire knowledge of a variety of judicial, political, and economic systems, as well as laws and policies that can be applied in multiple areas of government and business. Within the framework of a liberal arts education, the program also offers an international and historical perspective on legal issues that can provide a solid base for advanced study in the field of law.

General Education Requirements – 60 credits

BEH 221 Introduction to Behavioral Science
(Required for all BA students.)

Common Body of Knowledge Requirements – 18 credits

Liberal Arts Core Requirements – 15 credits

Major Requirements - 33 credits

Credits Required for Degree: 126

Major Course Descriptions

LGS 300 Legal Research and Writing*

This course presents an introduction to legal analysis, research, and writing through the preparation of legal memoranda and other assignments. This course emphasizes the basic skills and tools of legal analysis and research and the fundamentals of good writing for a legal environment. Students research and write legal memoranda and other documents of increasing length and complexity, develop legal research skills, and learn editing skills and the basics of legal ethics.

*Prerequisites: ENG 101, ENG 102, and CRT 201

GOV 380 World Political and Economic Systems

An in-depth look at the political and economic structures of various countries, this course emphasizes an understanding of the differences between North American, Asian, and European free enterprise systems. It also examines various socialist, social democratic, and authoritarian regimes.

LGS 310 Justice System in America

This course examines the criminal justice system as a process, including the laws upon which it is based. The main purpose of the course is to establish an understanding of the roles of police, corrections, probation, and parole and the underlying structure of law and the U.S. legal system.

LGS 320 Alternative Dispute Resolution

Alternative dispute resolution includes a variety of techniques and processes that are often used in lieu of more traditional judicial processes. Negotiation, mediation, and arbitration are the main topics covered in this course. Students explore a variety of scenarios in which alternative dispute resolution may be preferable to litigation.

LGS 330 Ethics and the Administration of Justice

This course explores the standards, codes, roles, ethics, and responsibilities of professional organizations and agencies in the criminal justice and legal systems. It covers concepts and practices as they relate to the administration of justice.

LGS 370 Criminal Procedure

This course explores the role of the legal team in the investigative process. Topics include evaluation of collected evidence, methods of arguing for or against the admission of evidence, and the process of identifying, selecting, and preparing expert witnesses. The concepts of burden of proof and presumption of innocence are defined and the activities of prosecution and defense are outlined.

LGS 400 Comparative Law*

This course examines the role of law in different nations. Differences and commonalities among different legal systems are explored. By giving the student a broad overview of legal systems throughout the world, this course also provides a foundation for a more in-depth study of constitutional, criminal, and civil law.

*Prerequisite: LGS 300

LGS 410 American Constitutional Law and History

This course provides an introduction to the fundamental law of the United States as set forth in the Constitution and developed primarily by the



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United States Supreme Court. It addresses Supreme Court review, separation of powers, federalism, and the protection of individual rights under the Fourteenth Amendment Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses. These topics are explored in the context of the historical and theoretical foundations of American constitutional law development, including the role of the Supreme Court in American government and the controversy over different approaches to constitutional interpretation.

LGS 420 Criminal Law*

This course introduces students to substantive and procedural criminal law through the study of its foundations, practices, and limitations. Criminal law legislation and cases are examined to gain a practical understanding of the topic.

*Prerequisite: LGS 370

LGS 430 Civil Procedure

This course covers both substantive civil law and civil procedure. The role of all participants in civil litigation, from the client interview through the appeals process, is analyzed. Special emphasis is placed on federal civil procedure rules.

CAP 485 Integrated Capstone*

The Integrated Capstone Course helps students to synthesize the knowledge and skills that were learned in General Education and Common Body of Knowledge classes with the functional, theoretical, and technical skills and knowledge acquired in the Core and Major courses. The goal of the course is to create a dynamic inter-disciplinary learning experience, where organizational issues are viewed from various perspectives. Students will also assess and demonstrate their mastery of University and program learning outcomes.

*Prerequisite: Student must have completed at least 114 credits.