

LEGAL STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (6001)

Program Coordinator

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The Legal Studies program consists of 18 hours of core courses in Political Science, History, and Professional Legal Studies (including a capstone experience), and 18 hours of electives from many disciplines across Western Kentucky University. A second major, minor, or certificate is required.

The program provides students an interdisciplinary perspective while fostering greater understanding of the law as it relates to history, the sciences, and ethics in the United States and around the world. While the program appeals to pre-law students, it also serves as a background for a wide variety of careers, including public administration, academics, government, diplomatic corps, homeland security, non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement.

Legal Studies allows students from many disciplines to focus their studies using their individual disciplinary interests as a launching point for exploring how the study of law cuts across disciplinary lines. It offers courses in a wide range of subjects, including American legal history, political process, constitutional law, philosophy and ethics, sociology and criminal justice, business, journalism and broadcasting, economics and property law, English, and environmental law and regulations.

Program Requirements (36 hours)

Code	Title	Hours
Program Core Courses		
PS 220	Judicial Process	3
PLS 250	Legal Research and Writing I	3
PS 326	Constitutional Law	3
HIST 445	American Legal History to 1865	3
HIST 446	American Legal History Since 1865	3
LS 495	Senior Seminar in Legal Studies	3
Required Ethics course (choose one)		3
BCOM 301	Mass Communication Law and Ethics	
PLS 200	Legal Ethics	
JOUR 301	Press Law and Ethics	
PHIL 350	Ethical Theory	
PS 338	Government and Ethics	
Required International/Comparative Elective course (choose one):		3
PS 355	International Organization and Law	
PLS 375	Comparative Legal Systems	
HIST 380	Human Rights in History	
CRIM 430	Comparative Systems of Juvenile Justice	
CRIM 448	International Justice and Crime	
GEOG 487	Environmental Management and Law	
Required Business Elective (choose one):		3
MGT 200	Legal Environment of Business	

PLS 283	Property Law	
MGT 301	Business Law	
ECON 390	Economics, Law, and Public Choice	
PLS 392	Corporate Law	
ECON 434	The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination	
Required Law and Justice Elective (choose one):		3
PLS 324	Women and the Law	
PS 328	Criminal Justice Procedures	
CRIM 330	Criminology	
CRIM 361	Race, Class, and Crime	
CRIM 432	Sociology of Criminal Law	
CRIM 446	Gender, Crime, and Justice	
PSY 470	Psychology and Law	
Unrestricted Electives (6 hours needed from at least two disciplines):		6
BCOM 301	Mass Communication Law and Ethics	
CRIM 330	Criminology	
CRIM 332	Juvenile Delinquency	
CRIM 361	Race, Class, and Crime	
CRIM 430	Comparative Systems of Juvenile Justice	
CRIM 432	Sociology of Criminal Law	
CRIM 446	Gender, Crime, and Justice	
CRIM 448	International Justice and Crime	
ECON 390	Economics, Law, and Public Choice	
ECON 434	The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination	
ENG 301	Argument and Analysis in Written Discourse	
ENG 412	Theories of Rhetoric and Persuasive Writing	
GEOG 487	Environmental Management and Law	
JOUR 301	Press Law and Ethics	
HIST 380	Human Rights in History	
HIST 430	History of the Civil Rights Movement in America	
LS 498	Internship in Legal Studies	
MGT 200	Legal Environment of Business	
MGT 301	Business Law	
MGT 400	Employment Law	
PHIL 215	Symbolic Logic	
PHIL 323	Social Ethics	
PHIL 350	Ethical Theory	
PHIL 427	Philosophy of Law	
PLS 200	Legal Ethics	
PLS 283	Property Law	
PLS 324	Women and the Law	
PLS 375	Comparative Legal Systems	
PLS 392	Corporate Law	
PLS 499	Internship in Paralegal Studies	
PSY 470	Psychology and Law	

PS 311	Public Policy
PS 327	Civil Liberties
PS 328	Criminal Justice Procedures
PS 338	Government and Ethics
PS 355	International Organization and Law

Total Hours 36

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENG 100		3 HIST 101 or HIST 102	3
Colonnade: Quantitative Reasoning		3 COMM 145	3
Colonnade: Natural & Physical Sciences with Lab		3 PS 220	3
Colonnade: Social and Behavioral Studies		3 World Language (if needed) or General Elective	3
Colonnade: Arts & Humanities		3 Colonnade: Literary Studies	3
		15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
HIST 445		3 HIST 446	3
PLS 250		3 Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course	3
Colonnade - Natural & Physical Sciences		3 Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course	3
World Language II (if needed) or General Elective		3 Connections - Systems or Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course (PS 220 Recommended)	3
Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course		3 Connections - Local to Global	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PS 326		3 Required Legal Studies Elective	3
Connections - Social and Cultural		3 ENG 300 or COMM 200	3
Required Legal Studies Elective		3 Required Legal Studies Elective	3
Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course		3 Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course	3
Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course		3 Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Required Legal Studies Elective		3 LS 495	3
Unrestricted Legal Studies Elective		3 Unrestricted Legal Studies Elective	3
Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course		3 Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course	3
Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course		3 Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course	3
Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course		3 Second Major, Minor, or General Elective Course	3
		15	15

Total Hours 120