

LEGAL STUDIES INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR

Political Science

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The Legal Studies Interdisciplinary Minor provides a broad-based academic foundation for students interested in legal or law-related fields. This minor is intended and ideally suited for students who plan to attend law school, as well as to those who are interested in a wide range of careers in which some grounding in legal studies is helpful, such as media, business, human resources, communications, government service, human rights, and others.

Students take 21 credits (12 of which must be upper division) in law related courses emphasizing key aspects of contemporary law and legal practice, such as politics, human rights, gender, race, economics, communication, the environment, and media. Equally, students accrue (and practice) essential skills important for the practice of law, such as persuasive argumentation, fact-based analytical reasoning, effective public speaking, thoughtful public deliberation, and efficient communication.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion, students will be able to:

1. Identify and demonstrate knowledge of the principles of our existing legal systems and processes within both the American and International contexts.
2. Identify the key philosophical, professional and ethical foundations of law and legal systems.
3. Identify and address legal/judicial concerns and issues within existing mainstream, minority, ethnic, environmental & cultural communities.
4. Identify and examine legal concerns/issues in key disciplines/fields (e.g., Economics, Political Science, Ethnic Studies, International Relations), both a) those unique to individual fields and b) those that overlap within larger interdisciplinary contexts and realities.
5. Draft basic legal and business-related correspondence and documents, including legal memoranda, pleadings and contracts.

Requirements Effective Spring 2026

Students must satisfactorily complete the total credits required for the minor. Minors and interdisciplinary minors require 12 or more upper-division (300- to 400-level) credits.

Additional coursework may be required due to prerequisites.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Course:		
LEGL 205	Contemporary Legal Studies	3
BUS 205	Legal and Ethical Issues in Business	3
ECON 212	Racial Inequality and Discrimination (GT-SS1)	
ETST 305	Ethnicity, Class, and Gender in the U.S.	
ETST 332	Contemporary Chicana Issues	
ETST 404	Race Formation in the United States	
SOC 205	Sociology of Race and Racism (GT-SS3)	
SOC 333	Gender and Society	
WS 268	Whiteness, Gender, and Sexuality (GT-SS3)	
WS 269	Women of Color in the United States (GT-SS3)	
WS 340	Race and Sexuality	

Critical Thinking/Persuasive Speech (select one from the following courses): **3**

PHIL 110	Logic and Critical Thinking (GT-AH3)
PHIL 210	Introduction to Formal Logic
SPCM 200	Public Speaking
SPCM 337	Persuasion

Selected Courses

Select a minimum of 12 credits from at least two of the following categories: **12**

Constitutional Law and Communication:

E 458	Topics in Language, Law, and Justice
JTC 415	Communications Law
LEGL 360	Mock Trial
POLS 410	American Constitutional Law
POLS 413	U.S. Civil Rights and Liberties
SPCM 320	Communication and Human Trafficking
SPCM 349	Freedom of Speech

Economics/Business:

ECON 327	Law and Economics
MGT 350	Employment Relations: The Legal Environment
REL 367	Real Estate Law
SPMT 339	Sport and the Law

Environment/Natural Resources:

AREC 342	Water Law, Policy, and Institutions
AREC 375	Agricultural Law
PHIL 345	Environmental Ethics

Social/Political/International:

ANTH 422/ SOC 422	Comparative Legal Systems
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ETST 324	Asian-Pacific Americans and the Law
ETST 444/ SOC 444	Federal Indian Law and Policy
GES 460	Law and Sustainability
HDFS 403	Families in the Legal Environment
HIST 313	Law and Justice in Medieval Europe
LEGL 460A	Study Abroad--Italy: Comparative Legal Studies
PHIL 312	Philosophy of Law
POLS 305	Judicial Politics
POLS 371A	Study Abroad--London : Comparative UK and US Policy
POLS 431	International Law
SOC 455	Sociology of Law

Program Total Credits: **21**