

# Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Legal Studies provides students with a broad educational background in American law and policy that prepares them well for a lifetime of informed civic participation. Students will also acquire the technical skills and specialized knowledge that will enable them to build a career working in federal and state agencies or court systems, in a variety of legal service settings, in private law offices or corporate legal departments, and in a multitude of other public and private organizations where familiarity with government regulation and legal processes is required. The program also lays the academic foundation for students who later wish to advance to graduate programs in law or public policy. The program is approved by the American Bar Association.

Please note that students obtaining the BA in Legal Studies are not authorized to provide direct legal services to the public. The program offers training for paraprofessionals who are authorized to perform substantive legal work under the supervision of a licensed attorney. The program does not train lawyers.

## Admission Requirements

- Complete the Admission Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees (<https://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/undergraduate/>).

## Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General University Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees (<https://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduateprograms/baccalaureaterequirements/>).
- Complete the General Education Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees (<https://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduateprograms/baccalaureaterequirements/gers/>).
- Courses used to fulfill the Social Sciences General Education Requirement must be taken outside the legal studies major.
- Take the Legal Studies Exit Examination. There is no minimum score required for graduation.
- Complete the following major requirements with a minimum grade of C in Legal Studies (LEGL) courses:

| Code   | Title                              | Credits |
|--|------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Oral Communication Skills</b>                           |                                    |         |
| Complete one of the following (with a minimum grade of C): |                                    | 3       |
| COMM A111  | Fundamentals of Oral Communication |         |
| COMM A235  | Small Group Communication          |         |
| COMM A237  | Interpersonal Communication        |         |
| COMM A241  | Public Speaking                    |         |
| <b>Written Communication Skills</b>                        |                                    |         |
| WRTG A111  | Writing Across Contexts            | 3       |

Complete one of the following (with a minimum grade of B): 3

|           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| WRTG A211 | Writing and the Humanities  |
| WRTG A212 | Writing and the Professions |
| WRTG A213 | Writing and the Sciences    |
| WRTG A214 | Arguing Across Contexts     |

Complete one of the following (with a minimum grade of B): 3

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| ENGL A311 | Writing in Public Life       |
| ENGL A312 | Technical Writing and Design |
| ENGL A313 | Professional Writing         |
| ENGL A414 | Research Writing             |

### Core Courses

|                                |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| LEGL A101                      | Introduction to Law                                 | 3 |
| LEGL A215                      | Legal Ethics and the Role of the Legal Professional | 3 |
| LEGL A352                      | Criminal Law: Murder, Robbery, and Other Crimes     | 3 |
| LEGL A356                      | Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing               | 3 |
| LEGL A367                      | Civil Procedure and Pretrial Practice               | 3 |
| LEGL/JUST A374                 | The Courts  | 3 |
| LEGL A377                      | Evidence, Investigation, and Discovery              | 3 |
| LEGL A487                      | Trial and Advanced Litigation Processes             | 3 |
| LEGL A489                      | Legal Studies Senior Seminar                        | 3 |
| Complete one of the following: |   | 3 |
| LEGL A312                      | Race, Equal Protection and the Law                  |   |
| LEGL A315                      | Law, History and Social Change                      |   |
| LEGL/PS A343                   | Constitutional Law                                  |   |
| LEGL A443                      | Civil Liberties                                     |   |

### Electives

Complete 15-17 credits (12 upper-division) of Legal Studies (LEGL) electives, or from the following list: <sup>1</sup> 15-17

|           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| ATA A133  | Aviation Law and Regulations     |
| BA A241   | Business Law I                   |
| BA A242   | Business Law II                  |
| BA A432   | Real Estate Law                  |
| CM A401   | Construction Law                 |
| GEO A267  | Boundary Law I                   |
| GEO A457  | Boundary Law II                  |
| JPC A202  | First Amendment and Media Ethics |
| PHIL A406 | Philosophy of Law                |

### Internship

Complete at least 3 credits of the following: 3-6

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| LEGL A495    | Legal Studies Internship |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>60-65</b>             |

<sup>1</sup> Upper division law courses from the justice curriculum may be used to satisfy this requirement with department approval. Only 6 credits of JUST A490 may be used to satisfy elective requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies.

*A minimum of 120 credits is required for the degree, of which 39 credits must be upper-division.*

## Pro Bono Service Honors

The Justice Center recognizes distinguished achievement by conferring pro bono service honors to those legal studies students who work toward improving access to justice by contributing volunteer service to Alaska legal aid agencies. In order to receive pro bono service honors, a student must meet the following requirements:

- Major in any of the legal studies programs, as well as legal studies minors;
- Meet the catalog requirements for the minor, degree or certificate sought;
- Complete the following number of volunteer hours with a legal services agency approved by the department's program coordinator:
  - Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies: 120 hours
- Students intending to graduate with pro bono service honors must obtain written verification of their hours of service from the legal service agency or agencies assisted;
- In the semester they intend to graduate, students must submit their verification of service hours and written notice of their intent to graduate with pro bono service honors to the department's program coordinator. The verification and notice must be received by the coordinator on or before the date established by the Office of the Registrar as the deadline to apply for graduation.