

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.

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Admission Requirements

- Complete the Admission Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/undergraduate/>).
- Students must have completed WRTG A111 (<https://currentcatalog.uaa.alaska.edu/search/?P=WRTG%20A111>) with a minimum grade of C and (WRTG A211 (<https://currentcatalog.uaa.alaska.edu/search/?P=WRTG%20A211>) or WRTG A212 (<https://currentcatalog.uaa.alaska.edu/search/?P=WRTG%20A212>) or WRTG A213 (<https://currentcatalog.uaa.alaska.edu/search/?P=WRTG%20A213>) or WRTG A214 (<https://currentcatalog.uaa.alaska.edu/search/?P=WRTG%20A214>) or ENGL A311 (<https://currentcatalog.uaa.alaska.edu/search/?P=ENGL%20A311>) or ENGL A312 (<https://currentcatalog.uaa.alaska.edu/search/?P=ENGL%20A312>) or ENGL A313 (<https://currentcatalog.uaa.alaska.edu/search/?P=ENGL%20A313>) or ENGL A414 (<https://currentcatalog.uaa.alaska.edu/search/?P=ENGL%20A414>)) with a minimum grade of B.

- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00.

Students who do not meet the admissions requirements will be admitted as pre-majors. Students may take up to 12 credit hours of legal studies (LEGL) courses while in pre-major status.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General University Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduateprograms/baccalaureaterequirements/>).
- Complete the General Education Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduateprograms/baccalaureaterequirements/gers/>).
 - Complete the Oral Communication Skills requirement with a minimum grade of C.
- 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
Written Communications Skills		
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 and Rhetoric in Public Life	
ENGL A312	Advanced Technical Writing	
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: ¹		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	
JPC A313	Film and the First Amendment	
PHIL A406	Philosophy of Law	
Internship		
Complete at least 3 credits of the following:		3-6
LEGL A495	Legal Studies Internship	
Total		57-62

¹ 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, at least 39 of which 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 of Legal Studies 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 of Legal Studies 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.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies will be able to:

- Produce superior university-level written documents and oral reports.
- Identify and accurately apply the rules of professional ethics governing lawyers and nonlawyer staff, and the rules governing the unauthorized practice of law in Alaska.
- Interpret and accurately apply legal terminology and foundational principles of substantive and procedural law in the analysis of legal issues.
- Develop and execute legal research plans using law library resources and commonly used legal research databases.
- Synthesize primary and secondary legal authorities and draft memoranda of legal analysis.
- Prepare legal investigation and discovery plans and draft legal pleadings that conform to the rules of civil procedure and incorporate standard techniques and resources for managing a case in litigation.
- Assess and critique theories of law and the impact of American law, both historically and currently, on social and economic relationships, access to public resources, and individual liberties.
- Construct from disparate fields of substantive law a unified theory of law as a mechanism for ordering social and economic relationships.