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/undergraduateprograms/baccalaureaterequirements/).
- 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WRTG A111</td>
<td>Writing Across Contexts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL A311</td>
<td>Writing and Rhetoric in Public Life</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL A312</td>
<td>Advanced Technical Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL A313</td>
<td>Professional Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL A414</td>
<td>Research Writing</td>
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Core Courses

- LEGL A101 Introduction to Law
- LEGL A215 Legal Ethics and the Role of the Legal Professional
- LEGL A352 Criminal Law: Murder, Robbery, and Other Crimes
- LEGL A356 Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing
- LEGL A367 Civil Procedure and Pretrial Practice
- LEGL/JUST A374 The Courts
Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEGL A377</td>
<td>Evidence, Investigation, and Discovery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGL A487</td>
<td>Trial and Advanced Litigation Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGL A489</td>
<td>Legal Studies Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGL A312</td>
<td>Race, Equal Protection and the Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGL A315</td>
<td>Law, History and Social Change</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LEGL/PS A343</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGL A443</td>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
<td></td>
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**Electives**

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

- 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:

- LEGL A495 Legal Studies Internship

**Total Credits**: 57-62

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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.

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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:

- 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.