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 (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/undergraduate/).
- Students must have completed WRTG A111 with a minimum grade of C and (WRTG A211 or WRTG A212 or WRTG A213 or WRTG A214 or ENGL A311 or ENGL A312 or ENGL A313 or ENGL A414 ) with a minimum grade of B.
- Students must have a 2.00 overall GPA.

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 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/ger/s/).
- 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>
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Electives

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

- ATA A133 Aviation Law and Regulations
- BA/JUST 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 one of the following:

- CEL A395 Civic Engagement Internship (with a minimum grade of C)
LEGL A495  Legal Studies Internship

Total  57-59

1 Upper division law courses from the justice curriculum may be used to satisfy this requirement with departmental 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, 30 of which must be in residence. At least 42 credits must be upper-division, 24 of which must be in residence.

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:

1. Major in any of the legal studies programs, as well as legal studies minors.
2. Meet the catalog requirements for the minor, degree or certificate sought.
3. Complete the following number of volunteer hours with a legal services agency approved by the Department of Legal Studies program coordinator:
   a. Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies: 120 hours
4. 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.
5. 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.