

Legal Studies

Justice Center

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The UAA Justice Center, established by the Alaska Legislature in 1975, has a mandate to provide statewide justice-related education, research and service. The Justice Center is an interdisciplinary unit that provides undergraduate, graduate and professional education; conducts research in the areas of crime, law and justice; and provides service to government units, justice agencies and community organizations throughout urban and rural Alaska to promote a safe, healthy and just society.

The legal studies program offers a variety of degrees that prepare students for work in law-related or public service fields. The core of each degree program is a foundational sequence of courses combining theoretical knowledge of the law with skills-based training in American legal practice.

Legal Studies Goals

Students in all programs will acquire:

- Broad-based knowledge achieved through general college education.
- Exceptionally strong competency in critical thinking and in written and oral communication skills.
- Clear understanding of the rules of ethics governing American judges, lawyers, and paralegals.
- Comprehensive legal vocabulary and understanding of judicial processes.
- Operational knowledge of legal investigatory and discovery techniques.
- Command of skills required for legal research, critical analysis, and technical drafting.
- Knowledge of theories of law, historical influences on the development of law, and fundamental principles of substantive law.
- Appreciation for the role of law in the allocation of public resources and regulation of social and economic relationships.

To accomplish these goals, the legal studies program offers the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies
- Minor in Legal Studies
- Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal Studies
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Paralegal Studies

Students may also work toward Pro Bono Service Honors and membership in Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

Pre-law advising is available for those students considering law school. The Society of Law and Justice is the Department's student club.