

# Minor in Legal Studies

Students seeking a baccalaureate degree in another subject may obtain a Minor in Legal Studies by completing the minor requirements set out below. The legal studies minor provides students with the technical skills and specialized knowledge to work under the supervision of lawyers 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 a legal studies minor 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.

## Advising

1. Proficiency in the use of computers and standard office software is an important component of legal practice. Students are strongly encouraged to build their technological skills through Computer Information and Office Systems (CIOS), Computer Information Systems (CIS), or Computer and Networking Technology (CNT) courses as they progress through the minor.
2. Campus restrictions for this program are enforced in accordance with American Bar Association Guidelines for the Approval of Paralegal Education Programs. Therefore, the minor cannot be completed at extended campuses. Courses designated in this catalog as legal specialty courses may be taken only at the Anchorage campus.
3. Students interested in the minor should consult a faculty advisor in the Justice Center before enrolling in LEGL courses.

## Minor Requirements

A minimum grade of C in each course is required. Courses may be repeated twice to improve grades.

| Code      | Title   | Credits |
|-----------|---|---------|
| LEGL A101 | Introduction to Law                                 | 3       |
| LEGL A215 | Legal Ethics and the Role of the Legal Professional | 3       |
| LEGL A356 | Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing               | 3       |
| LEGL A367 | Civil Procedure and Pretrial Practice               | 3       |
| LEGL A377 | Evidence, Investigation, and Discovery              | 3       |
| LEGL A487 | Trial and Advanced Litigation Processes             | 3       |
| LEGL A489 | Legal Studies Senior Seminar                        | 3       |

or LEGL A495      Legal Studies Internship

**Total** **21**

All students minoring in legal studies must take the legal studies exit examination. There is no minimum score required for graduation.

Legal studies courses fulfill the justice elective requirements for the Bachelor of Art in Justice except where the student has elected a legal studies minor. Legal studies courses cannot be used (counted twice) to meet both the requirements of the legal studies minor and the Bachelor of Arts in Justice.

A total of 21 credits is required for the minor.

## Pro Bono Service Honors

The Justice Center awards 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. Students majoring in any of the legal studies programs, as well as legal studies minors, are eligible to graduate with pro bono service honors upon satisfactory completion of the following requirements:

1. Meet the catalog requirements for the minor, degree or certificate sought.
2. Complete the following number of volunteer hours with a legal services agency approved by the Legal Studies Department program coordinator:
  - a. Minor, Legal Studies: 50 hours
3. 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.
4. 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 Legal Studies Department 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

In addition to the broad-based knowledge and critical thinking, writing, oral communication, and quantitative skills acquired in their baccalaureate program, students who complete the Legal Studies Minor will:

1. Produce superior university-level written documents and oral reports.
2. 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.
3. Interpret and accurately apply legal terminology and foundational principles of substantive and procedural law.
4. Develop and execute legal research plans using law library resources and commonly used legal research databases.
5. Synthesize primary and secondary legal authorities and draft memoranda of legal analysis.

6. Prepare legal investigation/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.