Legal studies is an undergraduate major in the College of Letters & Science. The program’s mission is to provide a liberal education across traditional disciplines, focusing on the theory and operation of law and legal institutions. The courses in the legal studies major expose students to the many facets of law as a social phenomenon—its evolution, function, motivating ideas and effects. The major is not intended as preparation for law school because the emphasis is on exploring broadly defined questions about law from a variety of perspectives, rather than on training for the profession. The legal studies major is, however, suitable for pre-law students.

The curriculum is designed around the following five themes: Legal Institutions, Processes of Legal Order and Disorder, Law and Social Forces, Law and Culture, and Law and Theory.

Theme Group 1: Legal Institutions
Institutions are at the core of social life. They govern our interactions, distribute power and resources, and influence how we make sense of the world. Courses in this theme group focus on those institutions involved in the creation and application of law. They explore such questions as how legal institutions evolve; how legal institutions help determine the shape of law—in doctrine and in action—and how and whether, in turn, legal institutions can be shaped to create different social outcomes. Institutions are central to the studies of society and politics throughout the disciplines, and courses in the group include perspectives from history, anthropology, sociology, political science, and political theory.

Theme Group 2: Processes of Legal Order and Disorder
This theme examines the dynamics of order at the individual and societal level. In the course of this examination, students are made aware of the political and social biases that can underlie definitions of “order.” This theme should also allow students to address how social and political biases relate to divisions of class, race and gender, and how the mechanisms of conflict resolution and order maintenance can be used to reinforce or challenge existing power structures.

Theme Group 3: Law and Social Forces
This theme group explores the intersection between law, social structures and social movements. Courses in this group address social inequality, generally in the U.S. context, grounded in ethno-racial, gender, and sexuality-based difference. At critical points, the struggle for equality has taken pointedly legal form, whether in the shape of campaigns for legislative change or recognition, or through the litigation of particular cases. Legal categories have informed social identities. Equally, changing social identities have pushed back on legal categories. Courses integrate broad social dynamics with the rise of organized social movements that use law as an arena in which to reassess social life and values.

Theme Group 4: Law and Culture
This theme group introduces students to legal thought, institutions, and practices beyond mainstream or contemporary legal systems, specifically modern Euro-American legal cultures. Courses in this theme group present either culturally based challenges to mainstream modern legal systems or legal systems that are culturally or historically distinct from them. The comparative study of distinct legal traditions and movements forces us to reexamine the cultural presuppositions embedded in modern legal systems, revealing both good reasons for defending mainstream Euro-American laws and arguments and models for changing or questioning prevailing systems. Courses examine historical developments in or affecting law, non-Western legal thought or traditions, and the effect of cultural institutions such as religion, literature, or media on law.

Theme Group 5: Law and Theory
Many theoretical and philosophical questions are articulated as propositions about law: its nature, sources, contents, and relations to other aspects of social life. While only some philosophers or social, political or legal theorists work specifically in the area of “legal theory,” almost literally all work in any of these areas contributes to our understanding of the sources and nature of law, legal institutions and legal practices, and for many if not most theorists explicit discussions of law are central elements of their work. Courses in this theme group focus on the ways in which “law” is treated as a working concept or as a subject of study in theoretical works, and conversely on how understandings drawn from theoretical writings inform our own understanding of law in all its dimensions.

HOW TO GET IN

PREREQUISITES FOR THE MAJOR
Those wishing to declare the major should schedule an appointment with the legal studies advisor.

To declare the legal studies major, students must complete three (3) prerequisite courses with grades of C or better. Students may be exempt from COMM-A by their English Placement score and from QR-A by their Math Placement score.

The three prerequisite courses consist of:
- a Communication A course;
- a Quantitative Reasoning A course; and
- one “Gateway Course” chosen from the list below.

GATEWAY COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/SOC 131</td>
<td>Criminal Justice in America</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/POLI SCI 217</td>
<td>Law, Politics and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetestudytext) section of the Guide.
Requirements Detail

General Education
- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE
BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of science degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

Mathematics
Two (2) 3+ credits of intermediate/advanced level MATH, COMP SCI, STAT
Limit one each: COMP SCI, STAT

Foreign Language
Complete the third unit of a foreign language
Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.

L&S Breadth
- Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
- Social Sciences, 12 credits
- Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include 6 credits in biological science; and must include 6 credits in physical science

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework
108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work
60 intermediate or advanced credits

Major
Declare and complete at least one (1) major

Total Credits
120 credits

UW-Madison Experience
30 credits in residence, overall
30 credits in residence after the 90th credit

Minimum GPAs
2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison
2.000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW-Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and degree requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

In addition to the Gateway Courses, at least 11 courses are required to complete the legal studies major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/HISTORY 261</td>
<td>American Legal History to 1860</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/HISTORY 262</td>
<td>American Legal History, 1860 to the Present</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST 400</td>
<td>Topics in Legal Studies and the Social Sciences (*Civil Rights *Amer Juvenile Just *Surveillance *Privacy &amp; Pol *Race and the Law)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/HISTORY 426</td>
<td>The History of Punishment</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST 450</td>
<td>Topics in Legal Studies and the Humanities (*Jurisprudence *Medieval Law and Society *Medico-Legal History)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/LCA/ RELIG ST 628</td>
<td>Hindu Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST 409</td>
<td>Human Rights in Law and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

City College of Letters & Science (L&S)
At least two courses in the major must have substantial content dealing with countries or cultures other than the United States. "A" in the list of courses below designates courses meeting this requirement.

**COURSES THAT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS TO COMPLETE THE MAJOR**

### Theme Group 1: Legal Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEN BUS 301</td>
<td>Business Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELPA 502</td>
<td>Workshop in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/HISTORY 261</td>
<td>American Legal History to 1860</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/HISTORY 262</td>
<td>American Legal History, 1860 to the Present</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST 450</td>
<td>Topics in Legal Studies and the Humanities</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST 444</td>
<td>Law in Action</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/SOC 415</td>
<td>The Legal Profession</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST 409</td>
<td>Human Rights in Law and Society</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/LAW/SOC 641</td>
<td>Sociology of Law</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 309</td>
<td>Civil Liberties in the United States</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 311</td>
<td>United States Congress</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 356</td>
<td>Principles of International Law</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 340</td>
<td>The European Union: Politics and Political Economy</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 411</td>
<td>The American Constitution: Powers and Structures of Government</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 412</td>
<td>The American Constitution: Rights and Civil Liberties</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 414</td>
<td>The Supreme Court as a Political Institution</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 417</td>
<td>The American Judicial System</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI/PUB AFFR 419</td>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 432</td>
<td>Comparative Legal Institutions</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 470</td>
<td>The First Amendment</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 510</td>
<td>Politics of Government Regulation</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 601</td>
<td>Proseminar: Topics in Political Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 This course has substantial content dealing with countries or cultures other than the United States.

### Theme Group 2: Process of Legal Order and Disorder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM ARTS 371</td>
<td>Communication and Conflict Resolution</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM ARTS 671</td>
<td>Communication and Social Conflict</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIR ST/M&amp;ENVTOX/PL PATH 368</td>
<td>Environmental Law, Toxic Substances, and Conservation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Footnotes**

1 All legal studies majors are required to take one Core Perspectives course. The following courses count as Core Perspectives courses if they are taught by core legal studies faculty; if any of these courses is taught by non–legal studies faculty, the determination of whether they will count for Core Perspectives credit will be made prior to the beginning of the semester in which the course is offered. Each of these courses is intended to provide a broad and intellectually flexible perspective that can serve as a framework for gaining a deeper understanding of the material taught in other courses in the program. The Core Perspectives courses do not necessarily overlap; the criterion for inclusion of courses in the list below is that each explores its substantive content area through a range of social, scientific and humanistic approaches.

2 Students pursuing the senior thesis option must, in their senior year, arrange to register for 6 credits of 691/692 Senior Thesis, or 681/682 Senior Honors Thesis, in consecutive semesters for 3 credits each semester. Students are responsible for contacting a faculty member whom they would like to act as the senior thesis advisor; the major advisor can assist students in the process of selecting a senior thesis faculty advisor. Students must have the approval of the senior thesis faculty advisor before enrollment because the student will be required to enroll for thesis credits in the department of the senior thesis faculty advisor. A student will not be able to enroll for thesis credits until after meeting with that faculty advisor. Students who plan to attend law school or graduate school and who maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better at the beginning of the senior year (86 credits) are strongly urged to select the senior thesis option. The purpose of the senior thesis is to allow students to focus their interests and develop knowledge in one area of the field. Students may choose any legal studies topic for the senior thesis. The project involves using the library to review existing research and conducting original research designed by the student under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Early planning is best. Students contemplating original research designed by the student under the supervision of a faculty advisor, must be submitted to the major advisor upon completion of the project.

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**IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

No more than four (4) courses from a single department or program will count toward the legal studies major; this restriction does not apply to courses listed in or cross listed with legal studies.

Courses may appear in more than one Theme Group and/or Core Perspective but each course will only satisfy one requirement. Courses will not be double counted.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY 344</td>
<td>The Age of the American Revolution, 1763-1789</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL ST 601</td>
<td>Topics in Global Security (International Criminal Justice: Models &amp; Practice)</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST 400</td>
<td>Topics in Legal Studies and the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST 405</td>
<td>Foundations of Field Education</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/LIS 460</td>
<td>Surveillance, Privacy, and Police Powers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGAL ST/SOC 694</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Field Observation</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 314</td>
<td>Criminal Law and Justice</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 501</td>
<td>Current Topics in Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 526</td>
<td>The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMI 615</td>
<td>Liability Risk Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 421</td>
<td>Processes of Deviant Behavior</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 441</td>
<td>Criminology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 446</td>
<td>Juvenile Delinquency</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theme Group 3: Law and Social Forces**

### Theme Group 3: Law and Social Forces

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
AFROAMER/AFRICAN 233 | Global HipHop and Social Justice | 3
AFROAMER 671 | Selected Topics in Afro-American History (*Crim Blkns; Race & Inprison) | 3
AFROAMER 672 | Selected Topics in Afro-American Society (*Race and Policing) | 3
AMER IND 450 | Issues in American Indian Studies (*Indigenous Rights *Nat Resources) | 3
ECON 522 | Law and Economics | 3-4
ENVIR ST 402 | Special Topics: Social Perspectives in Environmental Studies (Climate Change Governance) | 1-4
HISTORY 408 | American Labor History: 1900-Present | 3-4
GEN &WS/Legal ST 422 | Women and the Law | 3
GEN &WS 424 | Women's International Human Rights | 3
GEOG/ENVIR ST 439 | US Environmental Policy and Regulation | 3-4
HISTORY 500 | Reading Seminar in History (*Chinese Law) | 3
HISTORY/AFROAMER 628 | History of the Civil Rights | 3
LEGAL ST 409 | Human Rights in Law and Society | 3
LEGAL ST/ENVIR ST/HISTORY 430 | Law and Environment: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives | 3
LEGAL ST/SOC 641 | Sociology of Law | 3-4
LEGAL ST/LIS 645 | Intellectual Freedom | 3
LEGAL ST/LIS 663 | Introduction to Cyberlaw | 3
LEGAL ST/GEN &WS 422 | Women and the Law | 3
POLI SCI/INTL ST 434 | The Politics of Human Rights | 3-4
PSYCH 311 | Issues in Psychology (*Psychology of Law) | 1-4
PSYCH 601 | Current Topics in Psychology | 3
SOC/ASIAN AM 220 | Ethnic Movements in the United States | 3-4
SOC 496 | Topics in Sociology (*Gender, Crime and Justice) | 1-3

1. This course has substantial content dealing with countries or cultures other than the United States.

**Theme Group 4: Law and Culture**

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
ANTHRO 350 | Political Anthropology 1 | 3-4
ANTHRO 448 | Anthropology of Law 1 | 3
COMP LIT 203 | Introduction to Cross-Cultural Literary Forms (*Law & Lit *Prison & the dream of freed) | 3
COMP LIT 350 | Problems in Comparative Literatures and Cultures (*Literature and Prison *Literature & Prison) | 3-4
COMP LIT 500 | The Comparative In and Beyond Comparative Literature (*Guilt) | 3
ENGL 142 | Mystery and Crime Fiction | 3
HISTORY 201 | The Historian's Craft (*Shanghai Life) | 3-4
HISTORY 500 | Reading Seminar in History (*Chinese Law) | 3
ILS 371 | Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts and Humanities (*Books by Crooks) | 3
JEWISH 625 | The Holocaust: Facts, Trials, Verdicts, Post-Verdicts 1 | 3
LEGAL ST 450 | Topics in Legal Studies and the Humanities (*Law and Film *Medico-Legal) | 3-4
LEGAL ST/LCA/RELG ST 628 | Hindu Law 1 | 3
LEGAL ST/HISTORY 502 | Law and Colonialism 1 | 3
LEGAL ST/HISTORY 510 | Legal Pluralism 1 | 3
LITTRANS 236 | Bascom Course-In Translation (*Extreme Stories) | 3

1. This course has substantial content dealing with countries or cultures other than the United States.

**Theme Group 5: Law and Theory**

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
LEGAL ST/HISTORY 426 | The History of Punishment 1 | 3-4

1. This course has substantial content dealing with countries or cultures other than the United States.
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 459  Rule of Law: Philosophical and Historical Models 1  3-4
JOURN 675  Topics in Government and Mass Media  3
MED HIST/ PHILOS 558  Ethical Issues in Health Care  3
PHILOS 341  Contemporary Moral Issues  3-4
PHILOS 559  Philosophy of Law  3
PHILOS/MED HIST/ AGRONOMY/C&E SOC 565  The Ethics of Modern Biotechnology  3-4

1  This course has substantial content dealing with countries or cultures other than the United States.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

2.000 GPA in all LEGAL ST and major courses
2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence: LEGAL ST and major courses that are designated at intermediate or advanced level count as upper level.

15 credits in LEGAL ST and courses for the major, taken on campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may apply for admission to Honors in the Legal Studies Major in consultation with the Legal Studies undergraduate advisor(s).

HONORS IN THE LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Declaration of the legal studies major
- A 3.300 overall university GPA
- A 3.500 GPA for all LEGAL ST courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Completion of or current enrollment in, for Honors credit, at least one course accepted in the major

HONORS IN THE LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn a B.A. or B.S. with Honors in the Major in Legal Studies students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 overall university GPA
- Earn a 3.500 GPA for all LEGAL ST courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Complete the research design and statistics requirements for the regular major prior to enrollment in the Senior Honors Thesis (typically junior year)
- Complete 15 credits in the major, taken for Honors, earning a B or better grade in each course
- Complete a two-semester Senior Honors thesis in LEGAL ST 681 Senior Honors Thesis and LEGAL ST 682 Senior Honors Thesis, for a total of 6 credits.

1  The equivalent course in the advisor’s home department may be acceptable; please see the legal studies undergraduate advisor(s) for details.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

Total Degree  To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency  Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. “In residence” means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work  Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Introduce students to the social, political, economic, and cultural determinants of law.
2. Introduce students to the social, political, and economic impacts of law at the macro level.
3. Introduce students to the impact of law and other rules on individual level decision-making at the micro level.
4. Introduce students to the dynamics of legal ideas and ideologies.
5. Introduce students to the practical skills needed to analyze legal phenomena and to access legal resources, broadly defined.
6. Introduce students to the nature of legal reasoning and analysis in common law, civil law, and other legal systems.
7. Introduce students to the functioning of legal institutions, and how those institutions differ from other societal institutions.
8. Introduce students to the place and relevance of law within the humanities and social sciences.
9. Introduce students to the cross-cultural and international valences of law in distinctive social orders.

ADVISORY AND CAREERS

ADVISORY APPOINTMENTS

Martine Delannay, Room 8137, Sewell Social Sciences Building
Martine’s appointment calendar (https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/rqGGzlBy.html)

Carolyn Lesch, Room 8139, Sewell Social Sciences Building
Carolyn’s appointment calendar (https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/chDDRTWb.html)

ADVISOR EMAIL

lsp@ssc.wisc.edu
Current and future UW students with a Net ID use the links above to make an appointment.
All others may send an email request to lsp@ssc.wisc.edu.