

LEGAL STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

Laws affect every person, everywhere, every day. Laws structure the rights and responsibilities of citizens, the conduct of business, and the powers and obligations of governments. The minor in legal studies introduces students to a variety of perspectives on the law, its operation, and its effects in different contexts. Students take a core set of courses that examine how laws are made, how they are put into practice, and how they affect the broader world. They build on this foundation with coursework focused on specific aspects of law or areas of its application.

This minor is an excellent complement to the major field of study for students who are interested in the broad ways that law touches citizens' everyday lives as well as for students with more focused interests in the legal environment and consequences of their primary area of study. The program will be particularly valuable to students outside of the liberal arts who are interested in law. The array of courses from which students can choose to complete the minor makes the program compatible with a wide range of majors, including engineering, business, criminal justice, communication, environmental/resource management and sustainability, information technology, and intellectual property.

The Legal Studies minor requires 18 credits. 9 credits are required courses that provide a foundational understanding of various facets of the law, including the US legal system, the power and function of law as a social institution, and the sources and effects of change in legal orders. The remaining 9 credits are selected from a cross disciplinary list that enables students to focus their study of law in accordance with their interests and professional goals.

Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PLSC 1	American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
PLSC 210N	Rights in America	
PLSC 471 or PLSC 471I	American Constitutional Law	

PLSC 472	The American Legal Process
PLSC 473	American Judicial Behavior
PLSC 474	Civil Liberties and Due Process
PLSC 476	Empirical Legal Studies

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 9 credits from the following list of courses. At least 6 credits must be at the 400-level or above. No more than 6 credits can be from the same discipline.

AA 324	Arts Entrepreneurship and the Law
ANTH 433	Archaeological Ethics and Law
BIOET 401Q	Science, Ethics, Policy, and Law
BLAW 243	Legal Environment of Business
BLAW 341	Business Law I: Introduction to Contracts, Liability Issues, and Intellectual Property
BLAW 424	Real Estate Law
BLAW 441	Business Law II: Agency, Employment and Business Structure
BLAW 445	Advanced Intellectual Property and Competition Law
BLAW 446	Employment Law
BLAW 447	Entertainment Law
CAS 321	Rhetoric and Law
CAS 404	Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
COMM 303	Entertainment Law
COMM 403	Law of Mass Communications or COMM 403I Law of Mass Communications
COMM 404	Telecommunications Law
COMM 428B	Strategic Communications Law
COMM 458	Media Law and Ethics
COMM 492	Internet Law and Policy
CRIM 100	Introduction to Criminal Justice
CRIM 201	Presumed Innocent? Social Science of Wrongful Conviction
CRIM 433	Sentencing
CRIM 435	Policing in America
CRIM 441	The Juvenile Justice System
CRIM 451	Race, Crime, and Justice
CRIM 469	Seminar in the Law
CRIMJ 113	Introduction to Law
CRIMJ 220	Courts and the Prosecution Process
CRIMJ 410	The Pennsylvania Court System
CRIMJ 412	Crime, Social Control, and the Legal System
CRIMJ 420	Criminal Law and Procedure
CRIMJ 431	Offender and Prisoner Rights
CRIMJ 432	Crime and the American Court System
CRIMJ 457	American Guns: History, Law & Criminal Justice Challenges
CRIMJ 462	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems
CRIMJ/CRIM/ SOC 467	Law and Society
CRIMJ 471	Legal Rights, Duties, Liabilities of Criminal Justice Personnel

CRIMJ 473	Criminal Procedure and Evidence in the Business Community
EBF 402	Energy Law and Contracts
ECON 443	Economics of Law and Regulation
EDLDR 476	Law, Education, and Politics
EDTHP 433	Education and Civil Rights
ENVE 460	
ERM 411	Legal Aspects of Resource Management
IB 350	International Business Law
IST 432	Legal and Regulatory Environment of Information Science and Technology
IST 452	Legal and Regulatory Environment of Privacy and Security
IST 453	Legal, Regulatory, Policy Environment of Cyber Forensics
LHR 201	Employment Relationship: Law and Policy
LHR 401	The Law of Labor-Management Relations
LST 370	
PHIL 105	Philosophy of Law
or PHIL 105H	Honors Philosophy of Law
PHIL 405	Seminar in Philosophy of Law
PLSC 120N	State, Society, and Public Policy
PLSC 125	Pennsylvania Government and Politics
PLSC 177N	Politics and Government in Washington DC
PLSC 178	Organized Crime, Law, and Politics
PLSC 202	American Public Policy
PLSC 223N	Ethnic and Racial Politics
PLSC 403	The Legislative Process
PLSC 404	Analyzing Public Policy in the American States
PLSC 419	The Bureaucratic State
PLSC 444	Government and the Economy
PLSC 446	Business and Government Relations
PLSC 471	American Constitutional Law
or PLSC 471H	
PLSC 472	The American Legal Process
PLSC 473	American Judicial Behavior
PLSC 474	Civil Liberties and Due Process
PLSC 476	Empirical Legal Studies
PLSC 477	Sex, Race, & Justice: The U.S. Supreme Court and Equality
PLSC 482	American State and Urban Politics
PLSC 480W	Congress and the Presidency
PLSC 487	International Law and Organizations
RPTM 390	Political and Legal Aspects of Recreation Services
SOC 412	Crime, Social Control, and the Legal System

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (<https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

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Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and-out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.