

LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR

Admission to the major is open to anyone; however, enrollment in Legal Studies 250 prior to admission is encouraged. **There is NO Legal Studies Minor.** For more information, go to Room 102, Gordon Hall, call 413-545-0021, check out our website at www.umass.edu/legal or our blog: <http://blogs.umass.edu/legal/>

1. 250 – Introduction to Legal Studies – no freshmen admitted 3 credits

Prerequisite for enrolling in most other Legal Studies courses

2. SEVEN courses drawn from the 200, 300 or 400* levels 21 credits

Excluding 250, 296, 298, 396, 398, 450, 496, 498-499. Practicum credits and independent study credits do NOT count toward major requirements.

A sampling of some of the courses offered in the recent past, just for example:

252, Law & Personal Freedom	297C, Law in the Historical Context
333, Law and Culture in America	342, Legal Imagination
350, Modern Political Trials	367, Law, Politics & Social Change
375, Human Rights and Wrongs	391A, Victims and Offenders
391B, Law and Social Activism	391C, Law & Politics of Info/Data
391F, Law & the Family	39G, Women and the Law
397B, Torture	391U, Due Process in the Criminal Trial
397I, Alternative Dispute Resolution	397G, Law, Crime & Society
397L, Citizenship and Race	397N, Law & Public Policy
397P, Legal Fictions	465, Globalization
480, War Crimes Tribunals	485, Death Penalty in America
491L, Law and Literature	491C, Law and Conscience
491R, Gods & Governments	491S, Law & the World Wide Web
497A, Critical Race Theory	497C, Who Owns Equality/Civil Rights Law
497F, Workers Rights in the U.S.	497N, Environmental Justice
497P, Law in the Media	497R, Racial Confl., Mediation, Social Just.

3. 450 – Legal Research and Writing (Jr. Writing requirement) 3 credits

Double majors may substitute Junior Writing from their other major, contact Tami Paluca, 545-9698, to tell her the name of the course and semester taken.

4. TWO liberal arts law-related courses outside the department

These should be selected from a list prepared by the department, or approved in advance by our major advisor, Tami Paluca, 545-9698

6 credits

TOTAL (11 courses): 33 credits

(see other side)

* Majors are encouraged to take two 300 level Legal Studies courses before taking a 400 level course.

Major Advising:

Tami Paluca is available for advising in Room 103, Gordon Hall – please call to make an appointment. She may be reached at 413-545-9698 or by email at tlpaluca@legal.umass.edu. The Chief Undergraduate Advisor is Stephen Arons, he may be reached at 413-545-3536 or by email at arons@legal.umass.edu (he is on sabbatical Spr 08).

College Requirements (Global Education Requirement):

Legal Studies is part of the College of Social and Behavioral Science (SBS) and all majors are required to meet College graduation requirements. **If your primary major is in SBS, you must fulfill the Global Education Requirement**, which requires 15 credits of college level language/cultural courses (from approved lists). For more information, contact the Arts and Sciences Advising Center in E-20 Machmer, 413-545-2192.

Departmental Honors:

An honors track in Legal Studies is available. Requirements include membership in the Commonwealth College, at least four honors courses and a thesis (LEGAL 499Y/499T; 6 credit minimum) or Honors Project (LEGAL 499P). Thesis research is typically done during the second semester Junior year. Thesis writing is completed during the first semester senior year. Contact Bernie Jones for more details: (413) 577-6164 or bdjones@legal.umass.edu). In addition to participation in Commonwealth College, there are grade point requirements for highest honors: Magna Cum Laude: 3.5-3.79; Summa Cum Laude: 3.8 +

Transfer Students:

Students who have credits transferred to the University under the Legal 980 designation from another school should see their departmental advisor, Tami Paluca (information below) as soon as possible to determine whether any of these credits may be applicable to the major. Contact the Arts and Sciences Advising Center in E-20 Machmer (413-545-2192) for advising about the Global Education Requirement.

New England Regional Student Program

If you are from CT, RI, VT, NH or ME and your primary major is Legal Studies, you may be eligible for the New England Regional Student Program which offers a reduced tuition rate. **You must request this status. Please read the information on the Registrar's Page** at www.umass.edu/registrar/gen_info/nerp.htm for details.

Graduation:

Please review your degree progress report on Spire regularly, and print out copies for your records. Don't assume that mistakes will fix themselves; contact the appropriate offices to confirm that you're on track for graduation.

- For questions about **General Education requirements/University Requirements**, contact the Records Office, 201 Whitmore, 545-0555.
- For questions about your **College Requirements**, (i.e., your Global Education Requirement in SBS), contact the College of Arts & Sciences Advising Office in E-20 Machmer Hall, 545-2192.
- For **Legal Studies Major** requirements, contact Tami Paluca, 103 Gordon Hall, 41-545-9698.
- If you have a **double major**, you will also need to contact the undergraduate advisor for your 2nd major, and check on the College Requirements for the second major if outside of Arts & Sciences.

web: www.umass.edu/legal
blog: blogs.umass.edu/legal/

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