

LEGAL STUDIES

bachelor of arts

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION

There are very few areas of our lives that aren't affected by the legal system. The need for professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the law is growing and those prepared to help others navigate the complex world of regulations and individual rights are in demand. In this bachelor's degree program, you'll learn how the legal system works, how it interrelates with social change, and how it assists people in asserting their rights.

ADVANTAGE UIS

- **Fundamentals.** The curriculum seeks to develop the abilities you will need in law-related careers, graduate studies, or law school. Particular emphasis is placed on analytical thinking, legal research, and writing skills.
- **Faculty depth.** Faculty members in this program have Juris Doctorate degrees or Ph.D.s and a broad base of experience and expertise. They strongly believe in experiential learning and require students to take at least one applied study term/internship as part of their preparation.
- **LESSA is more.** All students in this major are eligible to become members of LESSA, the Legal Studies Student Association. The primary purpose is to provide a forum in which legal students can interact with each other.

Pre-Law Center.

This center on campus is useful for any student interested in a law-related career, but most come for the extraordinary guidance it provides in preparing for law school. The Pre-Law Center helps with planning classes, choosing and applying to a law school, and preparing for the LSAT entrance exam.

Wise Words



Nanette Turner '05
Law Student
Washburn University School of Law
Topeka, KS

"As a senior, I was able to spend a year abroad through UIS' Global Experience Program and gained a larger perspective on political struggles. I decided that I would be able to do the most good getting a law degree and getting involved in international human rights struggles. I think countries concentrate on punishing and avoid their obligation to prevent genocide. I can see myself working on this issue, advocating for change."

Business and Government Prep.

Students who seek careers in management need to know how to navigate the myriad of government regulations, endless legal forms, and thorny compliance issues that come with living and working in our complex society. This major prepares future managers to understand legal and compliance issues and keep up with change.

What can I do with this degree?

Many of our graduates have teaching or law school in mind but others plan law-related careers such as lobbyists, legislative staffers, law clerks, paralegals, law assistants, law enforcement officials, law librarians, expert witnesses, investigators, social workers, compliance officers, union negotiators, quality control managers, and business CFOs and CEOs.

Recent employers and Law Schools

St. Louis University Law School

Kent Law School

Valparaiso Law School

University of Kansas Law School

Illinois Office of the Attorney General

Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP

Illinois EPA

Illinois Department of Transportation

Illinois State Police

U.S. District Court

City of Springfield Corporation Counsel's Office

UIS Downstate Innocence Project.

The only recognized innocence project in the nation for undergraduates, the Project allows students to provide research and investigative assistance to cases where there is a strong likelihood that a convicted person is actually innocent. UIS students, under the tutelage of attorneys and other professional investigators, have achieved stunning successes in three high-profile cases over the past few years.



The Legal Studies Department emphasizes law in a societal context within a broad based liberal arts curriculum. The department seeks to develop the student's knowledge and understanding of the legal system and to enhance skills in analytical thinking, research, and writing.

Faculty Deborah Anthony, Suzanne Borland, Kathryn Eisenhart, Kim Furumoto, Jason Pierceson, Dennis Rendleman

Associated Faculty Barbara Hayler, Pat Langley

Emeritus Faculty Anne Draznin, Nancy Ford, Dennis Fox, Larry Golden, William Jordan, Frank Kopecky

Adjunct Faculty Saul Morse, John Squibb

Program Objectives

The objectives of the legal studies department are 1) to develop analytical skills necessary to appreciate law as a social phenomenon, 2) to develop an understanding of how law is created, applied, interpreted, and changed, 3) to impart knowledge of substantive areas of the law, 4) to provide clinical or direct working experience in legal environments, 5) to perfect student skills in legal research, writing, and analysis, and 6) to provide an interdisciplinary liberal arts education.

Entrance Requirements

The student seeking admission to the Legal Studies B.A. degree must meet all campus requirements for undergraduate admission. The department requires no additional application. Students enter the department at the junior level, and are expected to have successfully completed (with a grade of C or better) at least six semester hours of English composition, six semester hours of humanities, and three hours of statistics.

The department requires that all undergraduate majors complete a course in American government and a course in the American legal system as freshmen or sophomores before taking LES 303 American Law: The Basics. LES 201 Introduction to American Government, offered both fall and spring semester, and LES 202 The American Legal System, offered in the spring semester, fulfill these requirements.

Program Requirements

The Legal Studies Department offers two undergraduate major concentrations: the legal assistant concentration and the general legal studies concentration.

The legal assistant concentration focuses on the knowledge and skills that a student will need to work as a legal assistant/ paralegal with emphasis on public law settings.

The general legal studies concentration, which offers a broader liberal-arts-focused approach to legal studies, is appropriate for students interested in law or graduate school or in governmental or corporate positions for which an understanding of legal institutions and processes would be helpful.

Both concentrations offer required and elective courses. Unless the student's adviser recommends otherwise, LES 303 and LES 401 should be taken in the first semester, junior year and LES 307 in the second semester, junior year. LES 307 is designated as the UIS communications competency course.

LES preparatory courses

LES 201 The American Political System	3 Hrs.
LES 202 The American Legal System	3 Hrs.

Core courses required of all undergraduate students

LES 303 American Law: The Basics	3 Hrs.
LES 401 Legal Research and Writing	4 Hrs.
LES 307 Law and Society	3 Hrs.
LES 415 The American Constitution and Constitutional Law or	
LES 416 The American Constitution and Civil Liberties	4 Hrs.
and the course designated as the closing seminar	3 Hrs.
Total	17 Hrs.

Legal Assistant concentration additions to core

LES 402 Legal Writing and Analysis	3 Hrs.
LES 403 Practice Skills: Illinois Civil Procedure for Legal Assistants	3 Hrs.
Three Legal Studies electives	9 Hrs.
Total for Legal Assistant concentration	32 Hrs.

General legal studies concentration additions to core

LES 472 Legal Studies Research Methods	3 Hrs.
Two of:	
LES 404 Law and Inequality, LES 352 History of American Law, LES 354 Philosophy of Law, or LES 380 Topics in Comparative Law	6 Hrs.
Two Legal Studies electives	6 Hrs.
Total for general LES concentration	32 Hrs.

Students should consult with advisers in the major for specific guidance regarding completion of general education requirements.

The legal studies B.A. degree requires each student to take a minimum of three hours of AST for their Engagement Experience (ECCE course).

Communication Requirement

UIS requires that students demonstrate proficiency in writing skills before attaining a degree. Each student's writing skills are initially assessed by instructors in legal studies courses. Certification of communication skills for LES majors occurs in LES 307 Law and Society. Students are required to pass the writing portion of the course with a grade of C or better to meet this campus requirement.

Closure Requirement

Students must complete a minimum of 48 upper division hours and fulfill all department and general education requirements to graduate.

Legal Assistant Certificates

After graduation, students completing the legal assistant concentration as part of their bachelor's degree will receive certificates if the student has received a B or better in LES 401 Legal Research and Citation, LES 402 Legal Writing and Analysis, and LES 403 Practice Skills and otherwise maintained at least a 2.50 GPA. The certificate reflects that they have successfully completed a comprehensive bachelor's degree legal assistant training program. Legal assistants are skilled professionals able to perform tasks and services under the supervision of a licensed attorney.

Visit our website for more information on:

Closure Requirements
Advising
Required hours in Applied Study term
Required hours in Engagement Experience (ECCE)

To view course descriptions

uis.edu/uiscatalog

CONTACT INFORMATION

Legal Studies

(217) 206-6535 or les@uis.edu

Website

uis.edu/legalstudies

Office of Admissions

(217) 206-4847 Or Toll free at (888) 977-4847
admissions@uis.edu • uis.edu/admissions

IMPORTANT! — Information effective fall 2009. Subject to change without notice. The information is not to be considered final, nor does it constitute a contract between the student and UIS. See uis.edu/uiscatalog for current program requirements.