

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LEGAL STUDIES

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Legal Studies is designed to provide undergraduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in environments which require an understanding of legal concepts. The curriculum addresses the application of writing, research, analysis, ethics, and communication in a legal setting and includes a focus on American constitutional governance. The major in Legal Studies offers a general concentration as well as specific concentrations in the Paralegal Profession and in Business Law. This degree provides a strong foundation for students seeking challenging work in diverse legal settings, and for further study in legal and related disciplines. Students completing the BA in Legal Studies with Paralegal Professional Concentration will meet the qualifications required to sit for the Paralegal Core Competencies Exam (NFPA), to sit for the Certified Paralegal Exam (NALA), and to work as a paralegal within the state of California.

Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Legal Studies is to empower students to be dynamic, ethical problem-solvers who effectively apply critical thinking, analytical and research skills in a legal context.

Program Learning Outcomes

- **Legal Writing:** Demonstrate proficiency in legal writing.
- **Governance:** Demonstrate an understanding of modern American constitutional governance.
- **Ethics:** Apply ethical practices to situations in a legal environment.
- **Legal Research:** Demonstrate proficiency in current legal research methods.
- **Communication:** Apply communication skills in such areas as negotiation, arbitration, mediation, dispute resolution, and interviewing.
- **Legal Analysis:** Apply critical thinking and analytical skills in a legal environment.

All courses taken in the major program must be passed with a letter grade of "C" or higher. Courses may be used to fulfill both major and general education requirements.

Major Core Requirements

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----|
| CJCU 460 | White Collar Crime | 3 |
| LEST 300 | Foundations of Law | 3 |
| LEST 304 | Constitutional Governance | 3 |
| LEST 306 | Business Organizations | 3 |
| LEST 320 | Torts | 3 |
| LEST 322 | Contracts | 3 |
| LEST 324 | Interviewing, Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution | 3 |
| LEST 402 | Litigation and Trial Advocacy | 3 |
| LEST 403 | Legal Research and Writing | 3 |
| LEST 462 | Ethics in a Legal Environment | 3 |
| LEST 495 | Legal Studies Capstone | 3 |
| Major Core Requirements Subtotal | | 33 |

Electives or Concentrations

Students choose four approved elective courses or may select from the concentrations below. 12

Electives or Concentrations Subtotal 12

Total Credits 45

Electives

Select four courses from the following approved electives: 12

| | |
|----------|---|
| CJCU 418 | Victim Advocacy |
| COMU 315 | Intercultural Communication |
| LEST 410 | Employment Law |
| LEST 412 | Intellectual Property |
| LEST 414 | Transactional Law |
| LEST 416 | Contemporary Legal Issues |
| LEST 418 | Electronic Discovery and Legal Technology |
| LEST 420 | Law Practice Management |
| LEST 499 | Independent Study |
| LBSU 492 | Experiential Learning |
| SOWK 391 | Youth At Risk |

Total Credits 12

Concentration

Paralegal Profession Concentration

Take the following three courses

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| LEST 416 | Contemporary Legal Issues | 3 |
| LEST 418 | Electronic Discovery and Legal Technology | 3 |
| LEST 420 | Law Practice Management | 3 |

Select one of the following: 3

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| CJCU 418 | Victim Advocacy |
| COMU 315 | Intercultural Communication |
| LEST 410 | Employment Law |
| LEST 412 | Intellectual Property |
| LEST 414 | Transactional Law |
| LEST 420 | Law Practice Management |
| LEST 499 | Independent Study |
| LBSU 492 | Experiential Learning |
| SOWK 391 | Youth At Risk |

Total Credits 12

Business Law Concentration

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|---|
| LEST 410 | Employment Law | 3 |
| LEST 412 | Intellectual Property | 3 |
| LEST 414 | Transactional Law | 3 |

Select one of the following: 3

| | |
|----------|---|
| CJCU 418 | Victim Advocacy |
| COMU 315 | Intercultural Communication |
| LEST 416 | Contemporary Legal Issues |
| LEST 418 | Electronic Discovery and Legal Technology |
| LEST 420 | Law Practice Management |
| LEST 499 | Independent Study |

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LBSU 492 Experiential Learning

SOWK 391 Youth At Risk

Total Credits

12