The Legal Studies Program provides students with a broad understanding of basic principles of law and the role and function of the legal system. While no specific major is prescribed for admission to law school, many pre-law students elect to major in legal studies. The legal studies program, in addition to preparing students for law-related careers, provides a foundation for law school or other graduate education. All of the full time Legal Studies faculty are attorneys who are graduates of ABA approved law schools and are available for law school advising. Pre-law students are encouraged to work closely with legal studies advisors in planning their programs. Satisfactory completion of program requirements leads to the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science with a major in Legal Studies. Students who complete the Legal Studies degree are eligible to apply for The Florida Bar Registered Paralegal designation or to sit for the national paralegal certification exams.

**Admission Requirements**

- **None**

**Degree Requirements**

- Students who change degree programs and select this major must adopt the most current catalog.
- Students should complete the General Education Program before transferring within the Florida College System or State University System.
- Students should consult with a departmental advisor.
- The courses designated in section 1 below may be taken at a Florida College System institution, and should usually be completed in the first 60 hours.
- 33 hours of PLA coursework must be taken at UCF.

1. **UCF General Education Program (GEP)** (36 hrs)

   | A: Communication Foundations (9 hrs) |
   | Required ENC 1101 Composition I 3 hrs |
   | Required ENC 1102 Composition II 3 hrs |

   | B: Cultural & Historical Foundations (9 hrs) |
   | C: Mathematical Foundations (6 hrs) |
   | D: Social Foundations (6 hrs) |
   | E: Science Foundations (6 hrs) |

2. **Common Program Prerequisites (CPP)**

- None

3. **Core Requirements: Basic Level**

- None

4. **Core Requirements: Advanced Level** (18 hrs)

- All core requirements must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" (2.0) to satisfy the major.

   | PLA 3014 Law and the Legal System 3 hrs |
   | PLA 3108 Legal Research 3 hrs |
   | PLA 3155 Legal Writing 3 hrs |
   | PLA 3205 Civil Practice and Procedure 3 hrs |
   | PLA 3615 Property and Real Estate Law 3 hrs |
   | PLA 4703 Professional Ethics and Liability 3 hrs |

5. **Restricted Electives** (30 hrs)

   | Upper Division Restricted Electives 21 hrs |
   | 21 additional hours of Legal Studies coursework selected in consultation with an advisor. |

6. **Supporting Courses** 9 hrs

- Students pursuing the B.A. degree must complete nine semester hours of supporting courses chosen with the approval of the student's advisor. Students pursuing the B.S. degree must complete 15 hours of supporting courses chosen with the approval of the student's advisor.

7. **Specializations**

- Students may earn a specialization within the general program of study. The specializations do not substitute for the general legal studies degree requirements; they are earned within the general program by selecting particular courses to satisfy the legal studies restricted electives and supporting courses requirements. Students are not required to declare a specialization. The following specializations are offered:

- **Law and Society, Litigation and Advocacy, Public Law, Sports and Entertainment Law, Criminal Law and Individual Liberties, Estates and Property Law, Comparative and International Law, Commercial and Transactional Law.**
- A student may earn a maximum of two specializations.

8. **Electives**

- If students chose the following electives, they must complete them with a minimum grade of a "C" (2.0): PLA 4935, Capstone: Legal Issues 3 hrs

9. **Foreign Language Requirements**

10. **Graduation**

- Students pursuing the B.A. degree must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to one year at college level. Students taking American Sign Language (ASL) to satisfy B.A. foreign language requirement must complete three semesters of ASL classes (ASL I, II and III).

11. **Required Minors**

- None

12. **Departmental Exit Requirements**

- Students must take a minimum of 33 hours of PLA courses at UCF. The total semester hours required is 120.
- Second Bachelor’s degree students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of Legal Studies (PLA) coursework after being admitted as a second degree seeking student.

13. **University Minimum Exit Requirements**

- A 2.0 UCF GPA
- 60 semester hours earned after CLEP awarded
- 48 semester hours of upper division credit completed
- 30 of the last 39 hours of course work must be completed in residency at UCF.
- A maximum of 45 hours of extension, correspondence, CLEP, Credit by Exam, and Armed Forces credits permitted.
- Complete the General Education Program, the Gordon Rule, and nine hours of Summer credit.

**Total Semester Hours Required**

- 120
UCF Degree Programs

Honors in Major
- Interested students should consult with their faculty advisor.

Related Programs
- Criminal Justice
- History
- Political Science
- Public Administration
- Sociology
- Business Administration

Certificates
- Public and Professional Writing

Related Minors
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Crime, Law, and Deviance
- Political Science
- Public Administration
- Sociology
- Writing and Rhetoric

Advising Notes
- None

Transfer Notes
- Lower division courses do not substitute for upper division courses.

Acceptable Substitutes for Transfer Courses
- None

Plan of Study

Freshman Year - Fall 14 hrs
- ENC 1101  Composition I  3 hrs
- GEP Math  3 hrs
- PAF 2102  Public Affairs Careers  2 hrs
- GEP Social  3 hrs
- GEP Science  3 hrs

Freshman Year - Spring 15 hrs
- ENC 1102  Composition II  3 hrs
- GEP Math  3 hrs
- Free Elective  3 hrs
- GEP Social  3 hrs
- GEP Cultural  3 hrs

Sophomore Year - Fall 16 hrs
- GEP Communication  3 hrs
- Free Elective  3 hrs
- GEP Science  3 hrs
- GEP Historical  3 hrs
- Foreign Language I or BS option  4 hrs

Sophomore Year - Spring 16 hrs
- PLA 3014  Law and the Legal System  3 hrs
- Free Elective  3 hrs
- Elective / Minor  3 hrs
- GEP Historical  3 hrs
- Foreign Language II or BS option  4 hrs

Junior Year - Fall 15 hrs
- PLA 3108  Legal Research  3 hrs
- PLA 3205  Civil Practice and Procedure  3 hrs
- Restricted Elective  3 hrs
- Restricted Elective  3 hrs
- Supporting Elective  3 hrs

Junior Year - Spring 15 hrs
- PLA 3155  Legal Writing  3 hrs
- Restricted Elective  3 hrs
- Restricted Elective  3 hrs
- Supporting Elective  3 hrs
- Supporting Elective  3 hrs

Senior Year - Fall 15 hrs
- PLA 3615  Property and Real Estate Law  3 hrs
- PLA 4703  Professional Ethics and Liability  3 hrs
- Elective / Minor  3 hrs
- Elective / Minor  3 hrs
- Internship or Restricted Elective  3 hrs

Senior Year - Spring 15 hrs
- PLA 4935  Capstone: Legal Issues  3 hrs
- Restricted Elective  3 hrs
- Elective / Minor  3 hrs
- Internship or Restricted Elective  3 hrs

Program Academic Learning Compacts
- Program Academic Learning Compacts (student learning outcomes) for undergraduate programs are located at: http://www.oeas.ucf.edu/alc/academic_learning_compacts.htm