UCF Degree Programs

Legal Studies (B.A. / B.S.)
Department of Legal Studies,
Health and Public Affairs, Room: 343
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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 completed in residency 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

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.

Supporting Courses
- 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.

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:
  - A student may earn a maximum of two specializations.
  - Specific course requirements are available at the department office or from the student’s advisor.

6. Capstone Requirements (3 hrs)
   - Capstone must be completed with a minimum grade of “C” (2.0) to satisfy the major.

7. Foreign Language Requirements

Admissions
- 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).

Electives
- If students chose the following electives, they must complete them with a minimum grade of a “C” (2.0): PLA 4020, PLA 4240, PLA 4910.

Additional Requirements
- None

Required Minors
- None

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.

University Minimum Exit Requirements
- A 2.0 UCF GPA
- 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

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
- 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