

# UCF Degree Programs

## Legal Studies (B.A. / B.S.)

College of Health and Public Affairs

Department of Legal Studies,

Health and Public Affairs, Room: 343

<https://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/legalstudies/>

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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 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.
- 2.0 in all PLA work at UCF and overall.

### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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. 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.

PLA 4935	Capstone: Legal Issues	3 hrs
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### 7. Foreign Language Requirements

#### Admissions

- Two years of one foreign language in high school, or one year of one foreign language in college (or equivalent proficiency exam) prior to graduation.

#### 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).

### 8. 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.

### 9. Additional Requirements

- None

### 10. Required Minors

- None

### 11. 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.

### 12. 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

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

**15 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](http://www.oeas.ucf.edu/alc/academic_learning_compacts.htm)