

LEGAL STUDIES, BA

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
	• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
	• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
	• Communication Part A & Part B *
	• Ethnic Studies *
	• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language	• Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR
	• Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

- L&S Breadth**
- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
 - 12 credits of Social Science; and
 - 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	• 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	• 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

12 total courses in the following categories and a minimum of 36 credits.

INTRODUCTORY COURSE

Choose one:

Code	Title	Credits
LEGAL ST/SOC 131	Criminal Justice in America	3-4
LEGAL ST/ POLI SCI 217	Law, Politics and Society	3-4

THEME 1: LEGAL INSTITUTIONS

Two courses required from:

Code	Title	Credits
GEN BUS 301	Business Law	3
GEOG 307	International Migration, Health, and Human Rights	3
INTL ST 601	Topics in Global Security (Topic: Human Rights, Lat. Am Policy)	3
INTL ST 602	Topics in Politics and Policy in the Global Economy (Topic: The EU and the World)	3
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 261	American Legal History to 1860	3
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 262	American Legal History, 1860 to the Present	3

LEGAL ST 400	Topics in Legal Studies and the Social Sciences	3-4
LEGAL ST/ GEN&WS/SOC 406	Law, Sexuality, & Society	3-4
LEGAL ST 409	Human Rights in Law and Society	3
LEGAL ST/ ELPA 442	Civil Rights Laws, the Courts, and Public Education	3
LEGAL ST 444	Law in Action	3
LEGAL ST/ POLI SCI 445	Legal Writing, from Counselor to Advocate	3
LEGAL ST 450	Topics in Legal Studies and the Humanities	3-4
LEGAL ST/ED POL/ ELPA 542	Law and Public Education	3
LEGAL ST/LAW/ SOC 641	Sociology of Law	3-4
POLI SCI 304	The Political Economy of Race in the United States	3-4
POLI SCI 311	United States Congress	3-4
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy	3-4
POLI SCI 347	Terrorism	3
POLI SCI 349	Global Access to Justice	3
POLI SCI 354	International Institutions and World Order	3-4
POLI SCI 356	Principles of International Law	3-4
POLI SCI 400	Topics in Political Science (Topic: Int'l Environmental Politics)	3
POLI SCI 401	Selected Topics in Political Science (Topic: Crime and Politics; Topic: Transitional Justice)	3
POLI SCI 405	State Government and Public Policy	3-4
POLI SCI 408	The American Presidency	3-4
POLI SCI 411	The American Constitution : Powers and Structures of Government	4
POLI SCI 412	The American Constitution: Rights and Civil Liberties	4
POLI SCI 414	The Supreme Court as a Political Institution	3
POLI SCI 417	The American Judicial System	3-4
POLI SCI/ PUB AFFR 419	Administrative Law	3-4
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 434	The Politics of Human Rights	3-4
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East	3
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 439	The Comparative Study of Genocide	3-4
POLI SCI 470	The First Amendment	3-4
POLI SCI 538		3-4
POLI SCI 601	Proseminar: Topics in Political Science (Topic: Supreme Court)	3
POLI SCI 635	Comparative Politics of Sport	3-4

PUB AFFR 270	The Private and Public Sectors in Policymaking	3
PUB AFFR 520	Inequality, Race and Public Policy	3

THEME DISTRIBUTION

Four courses from at least three of the following Theme groups.

Theme 2: Processes of Legal Order and Disorder

Code	Title	Credits
COM ARTS 371	Communication and Conflict Resolution	3
HISTORY 344	The Age of the American Revolution, 1763-1789	3-4
INTL ST 601	Topics in Global Security (Topic: International Criminal Justice: Models & Practice)	3
LEGAL ST/L I S 460	Surveillance, Privacy, and Police Powers	3
LEGAL ST/SOC 694	Criminal Justice Field Observation	3
POLI SCI 314	Criminal Law and Justice	3-4
PSYCH 526	The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives	4
PSYCH 601	Current Topics in Psychology (Topic: Juv Delin; Topic: Issues in Prisoner Re-entry)	3
SOC 421	Processes of Deviant Behavior	3-4
SOC 441	Criminology	3-4
SOC 446	Juvenile Delinquency	3-4
SOC 496	Topics in Sociology (Topic: Serial Killers in America)	3

Theme 3: Law and Social Forces

Code	Title	Credits
AFROAMER 272	Race and American Politics from the New Deal to the New Right	3
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 321	Afro-American History Since 1900	3-4
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	3
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 326	Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society	3
AFROAMER 621	Slavery and Capitalism in the United States	3
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 625	Gender, Race and the Civil Rights Movement	3
AFROAMER 671	Selected Topics in Afro-American History (Topic: Cim Blkns; Race & Imprison; TopicL Women & US Slavery)	3
AFROAMER 673	Selected Topics in Afro-American Society (*Race and Policing)	3
AMER IND 450	Issues in American Indian Studies (Topic: Indigenous Rights; Topic: Ind Child Welfare; Topic: Land Grant/ Grab; Topic: Sovereignty and the Schoolhouse)	3
ECON 522	Law and Economics	3-4

ED POL/ INTL ST 220	Human Rights and Education	3	LEGAL ST 473	Health Impacts of Unmet Social Needs	3
ENVIR ST 349	Climate Change Governance	3	LEGAL ST/L I S 645	Intellectual Freedom	3
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 439	US Environmental Policy and Regulation	3-4	LEGAL ST/L I S 663	Introduction to Cyberlaw	3
HISTORY/ ED POL 143	History of Race and Inequality in Urban America	3	POLI SCI/ INTL ST 434	The Politics of Human Rights	3-4
GEN&WS/ PSYCH 322	Sexual & Relationship Violence Research & Activism	3	PSYCH 401	Psychology, Law, and Social Policy	3
GEN&WS/ INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3	PSYCH 601	Current Topics in Psychology (*Legal Psych)	3
HISTORY 201	The Historian's Craft (Topic: Global History of Unpaid Labor; Topic: Global History of Human Rights)	3-4	SOC/ASIAN AM 220	Ethnic Movements in the United States	3-4
HISTORY/ AFROAMER 393	Slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1848-1877	3-4	SOC WORK 375	Contemporary Issues in Social Welfare (Topic: Pwr Poss, SJ and Social Change)	2-3
HISTORY 403	Immigration and Assimilation in American History	3-4	SOC WORK/ AMER IND 636	Social Work in American Indian Communities: The Indian Child Welfare Act	3
HISTORY 500	Reading Seminar in History (*Chinese Law)	3	SPANISH/ CHICLA 215	Border and Migration Studies of Latinx America	3
HISTORY 600	Advanced Seminar in History (Topic: Abolitionist Movements; Gen, War Crimes and Human Rights; Topic: Global Anti-Apartheid Movement; Topic: Indian Removal)	3	Theme 4: Law, Literature and Culture		
HISTORY/ AFROAMER 628	History of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States	3	Code	Title	Credits
LEGAL ST/JEWISH/ RELIG ST 203	Jewish Law, Business, and Ethics	3	ANTHRO 350	Political Anthropology	3-4
LEGAL ST/ RP & SE 135	Disability and the Criminal Justice System	3	ED POL 150	Education and Public Policy	3
INTL ST 401	Topics in Global Security (Topic: Human Rights in Global Context)	3-4	ENGL 174	Literature and Social Justice (*Law and Literature)	3
INTL ST 601	Topics in Global Security (Topic: Refugees in Global Context)	3	ENGL 177	Literature and Popular Culture (Topic: Narco-Narratives)	3
LACIS 440	Topics in Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies (Topic: Spanish: Immigration Law Clinic)	2	ENGL 548	Topic in Literature and Politics (*Guilt)	3
LEGAL ST/CURRIC/ ED POL 250	Incarceration and Education	3	ENGL 182	Introduction to Literature for Honors (Topic: Doing Time)	3
LEGAL ST 400	Topics in Legal Studies and the Social Sciences	3-4	ENGL 457	Topic in American Literature and Culture since 1900 (Topic: Law and Literature; Topic: Cultures of AIDS Activism)	3
LEGAL ST/ GEN&WS/SOC 406	Law, Sexuality, & Society	3-4	HISTORY 201	The Historian's Craft (*Shanghai Life)	3-4
LEGAL ST/GEN&WS 422	Women and the Law	3	HISTORY 500	Reading Seminar in History (*Chinese Law)	3
LEGAL ST/ GEN&WS/SOC 425	Crime, Gender and Justice	3	ILS 371	Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts and Literature (*Books by Crooks)	3
LEGAL ST/ ENVIR ST/ HISTORY 430	Law and Environment: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives	3	LEGAL ST/ ENGL 160	Truth and Crime	3
LEGAL ST/ AFROAMER 435	Civil Rights: Policing, Prisons, Voting, Housing, Employment	3	LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 477	History of Forensic Science	3
LEGAL ST/CHICLA/ SOC 440	Ethnicity, Race, and Justice	3-4	LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 510	Legal Pluralism	3
LEGAL ST/CHICLA/ SOC 443	Immigration, Crime, and Enforcement	3-4	LITTRANS 236	Bascom Course-In Translation (*Extreme Stories)	3
			Theme 5: Law and Theory		
			Code	Title	Credits
			HISTORY/ LEGAL ST 476	Medieval Law and Society	3
			HISTORY 500	Reading Seminar in History (Topic: Medieval Law and Society)	3

LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 235	Prisons: From Antiquity to Supermax	3-4
LEGAL ST 407	Jurisprudence and Social Issues	3
LEGAL ST/HISTORY 426	The History of Punishment	3-4
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 459	Rule of Law: Philosophical and Historical Models	3-4
JOURN 563	Law of Mass Communication	4
MED HIST/ PHILOS 558	Ethical Issues in Health Care	3
PHILOS 304	Topics in Philosophy: Humanities (Philos and Criminal Punishment)	3-4
PHILOS 341	Contemporary Moral Issues	3-4
PHILOS/C&E SOC/ MED HIST 565	The Ethics of Modern Biotechnology	3

METHODS AND RESEARCH

Two courses, one each from:

Code	Title	Credits
Research Design		
POLI SCI 170	Research Methods in Political Science	
ED POL 308	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods in Education	
POLI SCI/ JOURN/ URB R PL 373	Introduction to Survey Research	
PSYCH 225	Research Methods	
PUB AFFR 240	Evidence-Based Policy Making	
PUB AFFR 380	Analytic Tools for Public Policy	
SOC/ C&E SOC 357	Methods of Sociological Inquiry	
SOC WORK 650	Methods of Social Work Research	
Statistics		
ECON 310	Statistics: Measurement in Economics	
ED POL 209	Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Education Policy	
GEN BUS 306	Business Analytics I	
L I S 440	Navigating the Data Revolution: Concepts of Data & Information Science	
PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	
SOC/ C&E SOC 360	Statistics for Sociologists I	
STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods	
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	

CORE PERSPECTIVES

Please note: Though some courses may appear in a Theme and the Core Perspective listing, a single course will only satisfy one (and only one) requirement. Courses will not be double counted in the Theme section and the Core Perspectives section.

Code Title Credits

Complete one Core Perspectives course.

LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 235	Prisons: From Antiquity to Supermax	
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 261	American Legal History to 1860	
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 262	American Legal History, 1860 to the Present	
LEGAL ST 400	Topics in Legal Studies and the Social Sciences	
LEGAL ST/ GEN&WS/ SOC 406	Law, Sexuality, & Society	
LEGAL ST 407	Jurisprudence and Social Issues	
LEGAL ST 409	Human Rights in Law and Society	
LEGAL ST/ GEN&WS/ SOC 425	Crime, Gender and Justice	
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 426	The History of Punishment	
LEGAL ST/ ENVIR ST/ HISTORY 430	Law and Environment: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives	
LEGAL ST/ AFROAMER 435	Civil Rights: Policing, Prisons, Voting, Housing, Employment	
LEGAL ST/ CHICLA/ SOC 440	Ethnicity, Race, and Justice	
LEGAL ST/ CHICLA/ SOC 443	Immigration, Crime, and Enforcement	
LEGAL ST 450	Topics in Legal Studies and the Humanities	
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 459	Rule of Law: Philosophical and Historical Models	
LEGAL ST/ L I S 460	Surveillance, Privacy, and Police Powers	
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 476	Medieval Law and Society	
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 477	History of Forensic Science	
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 510	Legal Pluralism	
LEGAL ST 600	Special Topics in Legal Studies	
LEGAL ST/SOC 641	Sociology of Law	

Electives

Complete at least two courses and any additional credits (as needed) to reach 36 credits in the major. Students may complete either a Senior Thesis sequence or additional courses from the Theme: Legal Institutions or Theme Distribution requirements for the two course minimum.

LEGAL ST 681 & LEGAL ST 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis
LEGAL ST 691 & LEGAL ST 692	Senior Thesis and Senior Thesis

POLI SCI 681 Senior Honors Thesis
& POLI SCI 682 and Senior Honors Thesis

GLOBAL LEGAL SYSTEMS

At least two courses in the major must have substantial content dealing with countries or cultures outside the United States, or with the international legal system. For this requirement, a course can count both for purposes of meeting Theme or Core requirements and the Global Legal Systems requirement. The following courses fulfill the Global Legal Systems requirement:

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO 350	Political Anthropology	3-4
ENGL 174	Literature and Social Justice (*Law and Literature)	3
ENGL 457	Topic in American Literature and Culture since 1900 (Topic: Law and Literature)	3
ENGL 548	Topic in Literature and Politics (*Guilt)	3
GEN&WS/ INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3
GEOG 307	International Migration, Health, and Human Rights	3
HISTORY 201	The Historian's Craft (Topic: Shanghai Life and Crime; Topic: Global History of Unpaid Labor; Topic: Global History of Human Rights)	3-4
HISTORY 500	Reading Seminar in History (Topic: Chinese Law)	3
HISTORY 600	Advanced Seminar in History (Topic: Global Anti-Apartheid Movement)	3
INTL ST 401	Topics in Global Security (Topic: Human Rights in Global Context)	3-4
INTL ST 601	Topics in Global Security (Topic: International Criminal Justice; Topic: Human Rights, Lat Am Policy; Topic: Refugees in Global Context)	3
INTL ST 602	Topics in Politics and Policy in the Global Economy (Topic: The EU and the World)	3
LACIS 440	Topics in Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies (Topic: Spanish: Immigration Law Clinic)	2
LEGAL ST/JEWISH/ RELIG ST 203	Jewish Law, Business, and Ethics	3
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 235	Prisons: From Antiquity to Supermax	3-4
LEGAL ST 400	Topics in Legal Studies and the Social Sciences (Topic: Law and Climate Justice)	3
LEGAL ST/ GEN&WS/SOC 406	Law, Sexuality, & Society	3-4
LEGAL ST 409	Human Rights in Law and Society	3
LEGAL ST/SOC 425	Crime, Gender and Justice	3
LEGAL ST/HISTORY 426	The History of Punishment	3-4

LEGAL ST/ ENVIR ST/ HISTORY 430	Law and Environment: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives	3
LEGAL ST 450	Topics in Legal Studies and the Humanities (Topic: Criminal Justice and Popular Culture)	3-4
LEGAL ST 450	Topics in Legal Studies and the Humanities (Courts, Constitutionalism and Human Rights)	3-4
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 459	Rule of Law: Philosophical and Historical Models	3-4
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 476	Medieval Law and Society	3
LEGAL ST/ HISTORY 477	History of Forensic Science	3
LEGAL ST/HISTORY 510	Legal Pluralism	3
LEGAL ST 600	Special Topics in Legal Studies	1-3
LITTRANS 236	Bascom Course-In Translation (Topic: Extreme Stories)	3
LITTRANS 324/ SCAND ST 436	Topics in Scandinavian Literature (Topic: Criminal Utopias)	3-4
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy	3-4
POLI SCI 347	Terrorism	3
POLI SCI 349	Global Access to Justice	3
POLI SCI 354	International Institutions and World Order	3-4
POLI SCI 356	Principles of International Law	3-4
POLI SCI 400	Topics in Political Science (Topic: Int'l Environmental Politics)	3
POLI SCI 401	Selected Topics in Political Science (Topic: Global Access to Justice; Topic: Transitional Justice)	3-4
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 434	The Politics of Human Rights	3-4
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East	3
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 439	The Comparative Study of Genocide	3-4
POLI SCI 635	Comparative Politics of Sport	3-4
SPANISH/ CHICLA 215	Border and Migration Studies of Latinx America	3

RACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES

At least one course in the major must have substantial content dealing with race and justice studies. The following courses fulfill the Race and Justice Studies requirement. For this requirement, a course can count both for purposes of meeting Theme or Core requirements and the Race and Justice Studies requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
AFROAMER 272	Race and American Politics from the New Deal to the New Right	3
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 321	Afro-American History Since 1900	3-4

AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	3
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 326	Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society	3
AFROAMER 621	Slavery and Capitalism in the United States	3
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 625	Gender, Race and the Civil Rights Movement	3
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 628	History of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States	3
AFROAMER 671	Selected Topics in Afro-American History (Topic: Women & US Slavery)	3
AMER IND 450	Issues in American Indian Studies (Topic: Land Grant/Grab; Topic: Sovereignty and the Schoolhouse)	3
HISTORY/ ED POL 143	History of Race and Inequality in Urban America	3
HISTORY/ AFROAMER 393	Slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1848-1877	3-4
HISTORY 403	Immigration and Assimilation in American History	3-4
LEGAL ST 400	Topics in Legal Studies and the Social Sciences (Topic: Criminal Injustice in America)	3-4
LEGAL ST/ AFROAMER 435	Civil Rights: Policing, Prisons, Voting, Housing, Employment	3
LEGAL ST/CHICLA/ SOC 440	Ethnicity, Race, and Justice	3-4
LEGAL ST/CHICLA/ SOC 443	Immigration, Crime, and Enforcement	3-4
PUB AFFR 520	Inequality, Race and Public Policy	3
SOC/ASIAN AM 220	Ethnic Movements in the United States	3-4

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all LEGAL ST and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence¹
- 15 credits in LEGAL ST and courses for the major, taken on campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may apply for admission to Honors in the Legal Studies Major in consultation with the Legal Studies undergraduate advisor(s).

HONORS IN THE LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR: ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Declaration of the legal studies major
- A 3.300 University GPA
- A 3.500 GPA for all LEGAL ST courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Completion of or current enrollment in, for Honors credit, at least one course accepted in the major

HONORS IN THE LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Legal Studies, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.500 GPA for all LEGAL ST courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Complete the research design and statistics requirements for the regular major prior to enrollment in the Senior Honors Thesis (typically junior year)
- Complete 15 credits in the major, taken for Honors, earning a B or better grade in each course
- Complete a two-semester Senior Honors thesis in LEGAL ST 681 and LEGAL ST 682, for a total of 6 credits.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Upper-level in the major includes all LEGAL ST and major courses that are designated Intermediate or Advanced level.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree	To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.
Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.