INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Legal Studies is an interdisciplinary, liberal arts major in the College of Letters and Science and is under the academic supervision of Berkeley Law. The major provides undergraduate students with an opportunity to become familiar with legal ideas, legal institutions, and the legal process. It is designed to provide tools for reasoned appraisal of how the law works and of the policies that underlie it. The major is based firmly on the view that the study of law and justice has a rich humanistic tradition and that its pursuit can encourage sustained reflection on fundamental values.

THE LS CURRICULUM

Legal Studies courses deal with a wide variety of subjects, including philosophy of law, American legal history, non-western legal traditions, politics and law, the criminal justice process, property law, and economic regulation. Courses are taught by faculty with backgrounds in the Humanities and Social Sciences as well as Law.

The Legal Studies curriculum includes four lower division prerequisite courses, along with four upper division core legal studies courses and four upper division Distribution Requirements within these areas: Crime, Law, & Social Control; Law & Culture; Law & Markets; Law, Rights & Social Change, and Law & Sovereignty.

I really liked the wide array of classes offered in this program. I appreciated that I was able to learn a variety of subjects while still connecting them to the law and legal system.

– Hannah, Legal Studies Alumna ’20

CONNECT WITH US

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit legalstudies.berkeley.edu for the latest updates and subscribe to the LSundergrads email list by sending the Undergraduate Advisor a request email.

ADVISING

Students can reach the Undergraduate Advisor during drop-in hours or through email at lauri@berkeley.edu.

Advising Drop-In Hours
Monday - Friday 8:30 am-12 pm, 1:30-4 pm

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit vcue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Join a student organization such as Berkeley Legal Studies Association.
• Get involved with the ASUC Renters’ Legal Assistance or ASUC Student Legal Clinic.
• Apply for a law-related URAP research position such as the Human Rights Center Investigations Lab.
• Spend a semester or summer in Washington through UCDC.
• Apply for the Legal Studies Honors Program and present at the Undergraduate Legal Studies Research Conference.
LEGAL STUDIES
Bachelor of Arts

DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

FIRST YEAR
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.

SECOND YEAR
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Think about which upper division electives align with your interests.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad.
- Consider adding a minor in Public Policy, Human Rights, or Race and the Law.

THIRD YEAR
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Focus on upper division requirements and electives.
- Expand your studies with law-related courses from other departments and law courses abroad.
- Ask your major advisor about the Legal Studies honors program.

FOURTH YEAR
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?
The Legal Studies major equips graduates with the skills necessary to pursue post-graduate study or careers in law and government. Students have also gone on to work in various law-related fields like education, finance, public policy, law enforcement, city planning, and social welfare.

Jobs and Employers
- Admission Representative, UC Berkeley
- Business Analyst, Infosys
- Claims Processor, Brayton Purcell LLP
- College Adviser, UC Berkeley
- Consultant, Ernst and Young LLP
- Content Review Analyst, Vaco San Francisco
- Credit Analyst, City National Bank
- Education Administration, Masters
- Criminal Science, Masters
- Teacher, Teach for America
- Peace Corps U.S.
- Marketing Assoc., LG Chem
- Legal Asst., Cornerstone Law Group
- Consultant, Ernst and Young LLP
- Claims Processor, Brayton Purcell LLP
- Professor, National Women’s Soccer Program Manager, Brightline Defense
- Teacher, Teach for America

Graduate Programs
- Criminal Science, Masters
- Education Administration, Masters
- Law, JD
- Law, Masters
- Management Science, Masters

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.