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

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.
Explore your major

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.

Design Your Journey

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, Brayan Purcell LLP
- College Adviser, UC Berkeley

Connect and build community

First Year
- Get into mentoring from graduate students with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in UGIS 98: College Success in L&S.

Second Year
- Join a student organization such as the Berkeley Legal Studies Association.
- Sign up for the Legal Studies email list and start attending department events.
- Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.

Discover your passions

First Year
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course such as LS 98: Entertainment Law.
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
- Check out the California Legal Studies Journal published by students in the major.

Second Year
- Continue with a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Learn about research opportunities for Legal Studies majors.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SMART.

Engage locally and globally

First Year
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

Second Year
- Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.
- Work in one of two legal clinics on campus: ASUC Renters’ Legal Assistance or ASUC Student Legal Clinic.

Reflect and plan your future

First Year
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Set up a Handshake account and sign up for CareerMail.
- Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter externship.

Second Year
- Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
- Learn about graduate and professional school including law school. See Step-by-Step for planning help.
- Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

Examples gathered from the Career Destinations Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

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

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