

Legal Studies (B.A.)

Learning Goals for the Legal Studies Program:

Upon completion of the program, students should:

- Understand the fundamentals of legal reasoning and analysis.
- Have gained insight into some of the ethical dilemmas faced by lawyers and legal assistants.
- Master the skills and knowledge necessary for understanding legal issues working from both theoretical and practical applications.
- Have learned the essential goals of legal researching, legal and logical reasoning, and begun to develop legal writing skills.
- Be able to apply the theory of legal research and writing to practical problems encountered in a legal environment.
- Have gained insight into the significant role that legal assistants/ paralegals have in the legal world and the practical skills necessary to function in it.

Locations

To learn where the B.A. in legal studies is offered, please visit our Web site at www.webster.edu/ugcatalog

Degree Requirements

51 required credit hours

27 general education credit hours

50 elective credit hours

The coursework in legal studies is designed to provide students with a broad understanding of the legal environment in which individuals, businesses, and the judiciary operate. Because most of the professors are judges, practicing attorneys, prosecutors, public defenders, and paralegals, this gives the student the distinct advantage of the latest legal theory and real world practice.

Requirements

LEGL 2080 Topics in Law	3 hours
LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400 Introduction to Law	3 hours
LEGL 3000 Legal Ethics	3 hours
LEGL 3490 Civil Litigation	3 hours
LEGL 3500 Criminal Litigation	3 hours
LEGL 4460 Methods of Legal Research and Writing I	3 hours
LEGL 4470 Methods of Legal Research and Writing II	3 hours
LEGL 4480 Computerized Legal Research	3 hours
LEGL 4490 Advanced Paralegal Procedures	3 hours
LEGL 4810 Tort Law Practice	3 hours
LEGL 4820 Contract Law Practice	3 hours
LEGL 4830 Real Estate Law Practice	3 hours
LEGL 4840 Corporations and Business Organizations	3 hours
LEGL 4850 Computers and the Law	3 hours
LEGL 4910 Senior Overview	3 hours

Students must choose 6 hours from the following:

INTL 2030 International Law	3 hours
POLT 3010 American Constitutional Law	3 hours
POLT 3020 Civil Liberties and the Law	3 hours
LEGL 4600 Legal Seminar (May be repeated for credit if content differs)	3-6 hours
LEGL 4800 Advanced Topics in Law	3-6 hours
LEGL 4900 Paralegal Clinical Studies (May be repeated for credit if content differs)	3-6 hours

Note: A legal assistant or paralegal is a person, qualified by education, training, or work experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law

office, corporation, governmental agency or other entity and who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible. Paralegals or Legal Assistants may not provide legal services directly to the public, except as permitted by law. Webster University's St. Louis area paralegal programs have been approved by the American Bar Association. The Kansas City program is not approved by the American Bar Association.

Special Requirements

Courses completed with a grade below a C- do not count toward fulfilling the specific course requirements of the major.

Transfer students must complete 18 credit hours of American Bar Association (ABA) required courses in residence at Webster University.

These courses include the following:

LEGL 3000	3 hours
LEGL 4490	3 hours
LEGL 4470	3 hours
LEGL 4480	3 hours
LEGL 4800 or above	6 hours

All other coursework for the Legal Studies major may be transferred in, only at the discretion of the Legal Studies Program. Approval for these transfer credits must come from Legal Studies advisors.

Certificate Program: Paralegal Studies

(24 required credit hours)

The certificate program in paralegal studies is designed to provide the theoretical and practical education needed by those who work or desire to work as paralegals or legal assistants. Webster University will issue a certificate recognizing the successful completion (C- or better) of a 24-credit-hour core in paralegal studies. All core courses must be taken at Webster University. Since core courses are generally taught at the advanced level, students must have earned at least 84 credit hours, including the 24-credit-hour core in paralegal studies, before a certificate can be issued. Webster University's St. Louis area paralegal programs are approved by the American Bar Association.

Requirements

LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400 Introduction to Law	3 hours
LEGL 3000 Legal Ethics	3 hours
LEGL 3490 Litigation	3 hours
LEGL 4460, 4470 Methods of Legal Research and Writing I, II	6 hours
LEGL 4480 Computerized Legal Research	3 hours
LEGL 4800 Advanced Topics in Law	6 hours

Note: A legal assistant or paralegal is a person, qualified by education, training, or work experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency or other entity and who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible. Paralegals or Legal Assistants may not provide legal services directly to the public, except as permitted by law. Webster University's St. Louis area paralegal programs have been approved by the American Bar Association. The Kansas City program is not approved by the American Bar Association.

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Course Descriptions

HIST 1010 Topics in History (3)

Introductory courses of a survey nature covering various topics. Recent topics have included the American West, American history through folk song and story, historians and the American experience, and religion in America. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

HIST 1300 Revolutionary America (3)

Explores the creation of American cultures and identities in the nation's formative years covering the colonial, revolutionary, and early national periods of American history.

HIST 1310 Nineteenth-Century America (3)

Survey of U.S. history from early national period to World War I. Examines nationalism and sectionalism in the nineteenth century and analyzes the formation of American identity and values.

HIST 1320 Twentieth-Century United States (3)

Survey of U.S. history from World War I to the present.

HIST 3000 Ideas in History (3)

Examines the history of ideas and the role played by ideas in the social, cultural, and political evolution of nations and peoples. Prerequisite: 3 credit hours of history or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

INTL 1500 The World System since 1500 (3)

Examines the origin and evolution of the current world system. The course explores the political, cultural, technological, social, and economic forces that have shaped world history from 1500 until the present.

LEGL 2080 Topics in Law (3)

In-depth study of various law topics: e.g., privacy law, sex-based discrimination, family law, consumer law, criminal law, and juvenile law. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

LEGL 2400 Introduction to Law (3)

(Cross-listed with POLT 2400) Overview of the history and functioning of the American legal system. Covers such topics as the substantive law of torts, contracts, and criminal procedure and terminology, the court system, and the nature of legal reasoning.

LEGL 3000 Legal Ethics (3)

Examines the ethical and professional responsibilities of legal professionals. Students will examine such issues as confidentiality, unauthorized practice of law, and conflict of interest, as well as other ethical concerns likely to face legal assistants. Prerequisite: LEGL 2400, POLT 2400, or permission of instructor.

LEGL 3490 Civil Litigation (3)

Examines civil trial investigation, preparation, and litigation proceedings. Focuses on preparing, analyzing, and summarizing factual information gathered from such sources as client interviews, interrogatories, and depositions. Prerequisite: LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400.

LEGL 3500 Criminal Litigation (3)

This course is an in-depth study of all facets involving criminal law. Students will study the criminal court system from law enforcement investigations through criminal trial and correctional facilities. Students will also study United States Constitutional Amendments that deal with criminal law, as well as statutory laws involving crimes against persons and property. Prerequisite: LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400.

LEGL 4460 Methods of Legal Research and Writing I (3)

Focuses on analyzing legal reference materials. Includes locating, analyzing, and summarizing state and local statutes, court opinions, and administrative rules. Students also study techniques of legal writing and drafting. Prerequisites: junior standing or permission of the instructor or department chair and LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400.

LEGL 4470 Methods of Legal Research and Writing II (3)

Continues LEGL 4460, focusing on the location, analysis, and summarizing of federal statutes, court opinions, and administrative rules. Students continue their study of legal writing and drafting. Prerequisites: junior standing or permission of the instructor or department chair, LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400, and LEGL 4460.

LEGL 4480 Computerized Legal Research (3)

Acquaints students with the fundamental concepts of locating and accessing legal information utilizing computer technology. Prerequisites: junior standing or permission of instructor, LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400, and LEGL 4460.

LEGL 4490 Advanced Paralegal Procedures (3)

Teaches students many practical skills applicable to a variety of civil law areas that are needed by paralegals. Some of those skills are case assessment, witness preparation, document acquisition, task-based billing, and recognizing the unauthorized practice of law. Prerequisites: LEGL 2400 and LEGL 4460, or permission of the program director.

LEGL 4600 Legal Studies Seminar (3)

In-depth examination of carefully selected legal subjects, which will involve extensive law-related research and writing. This course is offered periodically and requires focused and intense study. Prerequisites: usually senior standing or permission of the instructor and LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400, LEGL 4460, and LEGL 4470. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

LEGL 4800 Advanced Topics in Law (3)

An advanced, in-depth study of law topics directed toward the paralegal student. Includes topics such as Evidence, Intellectual Property, Probate and Estates, Intellectual Property, Environmental Law, Family Law, Elder Law, Employment Law, and Alternative Dispute Resolution. LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400, or permission of the director. May be repeated for credit if content differs.

LEGL 4810 Tort Law Practice (3)

This course is an examination of the various causes of action under tort law. Emphasis will be primarily divided among the three areas of negligence, strict liability and intentional torts, with additional discussion of various business, employment and vehicular torts, as well as some emphasis on legal analysis and discovery as they relate to tort issues. Prerequisites: Junior standing, LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400, or permission of the program director.

LEGL 4820 Contract Law Practice (3)

Review of substantive law and practical implications for paralegals in the area of interpretation and drafting of contracts, the Uniform Commercial Code and remedies. Prerequisites: Junior standing, LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400, or permission of program director.

LEGL 4830 Real Estate Law Practice (3)

This course provides students with a greater depth of knowledge regarding real estate law and practice. To permit the student to become familiar with standardized forms and contracts that are used in the practice of real estate law. To permit the student to learn to function as a legal assistant/paralegal in the real property area by preparing actual documents, deeds and contracts based upon an attorney's instructions. Prerequisites: Junior standing, LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400, or permission of program director.

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LEGL 4840 Corporations and Business Organizations (3)

This course reviews the substantive law and practical implications for paralegals of agency, partnerships, corporations and sole proprietorships in a business environment. This course is designed to teach paralegals the theoretical and practical skills necessary to be successful in a legal environment engaged in the practice of business organization and operations. Prerequisites: Junior standing, LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400, or permission of program director.

LEGL 4850 Computers and the Law (3)

This course will provide student with an overview of computer technology applicable to law office management, document production, scheduling (including docket control), research, litigation support and how to communicate with other systems. This course will include hands-on computer assignments. It is designed to train paralegals with the theoretical and practical skills to enable them to work in legal environments that utilize computers. Prerequisites: Junior standing, LEGL 2400 or POLT 2400, or permission of program director.

LEGL 4900 Paralegal Clinical Studies (3-6)

Students are placed in law-related work environments to augment students' knowledge of legal studies, procedures, decision-making, paralegal practices, and related areas. A total of 6 credit hours of clinical studies (internships) may be used to satisfy departmental degree requirements, with a maximum of 3 credit hours counting as upper level coursework. Prerequisite: completion of all paralegal certificate courses with a grade of C- or better. May be repeated for credit.

LEGL 4910 Senior Overview (3)

This is a capstone course for senior legal studies students. Relying on the American Association for Paralegal Education's Core Competencies for Paralegals Programs, students will demonstrate the ability to apply the knowledge they have learned in all of their legal studies courses to practical situations. Students will complete a portfolio that contains examples of the student's work, employment cover letter, and resume. The student's portfolio should also demonstrate the ability to do basic legal research, draft legal documents, use law office software, summarize depositions, and draft interrogatories. Finally, students will also have to show their ability to communicate effectively through oral interviews with the professor and potential employers. Prerequisites: senior standing and major in legal studies. Prerequisites: senior standing and major in legal studies.

POLT 1060 Introduction to American Politics (3)

Presents the basic concepts, structures, and functions of the United States political system and an analysis of the role of individuals in the practice of American politics.

POLT 1070 Introduction to Political Theory (3)

Studies the nature of the political community, with attention given to concepts of the state, justice, freedom, authority, and law. Selected classics of political theory are read and discussed. Cross-listed with PHIL 2300.

POLT 3010 American Constitutional Law (3)

Studies central constitutional principles, with emphasis on constitutional formation, judicial power, federalism, legislative powers, and executive powers. Examines major Supreme Court cases. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours in the department or permission of the instructor.

POLT 3020 Civil Liberties and the Law (3)

Focuses on the liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. Examines First Amendment protections for speech, press, and religion. Explores the significant changes in approach to due process and equal protection of law. Emphasizes case law and political analysis of judicial decision making. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours in the department or permission of the instructor.