

Legal Studies Major Overview:

The Legal Studies major focuses on the study of law and its role in society, offering students foundational knowledge of legal systems, principles, and processes. Students explore various areas of law, such as constitutional law, criminal law, civil litigation, and contracts, while also developing skills in research, legal writing, and critical analysis. This program prepares students for careers in law-related fields, including legal assistant, paralegal, law enforcement, and compliance, as well as for pursuing advanced legal education in law school.

Typical Industry Sectors:

1. Law Firms and Legal Services
2. Government and Public Policy
3. Corporate Compliance and Risk Management
4. Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement
5. Nonprofit and Advocacy Organizations

10 Sample Entry-Level Job Titles:

1. Paralegal
2. Legal Assistant
3. Compliance Officer
4. Legal Researcher
5. Court Clerk
6. Claims Adjuster
7. Legal Document Specialist
8. Litigation Assistant
9. Contract Administrator
10. Criminal Justice Assistant

5 Hard Skills:

1. Legal Research and Writing
2. Knowledge of Legal Terminology and Procedures
3. Contract and Document Review
4. Litigation Support and Case Management
5. Understanding of Legal Codes and Statutes

5 Soft Skills:

1. Attention to Detail
2. Analytical Thinking
3. Communication

4. Time Management
5. Problem-solving

Additional Training or Certifications:

While a Legal Studies degree provides a strong foundation, certification as a paralegal (e.g., from the National Association of Legal Assistants or NALA) is often required for paralegal roles. Additional certifications or training in specific areas of law, such as corporate law or intellectual property, can be helpful. For those aiming to become attorneys, law school is necessary to pursue a Juris Doctor (JD) degree, followed by passing the bar exam. Internships and practical experience in law offices or legal clinics can enhance career prospects.

Student and National Organizations:

1. [National Association of Legal Assistants \(NALA\)](#)
2. [American Bar Association \(ABA\)](#)
3. [Paralegal Association \(National Federation of Paralegal Associations\)](#)
4. [American Association of Law Libraries \(AALL\)](#)