

New Undergraduate Program (Majors, Minors, Sequences) Proposal
Illinois State University - University Curriculum Committee

Program Department Politics and Government

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Title of New Program Major in Legal Studies

Submission Date Monday, March 28, 2011

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Version 2

Proposed Starting Catalog Year 2012-2014

1. Proposed Action

- ✓ New Major **Major CIPS Code** 22.0000
- New Minor
- New Sequence
- More than 50% of courses in this program are Distance Education

Degree Type(s)

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science

2. Provide Undergraduate Catalog copy for new program.

MAJOR IN LEGAL STUDIES

Degrees Offered: B.A., B.S.

- Forty (40) hours in Legal Studies, required Political Science courses, and approved electives
 - Required Core Courses (22 hours): POL 106, 201, 203, 204, 296, 370, 371, and 398.20 (3 hours).
POL 398.20 may be substituted with one of the Legal Studies elective courses with the consent of either the Department Chair or the Director of Legal Studies
 - Eighteen (18) hours in Elective Courses (9 hours must be Legal Studies electives):
Legal Studies Electives: POL 216, 314, 319, 322, 360, 372.
Political Science Electives: POL 212, 215, 283, 293.03, 318, 324, 325, 326, 327
Other Electives: CJS 206, 215, 305; ENG 248; GEO 312; HIS 253; PHI 242, 340; SOC 365, 367; or other law-related courses specifically approved by the Director of Legal Studies
 - A maximum of six (6) hours in 398.20 may count toward a Legal Studies major.
 - It is recommended that Legal Studies majors enroll in POL 106 in their first year of study. Transfer students wishing to complete the major are recommended to enroll in POL 106 in their first year at Illinois State University if they have not already had an equivalent course.
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3. Provide a description for the proposed program.

The Legal Studies curriculum is designed to provide specialized knowledge and skills to prepare students for employment as a paralegal. Paralegals may not provide legal services directly to the public, except as permitted by law. Students preparing for law school should consult with the Pre-law Advisor to determine which courses are appropriate for them. In order to gain admission into the Legal Studies program, a student must (1) submit a formal online application; (2) complete POL 201 with a minimum grade of B, unless this requirement is waived by the Director of Legal Studies; and (3) hold good academic standing. For further information contact the Department of Politics and Government.

4. Provide a rationale of proposed program.

In August 2010, the American Bar Association approved the ISU Legal Studies minor Program. In its final report, the ABA recommended the adoption of a major. This recommendation is in accord with current market demands. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment of paralegals and legal assistants will grow 28 percent between 2008 and 2018. According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook (2010-11 Edition) the paralegal profession is expanding much faster than the average for all U.S. occupations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics also states that competition for jobs is expected. The National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) reports that “a four-year degree is the hiring standard in many markets.” Consequently, NFPA recommends “that future practitioners should have a four-year degree to enter the profession.” The adoption of a Legal Studies major carries out the ABA’s directions and helps our students become competitive in the job market. Besides, in the past years the students have expressed interests in pursuing major in Legal Studies. Introduction of the major is consistent with the Strategic Focus of the College of Arts and Sciences’ Strategic Plan 2010-2015 which calls for “Facilitating academic excellence” and has identified *Develop[ing] and maintain[ing] rigorous academic curricula* as the Goal 1.1. The major is proposed in line with the Action 1.1.1 (Identify opportunities to pursue disciplinary and interdisciplinary curricular innovation in emerging areas where faculty strengths align with student and societal needs) of the Plan.

5. Describe the expected effects of the proposed program on existing campus programs (if applicable).

All required courses are being offered by the Department of Politics and Government from existing courses. The equipment and other support services are, in large measure, in place to support the proposed major; only minor additions will be required (see below). Milner library is equipped to absorb the additional demands the new major will create. The American Bar Association (ABA) team during its site visit in January 2010 expressed satisfaction with the facilities and approved our minor program and recommended introduction of a major.

Elective courses are offered regularly by respective departments and supporting documentation has been provided.

6. **Provide a sample four year plan of study demonstrating that a student could realistically complete the program requirements in a specific number of semesters.**

SAMPLE FOUR YEAR PLAN OF STUDY

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FRESHMAN YEAR (1ST & 2ND SEMESTERS)

POL 106 U.S. Government and Civic Practices

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SOPHOMORE YEAR (1ST SEMESTER)

ONE OR TWO POLITICAL SCIENCE OR OTHER ELECTIVES

SOPHOMORE YEAR (2ND SEMESTER)

POL 201 Introduction to Law for Paralegals

PLUS ONE OR TWO POLITICAL SCIENCE OR OTHER ELECTIVES

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JUNIOR YEAR (1ST SEMESTER)

POL 203 Legal Research I

PLUS ONE OR TWO OF THE FOLLOWING LEGAL STUDIES ELECTIVES:

POL 216 Introduction to Torts

POL 319 Probate Law

PLUS ONE OR TWO POLITICAL SCIENCE OR OTHER ELECTIVES

JUNIOR YEAR (2ND SEMESTER)

POL 204 Legal Research II

PLUS TWO FROM THE FOLLOWING LEGAL STUDIES ELECTIVES:

POL 314 Investigative Techniques & Evidence

POL 322 Domestic Relations Law

POL 360 Criminal Litigation

POL 372 Employment Law

PLUS ONE OR TWO POLITICAL SCIENCE OR OTHER ELECTIVES

SUMMER SEMESTER- BETWEEN JR. & SR. YEARS [OPTIONAL]

POL 398.20 Professional Practice: Paralegal Internship

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SENIOR YEAR (1ST SEMESTER)

POL 370 Litigation I

POL 398.20 Professional Practice: Paralegal Internship (if not already completed)

PLUS ONE THE FOLLOWING LEGAL STUDIES ELECTIVES:

POL 216 Introduction to Torts

POL 319 Probate Law

*PLUS ONE OR TWO POLITICAL SCIENCE OR OTHER ELECTIVES*SENIOR YEAR (2ND SEMESTER)

POL 371 Litigation II

POL 398.20 Professional Practice: Paralegal Internship (if not already completed)

PLUS TWO FROM THE FOLLOWING LEGAL STUDIES ELECTIVES:

POL 314 Investigative Techniques& Evidence

POL 322 Domestic Relations Law

POL 360 Criminal Litigation

POL 372 Employment Law

*PLUS ONE OR TWO POLITICAL SCIENCE OR OTHER ELECTIVES*Political Science Electives

POL 212 Politics of Legal Decision Making

POL 215 U.S. Judicial Process

POL 318 Administrative Law

POL 324 Topics in Public Law

POL 325 Constitutional Law: Functions & Powers

POL 326 Constitutional Law: Due Process Rights

POL 327 Constitutional Law: Equality & Free Expression

Other Electives

GEO 312 Environmental Law

ENG 248	Legal Writing
PHI 242	Philosophy of Law
PHI 340	Topics in Legal and Political Philosophy
SOC 365	Juvenile Delinquency
SOC 367	Criminology
CJS 206	Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation
CJS 215	Juvenile Justice
CJS 305	Rules of Evidence for the Administration of Justice

7. Describe the expected curricular changes required, including new courses. If proposals for new courses have also been submitted, please reference those related proposals here:

The proposed major will be developed on existing Minor in Legal Studies by the Department of Politics and Government. The required courses for the proposed major are currently offered regularly for Political Science majors and Legal Studies minor students. Elective courses have all been agreed upon by their corresponding departments. No new courses will be added for the purpose of the new major.

8. Anticipated funding needs and source of funds.

See attached request for new program approval. No new funds required.

Major in Legal Studies 09/22/2011

9. **No** Does this program count for teacher education?

10. **No** Is this an Interdisciplinary Studies program?

11. **The following questions must be answered.**

Yes Have you confirmed that Milner Library has sufficient resources for the proposed program?

No Are more than 124 hours required to complete a degree with this major?

No Beyond General Education, does the major require more than 76 semester hours?

No Does this B.A., B.S., B.E.Ed. require more than 55 semester hours of major courses?

No Does this program stipulate specific general education courses offered in the major department/school as a part of the major requirements only if such courses serve as prerequisites for other courses required by the major?

No Is the proposed program intended to be longer than four years (as indicated by the plan of study)?

Yes Have letter(s) of concurrence from affected departments/schools been obtained?

A departments/school is affected if it has a program with significant overlap or if it teaches a required or elective course in the program.

Major in Legal Studies 09/22/2011

12. Routing and action summary for New Program:**1. Politics and Government Department Curriculum Committee Chair***Ali Riaz (website)*Signature

Ali Riaz

Print3/29/2011 9:36:16 AM

Date

2. Politics and Government Department Chair/School Director*Ali Riaz (website)*Signature

Ali Riaz

Print3/29/2011 9:36:59 AM

Date

3. College of Arts & Science College Curriculum Committee Chair*Todd Stewart (website)*Signature

Todd Stewart

Print4/13/2011 4:27:58 PM

Date

4. College of Arts & Science College Dean*Sally Parry (website)*Signature

Sally Parry

Print4/14/2011 10:02:38 AM

Date

All new programs (majors, minors, sequences) are routed by the U.C.C. to the Academic Senate
