

Political Science Division  
 Hatfield School of Government  
**Minor in Law & Legal Studies**  
 Program Description and Degree Requirements

The Minor in Law and Legal Studies offers an interdisciplinary, liberal arts approach to the study of law. This is an academic program, not a professional training program, emphasizing the political, social, cultural, and philosophical foundations and impacts of law and legal systems. It is designed for pre-law students and also for a broad array of students from across the PSU campus who are interested in the relationship of law to politics, society, and culture. While the core courses concentrate on American law and the American legal system, the electives allow students to focus on aspects of law related to areas such as international law, comparative law, and philosophy.

**Core Courses:**

PS 101 Introduction to U.S. Government	4 credit hours
PS 221 Introduction to Law and Legal Studies	4
PS 321 Supreme Court & American Politics	4

**Electives: Four** courses from the list below:

PS 325 Politics and the Legal Enforcement of Morals	4
PS 404 Cooperative Education (Internship)	4
PS 410 Selected Topics: Law, Politics, and Society	4
PS 422 Constitutional Law	4
PS 423 Civil Liberties	4
PS 425 Women & the Law	4
PS 428 Politics of Law & Order	4
PS 448 International Law	4
PS 449 International Environmental Politics & Law	4
PS 483 Justice in the Modern World	4

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Total	28 credit hours
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A total of 8 credit hours of Political Science law-related seminar and special topics courses (PS 407 or PS 410, with approval of the student's adviser) and/or non-Political Science courses chosen from the list below may be taken in partial fulfillment of the four-course electives requirement (additional courses from other departments may be taken toward the degree with permission of a political science advisor):

Phl 311 Morality of Punishment	4
Phl 333 Philosophy of Law	4
Hst 447, 448, 449 American Constitutional History	4
CCJ 310 American Courts	4
CCJ 420 Criminal Law and Legal Reasoning	4

Students should note that many of the upper-division courses have recommended prerequisites. All courses submitted to satisfy the requirements for the minor must be passed with a grade of C or above. Students who are also working toward the major or minor in Political Science must take (in addition to the core courses for the Law & Legal Studies minor) at least 12 credits from the lists above that will be uniquely applied to the Law & Legal Studies minor. Consultation with a political science advisor is strongly encouraged.