

Legal Studies Minor

Interdisciplinary curriculum focused on skill development

Goal Description:

The department's Minor in Legal Studies provides alternative approaches to the study of law by exposing the undergraduate to an interdisciplinary curriculum composed of classes in the social sciences, humanities, business, and education. The minor aims to help develop graduates who possess strong thinking, analytical, writing, and research skills.

Providing Department: Legal Studies Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Principles of the legal and judicial system

Learning Objective Description:

Students completing the Legal Studies minor will understand the philosophy and principles that form the foundation of the legal and judicial system.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Core courses

Indicator Description:

All students in the legal studies minor must take two of the following core courses:

- POLS 4334 Constitutional Law I: Civil Rights and Liberties
- POLS 4335 Constitutional Law II: Government Power / State-Federal Relations
- PHIL 4336 Philosophy of Law

Each of these courses has an objective of introducing students to the philosophical, legal and political contexts in which constitutional questions have been addressed in the United States.

Student performance in these courses is an indicator that they have achieved this objective.

Criterion Description:

We expect that 85% or more of students will pass these courses with a grade of C or better.

Findings Description:

In AY 2021-2022 we offered both face-to-face and online version of POLS 4334 and POLS 4335:

- From 4334.**01** course from Fall 2021
 - **27 completed course**
 - And what percentage of those students completed the course earning a grade of C or better? **93% had C or better**
- From 4334.**02** (online) course from Fall 2021
 - **28 completed course**
 - And what percentage of those students completed the course earning a grade of C or better? **92% had C or better**
- From 4335.**01** course from Spring 2022
 - **35 completed course**
 - And what percentage of those students completed the course earning a grade of C or better? **94 % had C or better**
- From 4335.**02** (online) course from Spring 2022
 - **24 completed course**
 - And what percentage of those students completed the course earning a grade of C or better? **83 % had C or better**

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Plan to assess SLOs in POLS 4334 and POLS 4335

Performance Objective Description:

Constitutional Law I (POLS 4334) and Constitutional Law II (POLS4335) are two required courses in the minor. In 2021, the legal studies faculty within the department will work to develop a means of assessing student progress on development of thinking, analytical, writing, and research skills in these courses.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

SLO assessment plan

KPI Description:

Political science faculty teaching within the legal studies minor will meet and, in conjunction with the department chair, develop a plan to assess student learning outcomes for POLS 4334 and POLS 4335.

Results Description:

This was not completed in AY 2021-2022. It will be rolled over for the AY 2022-2023 year.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

SLO assessment plan

Action Description:

In the 2022-2023 academic year, political science faculty teaching within the legal studies minor will meet and, in conjunction with the department chair, develop a plan to assess student learning outcomes for the three required courses in the minor: POLS 3334, POLS 4334 and POLS 4335.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Regularize the curriculum

Performance Objective Description:

The department will work to ensure that the Legal Studies minor offers the required courses (POLS 4334 and POLS 4335) and any POLS elective courses on a regular basis to meet student demand.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Course offerings

KPI Description:

Department will offer POLS 4334 and POLS 4335 at least once per academic year (with multiple sections if demand warrants) and at least one of the POLS elective courses per semester (i.e., 3334, 3337, 3338, 3385, 4383).

Results Description:

Several members of the political science department and Legal Studies advising team met in October 2021. The curriculum was re-mapped to meet student needs. The catalog was updated accordingly:

Required Courses

- POLS 3334
- POLS 4334
- POLS 4335

Students must take one law-related skills course (3 credits). See catalog for options.

Students must take two substantive legal content electives. See catalog for options.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Course Offerings

Action Description:

This objective was completed in AY 2021-2022.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

There was no PCI created for the 2020-2021 assessment cycle for this plan.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

There was no PCI created for the 2020-2021 assessment cycle for this plan.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

Heading into the next assessment cycle (2022-2023) the Legal Studies Minor program has two major goals:

1. Develop a plan to assess student learning outcomes for the three required courses in the minor: POLS 3334, POLS 4334 and POLS 4335.
2. Keep an eye on the balance of demand for face-to-face versus online for LGST minors. In 2021-2022, we began to offer a mix of modalities for the required courses. Our plan is to watch to see if there remains an even split -- initial face-to-face and online have filled at equal rates -- or if demand starts to lean in one way or another.