

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The interdisciplinary major in Law Studies provides students with a fundamental knowledge of law and the U.S. legal system and the professional and scholarly skills needed for law school and many law-related careers. The curriculum engages a variety of critical, historical, philosophical, sociological, and other humanistic approaches, to introduce students to the major areas of law that affect life in the United States, highlighting important legal issues that influence current social, political, and economic events. Besides preparing students for legal careers in the local community, the major enables students to become familiar and fluent with a legal vocabulary and legal reasoning to be engaged and critical citizens in our constitutional republic as industry leaders or civil rights/community activists.

The Law Studies major is a pathway to graduate programs in Law (JD), Master of Legal studies (MSL), or Master of Social Science (MSS). The MSL degree is a graduate degree for people who want to study law but who do not desire to be practicing lawyers. The MSL is less expensive and easier to enroll (and involves a shorter time-commitment) and is intended to train professionals in a wide range of industries that must engage with legal questions as they navigate regulatory requirements while managing legal risk in the course of their business. The CU Denver Bachelor of Arts in Law Studies does not train students to be paralegals, but it does allow students with paralegal training to benefit from recent changes in Colorado Law (see Colo. R. Civ. P. 207.1) which allows such students to become Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals (LLPs) upon completion of a 4-year bachelor's degree in law.

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor.

*For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:*

### CLAS Academic Advising

[clas.advising@ucdenver.edu](mailto:clas.advising@ucdenver.edu)

Visit the CLAS Advising website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030

303-315-7100

*For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:*

### Law Studies Major Advising

[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)

Visit the program website [here](#)

Student Commons Building (SCB) 3201

303-315-3567

## GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

*All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:*

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 30 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

**Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements.** In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Law Studies B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 39 credit hours, including 27 upper-division (3000-level and above) credit hours, taken from the approved courses below.
2. Students must earn a minimum grade of C (2.0) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to major requirements.
3. Students must complete a minimum of 15 upper division (3000-level and above) credit hours with CU Denver faculty.
4. Students must complete one of the two paths outlined below (Traditional or Cluster-based).
5. There are two paths to this major (each requiring a minimum of 39 credits): the first is a traditional structure which is well suited for students who know earlier in their career path that this is the major for them or who have fewer transfer credits. The second is the cluster-based major which is well suited for students who are interested in bringing in a number of transfer credits, and in approaching the major based on clusters.
6. For the cluster-based path, students must complete the required Legal Core courses (12 credits) AND two additional clusters of 12 credits each, as well as an exit course (capstone, internship or senior thesis).
7. Completion of a cluster may result in a corresponding certificate if all certificate requirements are satisfied.



8. With prior approval from the Law Studies director or program designee, up to 6 credits of independent study or internship from any department may be applied to law studies elective courses in the traditional path or to cluster courses in the cluster path. Substitutions to cluster courses can be made with approval of the Law Studies director or program designee.
9. A maximum of 12 credits of independent study and/or internship approved by the Law Studies director (or designated advisor) may be applied to the major overall.
10. For the cluster-based path, courses may apply only in a single cluster.
11. For the cluster-based path, not all the courses within each cluster can be from one department.
12. Students cannot both major and minor in Law Studies.

#### **LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES**

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect [website](#) for more information.



Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
<b>* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *</b>		
<b>CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</b>	<b>34 - 40</b>	<a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</a>
<b>CLAS Graduation Requirements</b>		<a href="#">CLAS Graduation Requirements</a>
<b>Law Studies Major Requirements</b>	<b>39</b>	27 credit hours must be upper-division
<b>Legal Core</b>	12	
HUMN 4251 Introduction to Legal Studies	3	
PSCI 4477 Constitutional Law I	3	
PSCI 4487 Constitutional Law II	3	
SSCI 4025 Legal Advocacy/Engagement	3	
<b>Traditional Path</b>		
Professional Skills Courses	6	*See major advisor. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Law Studies Elective Courses	15	*See major advisor. Check individual courses for prerequisites.  With prior approval from the Law Studies director or program designee, up to 6 credits of independent study or internship from any department may be applied to law studies elective courses in the traditional path or to cluster courses in the cluster path. Substitutions to cluster courses can be made with approval of the Law Studies director or program designee.
Exit Course	3	*See major advisor. Choose from: a capstone course, an internship, and independent study, or a senior thesis
Additional Exit Course	3	*See major advisor. Choose from: a capstone course, an internship, and independent study, a senior thesis, or an additional Law Studies elective.
<b>Cluster-Based Path</b>		
Complete two clusters with 12 credit hours each from the following cluster lists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Communication and Writing</li> <li>• Professional Skills</li> <li>• Law and Society</li> <li>• Criminology, Law, and Deviance</li> <li>• Law, Ethics, and Policy</li> <li>• Social Justice, Activism, and Law</li> </ul>	24	*See major advisor. Check individual courses for prerequisites.  With prior approval from the Law Studies director or program designee, up to 6 credits of independent study or internship from any department may be applied to law studies elective courses in the traditional path or to cluster courses in the cluster path. Substitutions to cluster courses can be made with approval of the Law Studies director or program designee.
Exit Course	3	*See major advisor. Choose from: a capstone course, an internship, and independent study, or a senior thesis
<b>Estimated General Electives</b>	<b>41 - 47</b>	General Elective credit hours will vary. Students are highly encouraged to explore and complete additional programs including certificates, minors, double-majors, and dual-degrees. Consult with CLAS Academic Advisor.
<b>Total Minimum Credit Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>	30 credit hours must be upper-division

**SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY**

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as certificates, minors, double-majors, or dual-degrees.

Year 1 - Fall	CRS
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
CU Denver Core Mathematics	3
CU Denver Core Arts	3
CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3
General Elective / First-Year Seminar	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 1 - Spring	CRS
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
CU Denver Core Humanities <sup>M</sup>	3
CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab	4
CU Denver Core Social Science	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>

Year 2 - Fall	CRS
HUMN 4251	3
PSCI 4477	3
CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science without lab	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 2 - Spring	CRS
PSCI 4487	3
General Upper-Division Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Traditional Path: For students who know earlier in their career path that this is the major for them or who have fewer transfer credits**

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
Professional Skills Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	2
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
Professional Skills Course	3
Law Studies Upper-Division Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 4 - Fall	CRS
Law Studies Upper-Division Elective	3
Law Studies Upper-Division Elective	3
Exit Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
SSCI 4025	3
Law Studies Upper-Division Elective	3
Law Studies Upper-Division Elective	3
Additional Exit Course	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Cluster-Based Path: For students who are interested in bringing in a number of transfer credits and approaching the major based on clusters**

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
Cluster I Course	3
Cluster II Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	2
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
Cluster I Course	3
Cluster II Course	3
Upper-Division General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 4- Fall	CRS
Cluster I Course	3
Cluster II Course	3
Upper-Division General Elective	3
Upper-Division General Elective	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 4- Spring	CRS
SSCI 4025	3
Cluster I Course	3
Cluster II Course	3
Exit Course	3
Upper-Division General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

<sup>M</sup> Major Course Available    <sup>C</sup> CU Denver Core Course    <sup>PE</sup> Prerequisite Enforced    <sup>PR</sup> Prerequisite Recommended