

FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

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:

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

For questions about admission requirements, transfer policies, applying, and the transfer process contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas.advising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CLAS Advising website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030

303-315-7100

Law Studies Major Advising

[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)

Visit the program website [here](#)

Student Commons Building (SCB) 3201

303-315-3567

Office of Admissions

admissions@ucdenver.edu

Visit the Admissions website [here](#)

Student Commons Building (SCB) 1005

303-315-2601

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

The following program requirements are based on degree requirements for the current Catalog year at CU Denver and are subject to change. Students are responsible for completing degree requirements based on the Catalog year for which they are admitted.

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.

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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.

COURSEWORK THAT CAN BE COMPLETED AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTION

The following is a “bucket” of requirements students can complete prior to transferring to CU Denver, including equivalent Colorado Community College System (CCCS) courses. To determine the equivalencies of courses to be completed at non-CU Denver institutions, students can visit <https://transferology.com/school/ucdenver>. **It is critical students connect with a CU Denver academic advisor to ensure planned courses will transfer and apply to CU Denver degree requirements.** All non-CU Denver coursework must be completed with a C- or better to be eligible for transfer.

Students interested in completing an Associate (A.A. or A.S.) Degree or a [Colorado Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement or Degree with Designation \(DWD\)](#) must work with their community/junior college academic advisor to create an academic plan that accounts for all degree or transfer articulation agreement requirements. Colorado Community College Students may also explore the option to complete [Reverse Transfer](#) at CU Denver.

CU Denver Requirements	CU Denver Credits	CCCS Equivalent Courses & Notes	CCCS Credits
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40		
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3	ENG 1021	
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3	ENG 1022	
Mathematics	3 - 4	GT-MA1	
Arts	3	GT-AH	
Humanities	3	GT-AH or GT-HI	
Behavioral Sciences	3 - 4	GT-SS	
Social Sciences	3 - 4	GT-SS or GT-HI*	
Natural/Physical Science with lab	4 - 5	GT-SC1	
Natural/Physical Science without lab or Math	3 - 5	GT-SC2 or GT-MA1 (except the course used for Core Math) or GT-SC1	
International Perspectives	3	Additional GT-AH, HI, SS* (see note below)	
Cultural Diversity	3	To be completed at CU Denver. This requirement must be completed with an upper-division course and CCCS courses will not apply.	---
LWST Major Courses	0	Please consult a CU Denver CLAS Academic Advisor. Due to the individually designed nature of this program, students will choose and complete major courses at CU Denver based on approved clusters.	
Minimum Applicable Transfer Credits Recommended:	60	Students completing less than 60 applicable transfer credits will have additional credits to complete at CU Denver. Students are highly encouraged to explore and complete additional programs including certificates, minors, double-majors, and dual-degrees. Students needing general elective credits should consult a CU Denver CLAS Academic Advisor to plan for additional programs.	

*The applicability of Guaranteed Transfer (GT Pathways) courses to specific CU Denver Core Curriculum requirements requires completion of a block of five courses: two GT-AH courses; one GT-HI course; one GT-SS course; and one additional GT-AH, GT-HI, or GT-SS course.

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SAMPLE PLAN – COURSEWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT CU DENVER

Based on successful completion of 60 applicable transfer credits and the complete “bucket” of requirements outlined above, students would have the following remaining to complete at CU Denver. At CU Denver, students must tailor this plan based on the evaluation of previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, individual preferences related to course load, summer term courses, part-time or full-time student status, or add-on programs such as certificates, minors, double-majors, or dual-degrees.

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
HUMN 4251	3
PSCI 4477	3
Professional Skills Course	3
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
PSCI 4487	3
Professional Skills Course	3
Law Studies Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 4 - Fall	CRS
Law Studies Elective	3
Law Studies Elective	3
Exit Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
SSCI 4025	3
Law Studies Elective	3
Law Studies Elective	3
Additional Exit Course	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended

Cluster-Based Path:

For students who are interested in bringing in a number of transfer credits, and in approaching the major based on clusters

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
HUMN 4251	3
PSCI 4477	3
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
Cluster I Course	3
Cluster II Course	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
PSCI 4487	3
Cluster I Course	3
Cluster II Course	3
Upper-Division General Elective	3
Upper-Division General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

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

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
SSCI 4025	3
Cluster I Course	3
Cluster II Course	3
Exit Course	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended