

Official Program Outline



HERZING
— UNIVERSITY —

Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies

Program Description

The Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies program prepares students for diverse careers in the legal field and related industries by providing a comprehensive understanding of law, legal systems, and professional practices. This degree is ideal for individuals seeking roles in legal support or for those planning to pursue graduate studies or law school. Students will develop advanced skills in legal research, writing, and analysis while exploring substantive areas of law, including contracts, torts, family law, real estate, intellectual property, labor and employment law, constitutional law, business organizations, and cyber law and security. The curriculum emphasizes ethical decision-making, critical thinking, and effective communication to equip students for success in legal environments. Additionally, students will examine the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in legal processes, gaining insight into how emerging technologies are transforming legal research, case analysis, and compliance.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student should be able to:

1. Analyze legal principles and their application to contemporary legal issues.
2. Conduct advanced legal research using primary and secondary sources, including the responsible use of AI-powered legal research tools, to support complex legal arguments and enhance analytical efficiency.
3. Compose professional legal documents that demonstrate clarity, accuracy, and adherence to legal standards.
4. Evaluate ethical considerations and compliance in diverse legal and business contexts.
5. Apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to interpret statutes, case law, and administrative regulations.
6. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills for interaction with legal professionals, clients, and stakeholders.

Program Content

A minimum of 120.00 semester credit hours is required for graduation.

Required Courses

All courses, 70.00 semester credit hours, are required.

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
AC 236 Managerial Accounting	None	3.00
BU 106 Introduction to Business	None	3.00
BU 380 Strategic Leadership	None	3.00
PL 101 Introduction to Legal Studies	None	3.00
PL 105 Legal Research and Writing	None	4.00
PL 145 Ethics and Professional Responsibility	None	3.00
PL 150 Law Office Management and Technology	None	3.00
PL 200 Civil Litigation and Procedure	PL 105	3.00
PL 205 Torts and Liabilities	PL 105	3.00
PL 210 Contracts	PL 105	3.00
PL 255 Criminal Law and Procedure	PL 105	3.00

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
PL 260 Family Law Practice	PL 105	3.00
PL 305 Constitutional Law	None	3.00
PL 310 Advanced Legal Research and Writing	PL 105	3.00
PL 315 Real Estate Transactions and Property	None	3.00
PL 320 Intellectual Property Law	None	3.00
PL 325 Conflict Resolution and Mediation	None	3.00
PL 330 Corporate and Business Organizational Law	None	3.00
PL 400 Advanced Civil Litigation and Procedure	None	3.00
PL 405 Probate and Estate Planning	None	3.00
PL 410 Employment and Labor Law	None	3.00
PL 415 Bankruptcy and Secured Transactions	None	3.00
PL 420 Cyber Law and Data Governance	None	3.00

Open Elective Courses

A minimum of 9.00 semester credit hours is required. Eligible students can take approved dual credit graduate level courses to complete a portion of the open electives requirement.

Dual Credit Courses

Eligible students can replace up to 12.00 semester credit hours of the core program requirements with approved dual credit graduate level coursework. A total of 12.00 graduate semester credit hours can be taken throughout the student's program.

Required Capstone or Internship

3.00 semester credit hours are required.

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
PL 490 Legal Studies Capstone Project	Final Semester.	3.00
PL 494 Legal Studies Internship	Final Semester.	3.00

* Online students in some states may not be allowed to take this internship due to state restrictions.

Required Courses in General Education

Students enrolled in this bachelor's degree must complete a minimum of 36.00 semester credit hours in general education distributed among the following disciplines. Refer to the General Education section of the catalog for specific information about courses within each discipline. Courses transferred from other accredited colleges may also be used to meet these requirements.

- EN 104 English Composition I, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- EN 111 Information Literacy, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- EN 116 Speech, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- EN 304 English Composition II, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- HU 140 Cultural Diversity, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- HU 240 Introduction to Humanities, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- HU 340 Humanities and Contemporary Popular Culture, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- MA 109 College Algebra, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- MA 320 Statistics, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- SC 270 Environmental Literacy, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00

- PS 101 Psychology, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00
- SS 350 Social Issues and Technology, Semester Credit Hours: 3.00

Personal and Professional Development Courses

All courses, 2.00 semester credit hours, are required.

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
PD 121 Professional Development I	None	1.00
PD 202 Professional Development II	None	1.00

Distribution of Contact Hours by Course					
Course	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Internship Hours	Total Contact Hours	Credits
AC 236	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
BU 106	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
BU 380	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 101	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 105	60.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	4.00
PL 145	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 150	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 200	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 205	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 210	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 255	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 260	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 305	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 310	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 315	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 320	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 325	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 330	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 400	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 405	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 410	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 415	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 420	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PL 490 (or PL 494*)	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
PD 121	15.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	1.00
PD 202	15.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	1.00
Electives	135.00	0.00	0.00	135.00	9.00
Gen Ed - Communications	180.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	12.00
Gen Ed – Humanities	135.00	0.00	0.00	135.00	9.00
Gen Ed – Mathematics	90.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	6.00
Gen Ed - Science	45.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	3.00
Gen Ed – Social and Behavioral Sciences	90.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	6.00
Totals	1800.00	0.00	0.00	1800.00	120.00
*Totals with Internship PL 494 Legal Studies Internship: 0/0/135/135	1755.00	0.00	135.00	1890.00	120.00

New Courses

<p>PL 101 Introduction to Legal Studies</p>	<p>This course introduces students to the foundations of the American legal system and the essential role paralegals play within it. Students will explore the structure of the courts, the basics of substantive law, and develop an understanding of the foundations of legal research, writing, and analytical reasoning. Students will understand core legal concepts and the professional tools and methods used throughout the legal field.</p>
<p>PL 105 Legal Research and Writing</p>	<p>This course establishes the fundamental skills necessary for success in a legal environment: efficient research, critical analysis, and clear, professional legal communication. Students will demonstrate the core Issue Rule Application Conclusion (IRAC) processes of identifying the issue, researching and defining the rule, interpreting and applying the legal authorities to resolve client problems and construct persuasive well-researched legal arguments.</p>
<p>PL 145 Ethics and Professional Responsibility</p>	<p>This course introduces students to the foundational principles of legal ethics and professional responsibility. Students will learn how to recognize and apply ethical standards through the study of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct. The course emphasizes practical judgment, critical thinking, and the development of ethically sound workplace practices.</p>
<p>PL 150 Law Office Management and Technology</p>	<p>This course provides an exploration of the business, financial, technological, and ethical principles essential for the effective management of a law practice. Students will review legal technology systems for case management, e-discovery and data privacy while utilizing financial and time management skills to maintain good client relationships. Students will understand the core operational skills required to launch, manage, and grow a successful legal organization while navigating ethical AI and data privacy concerns.</p>
<p>PL 200 Civil Litigation and Procedure</p>	<p>This course provides an overview of the civil litigation process and the procedural rules that guide the resolution of non-criminal disputes in the United States. Students will examine the sources of procedural law, determine proper jurisdiction and venue, and explore each phase of litigation, including pleadings, discovery, pre-trial motions, trial preparation, and civil trials. The course also covers judgments, remedies, and post-trial motions. Through practical application, students will draft foundational procedural documents such as complaints, answers, and motions, and develop the skills to present clear, organized legal arguments.</p>
<p>PL 205 Torts and Liabilities</p>	<p>This course introduces students to the principles of tort law, including negligence, intentional torts, and strict liability. Students will analyze how tort concepts function within the civil justice system and apply them to commonly encountered in legal practice. Students will identify legal issues, interpret case law, and use structured methods of legal analysis.</p>
<p>PL 210 Contracts</p>	<p>This course introduces students to the principles of contract law, including formation, enforceability, performance, and remedies. Students will explore how statutes, case law, and the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) define contract rights and obligations. Emphasis is placed on contract drafting, interpretation, and the ethical responsibilities of legal professionals supporting contract-related work.</p>
<p>PL 255 Criminal Law and Procedure</p>	<p>This course examines the substantive and procedural aspects of criminal law, including major offenses, constitutional safeguards, and stages of the criminal justice process. Students will learn how laws define criminal behavior, how courts administer justice, and how legal assistants contribute to case preparation and documentation. Ethical standards and professional conduct in criminal practice will be emphasized.</p>
<p>PL 260 Family Law Practice</p>	<p>This course introduces the fundamental legal principles that shape family relationships, focusing on the formation and dissolution of legal bonds. Students will examine the requirements for a valid marriage and divorce, explore the purposes and determination of alimony, and analyze how courts assess the best interests of the child in matters involving custody and support. The course also covers the legal standards and procedures for adoption and guardianship. Students will draft essential family law documents while gaining a</p>

	foundational understanding of how family law affects individuals and families.
PL 305 Constitutional Law	This course explores the framework and principles of the U.S. Constitution with an emphasis on judicial review, federalism, and individual rights. Students will analyze landmark Supreme Court cases to understand how constitutional doctrines evolve and shape public policy. The course also examines due process, equal protection, and the application of constitutional law to modern legal and social challenges.
PL 310 Advanced Legal Research and Writing	This course builds upon foundational legal research and analytical skills, focusing on the strategic, complex, and persuasive writing necessary for appellate and litigation practice. Students will engage with multi-layered legal problems and apply advanced writing structures using the IRAC and CIRAC methods. Additionally, students will explore emerging technologies in legal practice, including generative AI.
PL 315 Real Estate Transactions and Property	This course focuses on the fundamental principles of real and personal property ownership and the legal concepts that shape land transactions. Students will explore the elements of real estate contracts, the various forms of property ownership, and the distinctions among different types of deeds. Additionally, this course examines the legal requirements and processes for transferring property, the major steps and documentation involved in real estate closings, and the impact of land use regulations and property taxation on ownership and development.
PL 320 Intellectual Property Law	This course surveys U.S. and international intellectual property law including copyright, trademark, patent, and trade-secret protection. Students explore ownership, infringement, and enforcement issues through case analysis and practical applications. Emphasis will be placed on evolving areas such as digital media, AI-generated works, and global IP frameworks.
PL 325 Conflict Resolution and Mediation	This course explores the processes, strategies, and techniques used to resolve legal conflicts outside of traditional courtroom litigation. Students will gain an understanding of the various forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and the skills to analyze, select, and participate effectively in non-adversarial conflict resolution methods such as negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.
PL 330 Corporate and Business Organizational Law	This course provides a legal and operational framework for understanding the entities that drive modern commerce. Students will explore the full life cycle of a business, from initial formation to dissolution, focusing on the legal, ethical, and strategic implications of organizational structure. Additionally, students will analyze the interplay between agency, governance, fiduciary duties, and global business practices to counsel clients on operational risks, tax implications, and sustainable business decisions.
PL 400 Advanced Civil Litigation and Procedure	This course will explore complex civil litigation, guiding students through the processes, strategies, and legal standards that shape civil disputes. Students will examine examples of complex litigation cases and analyze discovery methods. Emphasis will be placed on drafting legal documents including motions, preparing pretrial strategies, and planning case management approaches.
PL 405 Probate and Estate Planning	This course introduces the legal principles governing the distribution of property during life and after death. Students will explore the structure and purpose of Wills, trusts, and other estate planning instruments, gaining practical experience in drafting essential documents. The course also introduces the tax implications associated with various methods of property transfer, offering a foundational understanding of how tax considerations influence estate planning strategies.
PL 410 Employment and Labor Law	This course provides students with a foundational understanding of employment and labor law. Students will explore the legal framework that governs the employer–employee relationship, including at-will employment, wage and hour regulations, anti-discrimination statutes, workplace safety requirements, and labor relations. Students will also cover best practices in documentation to ensure proper legal protections for organizations. Emphasis will be placed on

	legal compliance and practical application of employment and labor laws.
PL 415 Bankruptcy and Secured Transactions	This course provides an overview of bankruptcy law, focusing on the structure and purpose of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and its major chapters. Emphasis will be placed on understanding debtor eligibility, repayment plans, and strategic considerations used by individuals and businesses facing financial distress. Students will also examine the scope and impact of the automatic stay along with creditor rights, protections, and remedies. Additionally, this course will cover essential bankruptcy procedures, documentation standards, and taxation considerations.
PL 420 Cyber Law and Data Governance	This course examines the legal frameworks, regulatory challenges, and emerging issues that govern activity in cyberspace. Students will analyze jurisdictional conflicts in prosecuting cybercrime, cyberterrorism, and state-sponsored threats. Additionally, this course explores organizational liability and compliance obligations under GDPR, CCPA, and HIPAA. Students will evaluate DMCA takedown procedures, fair use defenses, and digital copyright and trademark disputes. Emphasis will be placed on drafting enforceable cross-border e-commerce contracts aligned with UETA and the E-SIGN Act.
PL 490 Legal Studies Capstone Project	This course serves as the culminating experience for students to integrate and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and professional competencies developed throughout the legal studies program. Students will analyze legal principles and conduct advanced legal research using primary and secondary sources, including responsible use of AI-powered research tools. Students will also evaluate ethical and compliance considerations in varied legal and business contexts. Through a final project, students will showcase their readiness for professional roles within the legal field.

Updated Course Description

PL 494 Legal Studies Internship	This course provides students with supervised, hands-on experience in a professional legal environment, allowing them to apply and strengthen the competencies developed throughout the legal studies program. Working directly with legal professionals, students will analyze legal principles in real-world contexts, conduct advanced legal research using primary and secondary sources, including the responsible use of AI-powered tools, and draft professional legal documents. This course bridges academic learning with practical application, preparing students for successful entry into the legal field.
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