



About the Legal Studies Minor

The Legal Studies Minor provides students with an interdisciplinary curriculum that engages them in critical analysis of the connections between legal issues and social justice, from both contemporary and historical perspective. Students enrolled in the Legal Studies Minor can take courses on law and society, constitutional law and civil liberties, courts and society, civil rights, law and economics, environmental law, drugs and society, media law and ethics, professional and business ethics, philosophy of law, American legal history, and related subjects.

Courses Needed to Earn a Minor in Legal Studies Required Upper Division Course (3 units)

- POLS 120

Select 1 course from each Elective Area (15 units)

A) Perspectives in Law (3 units)

- ECON 141, ENVS/POLS 124 or PHIL 155

B) Contemporary Issues in Law and Justice (3 units)

- AFAM 142, JS 101, JS 122, JS 132(s), JS 123, MAS 127 or JS 151

C) Legal History (3 units)

- AFAM 134, MDES 108, POLS 121A, or POLS 121B

D) Law and Ethics (3 units)

- MCOM 101, COMM 133F, or BUS 186

E) Law and Courts (3 units)

- JS 103, POLS 122, or COMM 147P

Legal Studies Program

In order to graduate with a Legal Studies Minor, students are required to complete 18 units, comprised of one required course and five elective courses selected from five disciplinary areas: Perspectives in Law; Contemporary Issues in Law and Justice; Legal History; Law and Ethics; Law and Courts. In order to ensure a broad and interdisciplinary education, students may only use one course from the minor as credit towards their major.

Steps to Complete the Minor

1. Declare the Minor: Submit "Request for Addition/Change of Major/Minor" form (on SJSU Registrar's website) with any required documents to a department advisor.
2. Take the Classes: Choose courses as specified by the "Legal Studies Minor Form" (on Dept. website) and log course completions on form.
3. Apply for Graduation: When applying for graduation, submit a completed "Legal Studies Minor Form" to a department advisor. Also, print out a copy of your unofficial transcripts and a completed graduation application form.

Examples of Careers in This Field

The Legal Studies Minor exposes students to interdisciplinary perspectives on major social, legal, and political issues. The minor's broad curriculum allows students to gain familiarity with the fields of law, social justice, international human rights, public policy, environmental justice, and mass communications. Graduates with a minor in Legal Studies will be well-prepared to pursue post-graduate education in law and public policy studies. Careers in the field include a range of positions such as paralegals, attorneys, and professional positions within the civil and criminal justice systems, schools and public institutions, and other justice related organizations.

About the Department

Justice Studies is an interdisciplinary area of inquiry that focuses on interrelated criminal and social justice concepts from the lens of humanities, law, and behavioral, social, and natural sciences.

The Department offers 2 MS degree programs, 2 “justice studies” majors, 3 “forensic science” majors, 4 minors, and a certificate in Collaborative Response for Victims of Family Violence.

The Department of Justice Studies at San José State University organizes its curricula around 5 academic pillars:

- Criminal Justice Studies
- Criminology
- Forensic Science
- Legal Studies
- Human Rights

Our Mission

The Department of Justice Studies embraces an interdisciplinary approach to engage students in critical analysis of justice systems in practice, policy, and research. We equip students to be leaders, professionals, and agents of change in justice-related institutions and in diverse local and global communities.

Our Values

Our foremost desire is to foster just societies. We value intellectual curiosity, lifelong learning, honesty, fairness, and ethical consideration of our actions. We embrace diversity, inclusion, civility, and sustainable practices as foundations for strong communities. We commit ourselves to promoting global understanding and respect for cultural differences. We honor our relationships with students, colleagues, alumni, and community partners who work with us to achieve our mission.

Affiliated Student Organizations

- Alpha Phi Sigma Iota, Chapter
- Chi Pi Sigma Fraternity
- Justice Studies Task Force
- Forensic Science Students Club (FSS)
- Students for Firearms Safety

Courses in GE or SJSU Studies

- Area B4: JS 15
- Area D3: JS 25
- Area S: JS 132, JS 136
- Area V: JS171
- Area Z: JS 100W

Our Address

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Social Media

- facebook.com/Justice.Studies.at.SJSU
- Twitter: @SJSUJustice
- Instagram: @sjsu.justicestudies

SJSU Web Links

Minor Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/degrees/minors/lm-minor/>

SJSU Catalog: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/catalog.html>

Schedule of Classes: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/schedules.html>

Counseling and Psychological Services: <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/>

Accessible Education Center: <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/>

Aid and Scholarship: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faso>

Writing Skills Test: <https://testing.sjsu.edu/>

Housing: <http://housing.sjsu.edu/>

Applying to SJSU: <http://www.csumentor.edu/>

Request Information about SJSU: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/info.html>

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