



Significant Change to an Undergraduate Major

Catalog Title of Major: Law and Society (BA)

Name and contact information for future correspondence:

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Academic Unit - School/College:

CAS KSB SOC SIS SPA SPExS Other:

Teaching Unit - Department or Program: Justice, Law & Criminology

Date effective:

Required Signatures	Name	Signature	Date
Teaching Unit Chair or Director	JOE YOUNG		1/23/17
EPC Chair	SUSAN GLOVER		2/2/17
Primary Academic Unit Dean	Paul Newsome		2/1/17
Second Academic Unit Dean (if applicable)			
Faculty Senate Chair			
Provost			

Date sent to the Office of the University Registrar:

I. Identifying Information

- a. **Academic unit:** School of Public Affairs
- b. **Teaching unit:** Justice, Law & Criminology
- c. **Degree affected:** Law and Society (BA)
- d. **Proposed effective date:** AY 2017-2018

II. Rationale

- a. **Please describe the significant change that you are proposing:** We are reducing the major from 54 credit hours to 36 credit hours. We are also altering the specific courses within the required section including the introduction of a research methods course, removing the concentrations in favor of electives, and adding new courses into the elective options.
- b. **What is the rationale behind the change?** This is part of the university-wide effort to reduce the number of credits required for majors to accommodate new university requirements. We are also taking this opportunity to introduce new courses and revise requirements to ensure students are receiving important knowledge in the field.
- c. **Please list all of the courses required for completion of the major and indicate whether each course is unchanged, has a minor change, has a significant change, or is a new course.**
 - JLC-101 Introduction to Law – unchanged
 - JLC-110 Western Legal Tradition – unchanged
 - JLC-201 Philosophical Problems in the Law – unchanged
 - SPA-220 The American Constitution – unchanged
 - JLC-202 History of International Thought and Law – unchanged
 - JLC-302 Law and Social Theory – prerequisite of JLC-281 added
 - JLC-281 Introduction to Legal Studies Research – new course
- d. **After the change is implemented, will the resulting major affect any other programs now offered by your teaching unit? By other teaching units? By other members of Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area? Explain.**

We do not foresee these changes having any substantial effect upon any other programs or units.
- e. **After the change is implemented, compare the resulting major's requirements to the requirements of similar majors at other institutions nationally.**

University of Pittsburgh's major in Legal Studies requires 30 credits, which is similar in both number and substance to the proposed change.
University of Illinois, Springfield's major in Legal Studies requires 34 credits, which is similar in both number and substance to the proposed change.
University of California, Santa Cruz's major in Legal Studies requires 30 credits, which is similar in both number and substance to the proposed change.
- f. **Please include statements from the deans of the other academic units if the change affects majors or courses within their units and a statement from the University Librarian if the change affects library resources.**

III. Student Interest

- a. **What impact is the proposed change expected to have on student interest?**

We predict increased student interest due to the reduction in credit hours required as well as the removal of categorization of electives, allowing students to choose courses that especially appeal to them and apply to their career goals.

IV. Resources available to support this program

a. Will the proposed change have an impact on the resources needed to support this major?

No.

b. In all of the above cases in part IV, what are the resource plans if the major exceeds its projected growth as a result of this change?

Should the number of majors increase in the Law and Society program, we will work with our academic unit to request resources according to standard procedure.

V. Implementation plans

a. In what year will the changed major take effect? Academic Year 2017-2018

b. How will current students be accommodated? Current students will remain under the catalog requirements during the year in which they entered the program. Any exceptions required will go through the standard academic advising channels.

VI. Enrollment projections

a. Will the change impact enrollment? No

b. Will the period of study (in semesters) change for full-time students and part-time students? The time to complete the major will be reduced by approximately one semester; however, the new university requirements will negate this change.

c. On the basis of the above, estimate the total number of students who will be actively taking courses in the major each year during the first five years. We estimate no substantial change in enrollment from the current Law and Society major.

d. What is the timing and sequencing for all required and elective courses? What will be done if enrollments exceed projections? The timing and sequencing will remain unchanged. Should enrollments exceed projections, we will work with our academic unit to request further resources according to standard procedure.

VII. Financial considerations

Will the proposed change impact the major's budget and/or finances? No.

VIII. Assessment

a. Does this significant change in the major affect learning outcomes, including the competencies that students are expected to demonstrate? No.

b. If applicable, what are the learning outcomes for the new major? N/A

c. If applicable, what qualitative criteria and evidence should be used to assess learning outcomes for students who complete this major? N/A

d. Provide some examples of methods you plan to use to assess the program's learning outcomes. Learning outcomes will remain unchanged and assessment will continue to be performed based on our Middle States assessment criteria.

IX. If applicable, list any new courses or changed courses including a brief description.

New courses (required):

- JLC-281 Introduction to Legal Studies Research – a new course that will act as a research methods course comparable to JLC-280 Introduction to Justice Research to ensure students are prepared to research and write in upper-level courses.

New courses (electives):

- JLC-432 Concepts of Punishment – a new course that examines the philosophical issues associated with punishment, who we punish, and how.

Courses with minor changes (required):

- JLC-302 Law and Social Theory – added prerequisite of JLC-281

Courses with minor changes (electives):

- JLC-332 Corrections and the Constitution – removed prerequisites
- JLC-342 Judicial Administration – removed prerequisites
- JLC-352 Psychiatry and the Law – removed term language
- JLC-436 Reproduction and the Law – removed term language
- JLC-458 The Juvenile and the Law – removed prerequisites
- JLC-491 Internship in a Justice/Legal Setting – name changed

X. Catalog Copy

- a. Please attach a revised program listing for the major as it is to appear in the University Catalog.**

Offered by the Department of Justice, Law and Criminology, School of Public Affairs.

Admission to the Program

New freshman and transfer students are admitted through the Office of Admissions. Current students who wish to transfer into the department or develop a double major should have a grade point average of 2.50 or higher and the approval of the undergraduate academic advisor.

University Requirements

120 credit hours with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or better

Completion of college writing requirement

Completion of university mathematics requirement

General Education Requirements

A total of ten courses, consisting of two courses from each of the five foundational areas

At least one course from Area Five: The Natural and Mathematical Sciences must include a laboratory science component

No more than two courses may be taken in the same discipline

Major Requirements

36 credit hours with grades of C or better

Course Requirements

Required (18 credit hours)

JLC-101 Introduction to Law (3)

JLC-110 Western Legal Tradition FA2 (3)

JLC-201 Philosophical Problems in the Law (3)

JLC-281 Introduction to Legal Studies Research (3)

SPA-220 The American Constitution FA4 (3)

or

JLC-202 History of International Thought and Law (3)

JLC-302 Law and Social Theory (3)

Electives (18 credit hours)

Complete 18 additional credit hours, with a minimum of 9 credits at the 300-level or above:

JLC-103 Critical Issues in Justice (3)

JLC-104 Introduction to Systems of Justice (3)

JLC-200 Deprivation of Liberty FA4 (3)

JLC-202 History of International Thought and Law (3)

JLC-206 Justice and Deviant Behavior (3)

JLC-215 Violence and Institutions FA4 (3)

SPA-220 The American Constitution FA4 (3)

JLC-225 American Legal Culture FA2 (3)

JLC-230 Corrections in America (3)

JLC-245 Cities and Crime FA4 (3)

JLC-308 Justice, Morality, and the Law (3)

JLC-309 Justice and Public Policy (3)

JLC-310 The Legal Profession (3)

JLC-332 Corrections and the Constitution (3)

JLC-333 Law, Psychology, and Justice (3)

JLC-342 Judicial Administration (3)

JLC-343 Issues in Civil Justice (3)

JLC-352 Psychiatry and the Law (3)

JLC-402 Comparative Systems of Law and Justice (3)

JLC-410 Topics in Legal Theory (3)
JLC-411 Topics in Legal History (3)
JLC-413 Topics in Law and Social Science (3)
JLC-432 Concepts of Punishment (3)
JLC-435 Gender and the Law (3)
JLC-436 Reproduction and the Law (3)
JLC-454 Violence, Justice, and the Law (3)
JLC-458 The Juvenile and the Law (3)
JLC-496 Selected Topics: Non-Recurring (1-6)
JLC-491 Internship in a Justice/Legal Setting (1-6)
Or other courses with permission from the department

Combined Law and Society (BA) and Justice, Law and Criminology (MS)

American University offers students the opportunity to earn both undergraduate and graduate degrees through its combined bachelor's/master's programs. See [Combined Bachelor's and Master's Degrees](#) for more information.