

Frequently Asked Questions

Why a minor in Legal Studies and History?

As an academic subject, law stands at a disciplinary crossroads that intersects many of the liberal arts and social sciences. This University Minor seeks to expose students to multiple points of view about law and public policy as general preparation for careers or graduate studies in law, government, journalism, health care, business, international affairs, or the non-profit sector.

Who is sponsoring the minor?

The History Department of the School of Arts and Sciences and the Wharton School's Legal Studies & Business Ethics Department jointly sponsor and maintain this University Minor. Both the History and Legal Studies & Business Ethics Departments are consistently rated at or near the top of their respective disciplines in national rankings. Courses in these two departments are among the best taught and most popular at the University.

Is this program going to improve my chances of getting into law school?

No. Many students report that taking courses included in the minor helped them decide whether or not to apply to law school. However, completing this program will neither help nor hurt an undergraduate's actual chances of getting into a law school of their choice. Grade point average, Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT) scores, and letters of recommendation are the leading factors in most law school admissions. As a general matter, students seeking law school admission should select a major field of study that interests them and excel at it. The Undergraduate Advisor in the Legal Studies & Business Ethics Department and the Career Planning and Placement Service's Pre-law Advisor can provide further information on law school admissions as it relates to the University Minor.

The Course of Study

The minor involves taking three required courses and five additional courses from five elective brackets.

Three Required Courses.

LGST101 - Intro to Law & the Legal Process

This course presents law as an expanding social institution. It analyzes the role of law in society, and considers basic concepts in both substantive and procedural law, with special attention to such areas as contracts and the Constitution. Some sections introduce students to the "Socratic" teaching method used in many law school classrooms.

HIST168 - History of American Law to 1877

This course surveys the development of law in the U.S. to 1877, including such subjects as: the evolution of the legal profession, the transformation of English law during the American Revolution, the making and implementation of the Constitution, and issues concerning business and economic development, the law of slavery, the status of women, and civil rights.

HIST169 - History of American Law since 1877

This course covers the development of legal rules and principles concerning individual and group conduct in the United States since 1877. Such subjects as regulation and deregulation, legal education and the legal profession, and the legal status of women and minorities will be discussed.

Elective Brackets

1. **Philosophical Foundations of Law** (choose one)
Law is an expression of our society's deepest moral and cultural values. Anyone seeking to understand law should have a grasp of the philosophical foundations underlying the legal system.

ECON036	Law and Economics
PHIL008	Social Contract
PHIL077	Philosophy of Law
PHIL277	Justice, Law & Morality
PHIL475	Political Philosophy

2. **The Political and Institutional Context of Law** (choose one)

Law is intimately related to the political values and institutions that give shape to particular legal rules. An understanding of these relationships and their social context deepens any appreciation of how law evolves.

HIST161	American Capitalism
HIST164	Recent U.S. History
HIST167	Foundations of Law
HIST363	The Civil War and Reconstruction
HIST442	The American Revolution
PSCI183	American Political Thought
SOCI135	Law and Society

Another course from the History, Political Science, Sociology or Women's Studies departments that deals in a significant way with the political values and institutional context of the law may be substituted for the courses listed above with the approval of the History Department's undergraduate advisor.

3. **International Perspective** (choose one)

In a global economy, no study of how law works in society is complete without an introduction to the international dimension of law.

LGST214	International Business Transactions
LGST216	Emerging Economies
LGST219	Law & Policy in International Business
LGST224	Human Rights & Globalization

4. **Public Policy and Regulation** (choose one)

The ways in which political and regulatory systems interact with law and social norms closely tied to law is crucial to understanding how law operates.

BPUB201	Political Economy of Government
BPUB203	Business in the Political Environment
LGST210	Corporate Responsibility & Ethics

5. **Legal Depth** (choose one)

An in-depth examination of a single area of legal regulation affords students a context in which to apply the historical, philosophical, political and economic perspectives they have gained through their course of study.

- ACCT205 Tax Planning & Administration**
LGST202 Law of Corporate Management & Finance
LGST204 Real Estate Law
LGST205 Law of Marketing and Antitrust
LGST207 The Sports Industry: Legal and Business Aspects of Sports
LGST208 The Law at Work: Employment Law for Managers
LGST211 Legal Aspects of Healthcare
LGST215 Environmental Management Law & Policy
LGST218 Diversity and the Law
LGST221 Constitutional Law and Free Enterprise

Another 200 level Legal Studies course may be substituted with the Legal Studies & Business Ethics Undergraduate Advisor's approval. The negotiations course (LGST 206) does not qualify for this bracket.

For additional information or to apply for this minor, students should contact the appropriate offices:

Career Planning and Placement Service
Pre-Law Advising
20 McNeil Building
898-5261

College of Arts and Sciences
Academic Advising
120 Logan Hall
249 South 36th Street
898-6341

History Department
Undergraduate Advisor
College Hall
Suite 309B, 3401 Walnut Street
898-8316

Legal Studies & Business Ethics Department
Undergraduate Advisor
600 Jon M. Huntsman Hall
898-7689

Wharton Undergraduate Division
Academic Advising
G95 Jon M. Huntsman Hall
898-7607

UNIVERSITY MINOR IN LEGAL STUDIES AND HISTORY



The University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and the College of Arts and Sciences are pleased to offer a unique program of study for undergraduate students that enable them to explore multiple perspectives on law as an inter-school supplement to their major field of study.