

# LAW AND SOCIETY, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

**Begin Campus:** World Campus

**End Campus:** World Campus

## Degree Requirements

**For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Law and Society, a minimum of 120 credits is required:**

| Requirement                          | Credits |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| General Education                    | 45      |
| Electives                            | 24-30   |
| Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements | 24      |
| Requirements for the Major           | 36      |

**9-15 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GH courses; 0-3 credits of GQ courses; 3-6 credits of GS courses.**

**3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.**

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

| Code                                                      | Title                                               | Credits |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>                                 |                                                     |         |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> |                                                     |         |
| HIST 20                                                   | American Civilization to 1877                       | 3       |
| HIST 21                                                   | American Civilization Since 1877                    | 3       |
| LA 201W                                                   | Experiential Learning Portfolio                     | 3       |
| PLSC 1                                                    | American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers | 3       |
| PLSC 472                                                  | The American Legal Process                          | 3       |
| <b>Additional Courses</b>                                 |                                                     |         |
| <i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> |                                                     |         |
| Select 6 credits from the following:                      |                                                     | 6       |
| CAS 215                                                   | Argumentation                                       |         |
| CAS 321                                                   | Rhetoric and Law                                    |         |
| CAS 390                                                   | Qualitative Research Methods                        |         |
| PHIL 10                                                   | Critical Thinking                                   |         |

|                                                                                  |                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| PHIL 12                                                                          | Symbolic Logic                                 |
| PLSC 10                                                                          | Scientific Study of Politics                   |
| PLSC 309                                                                         | Quantitative Political Analysis                |
| SOC 207                                                                          | Research Methods in Sociology                  |
| Courses from a department approved list                                          |                                                |
| <b>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</b>                                      |                                                |
| <i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>      |                                                |
| Select 15 credits from the following, with at least 12 credits at the 400 level: | 15                                             |
| CAS 252                                                                          | Business and Professional Communication        |
| CAS 404                                                                          | Conflict Resolution and Negotiation            |
| CAS 426W                                                                         | Communication Ethics                           |
| CAS 475                                                                          | Studies in Public Address                      |
| CRIM/CRIMJ 12                                                                    | Criminology                                    |
| CRIM/CRIMJ 100                                                                   | Introduction to Criminal Justice               |
| CRIM 113                                                                         | Introduction to Law                            |
| CRIM/SOC 467                                                                     | Law and Society                                |
| CRIMJ 220                                                                        | Courts and the Prosecution Process             |
| CRIMJ 420                                                                        | Criminal Law and Procedure                     |
| LA 402                                                                           | Fundraising Leadership: Building a Strong Base |
| LA 404                                                                           | Careers in Fundraising and Development         |
| LA 496                                                                           | Independent Studies                            |
| LHR 201                                                                          | Employment Relationship: Law and Policy        |
| LHR 401                                                                          | The Law of Labor-Management Relations          |
| LHR 458Y                                                                         | History of Work in America                     |
| PHIL 103                                                                         | Ethics                                         |
| PHIL 105                                                                         | Philosophy of Law                              |
| PHIL 119                                                                         | Ethical Leadership                             |
| PLSC 210N                                                                        | Rights in America                              |
| PLSC 471                                                                         | American Constitutional Law                    |
| PLSC 473                                                                         | American Judicial Behavior                     |
| Courses from a department approved list                                          |                                                |

## General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

**Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)**

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

### **Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)**

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

### **Integrative Studies**

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

### **Exploration**

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

## **University Degree Requirements**

### **First Year Engagement**

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

### **Cultures Requirement**

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

### **Writing Across the Curriculum**

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

### **Total Minimum Credits**

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

### **Quality of Work**

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

### **Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## **B.A. Degree Requirements**

**World Language** (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

**B.A. Fields** (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

**World Cultures** (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.