

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

Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society provides an interdisciplinary approach to studying law and legal institutions that emphasizes the analytical and methodical aspects of law and society knowledge development. In addition to general coursework in disciplines foundational to the study of law and society, students will complete courses that will develop their analytical abilities, research methods fluency, and communication abilities. Students will also develop their interests and career-related skills through courses that employ substantive knowledge about law and society to better understand and address contemporary issues relevant to law and society. A Law and Society degree provides excellent preparation for additional educational programs such as law school or graduate study in criminology, history, political science, sociology, or human resources and employment relations (HRER). The major enhances career options in law, law enforcement, military service, regulatory agencies, social service agencies, non-profit organizations, and groups that determine public policy. A Law and Society degree also provides valuable knowledge for entrepreneurs or small business owners.

What is Law and Society?

The College of the Liberal Arts Law and Society program provides a comprehensive liberal arts education across multiple disciplines with a focus on understanding how social, cultural, economic, and political forces treat the law within the context of historical and contemporary trends. Students will study the interrelationships of social, political, and legal issues and learn how the law reflects and defines social values. The program stresses the importance of developing students' research, writing, analytical, and reasoning skills. The major offers coursework in disciplines related to law and society, including communication, English, history, philosophy, political science, and sociology. Students will consider the relationship between law, legal processes, human behavior, and legal and social institutions. The conventions of reading, argument, logic, and problem-solving will be used to explore issues. Beyond required courses, students will have the opportunity to select coursework that furthers their interests and career goals.

You Might Like This Program If...

You are interested in an interdisciplinary program intended to provide you with a greater understanding of the law, legal principles, and the legal systems of the United States. Many occupations today require at least some legal knowledge. With a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society, you will not only learn about legal principles, institutions, and processes in the United States, but you can also become skillful in argumentation, logic, rhetoric, research, and writing. This program will empower you to develop a portfolio of critical and immediately deployable skills that are integral to careers in many areas related to law and society.