

Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I= Information Item¹ R= Advise & Respond²

Course Number _____ or Degree Plan(s) Legal Studies Minor

State the requested change and reason. A memo may be attached if more space is necessary.

New interdisciplinary Legal Studies Minor (includes two new courses (to be developed) and existing courses)

Circle the number that corresponds to the requested change. Degree plan changes are on the second page.

					COUNCIL ³					
	Change to a Course	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UAC	GRAD	Provost	President
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I				I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I				I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I				I	I
4.	Content (substantive change)	A	A	A	I				A	I
5.	Number of hours (lecture, lab, contact)	A	A	A	A				A	I
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I				I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A				A	I
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I				I	I
9.	Course fee(s)	A	--	A	--				A	I
10.	From U to G <i>or</i> G to U	A	A	A	A				A	I
11.	Cross list with another department: U or G level	A	A	A	A				A	I
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A				A	I
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A				A	I
14.	New course — See website for application and process. This change includes combining or splitting a course(s).	A	A	A	A				A	I

Note: When an academic unit does not have a council, the UGEC and/or UUAC will serve as its academic council, depending on the nature of the issue.

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		COUNCIL ³										
	Change to a Degree Plan	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	University Requirements — Change in approved course content ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
2.	University Requirements — Add or drop a required course from the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
3.	University Requirements — Add or drop a course from a menu within the University Requirements ⁶	A	--	--	A				A	--	A	--
4.	University Requirements — Change hours within a menu on the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
5.	Major — Revision of major ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
6.	Major — Adopt or change admission requirements	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
7.	Major — Add ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
8.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
9.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
10.	GPA — Revise major or cumulative requirement	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
11.	Minor — Revise course selection	A	A	A	I				I	--	I	--
12.	Minor — Add	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
13.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
14.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
15.	Degree — Add	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
16.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
17.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
18.	Any change to a graduate degree program	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--

COUNCIL ³										
	Provost-Proposed Change	Provost	Department	Dean	TEC	UUAC	Graduate	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	Major/Graduate Program – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I
2.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			--	A	--
3.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I

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COUNCIL³

	Change to the Catalog Information	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President
1.	General requirements for graduation including course requirements that are common to all majors for all degrees ⁷	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
2.	Admission requirements	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
3.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	--	--	--		A		A	A	A
4.	Requirements for graduating with honors	--	--	--		A		A	A	A

¹ Councils may request additional information about “Information” items. These items are approved as “Consent Agenda.”

² The Dean and Department should respond to the Provost’s recommendation to close a program in writing. Advise & Respond (R) requires that the voting body should receive the written responses at least one week prior to the vote.

³ All courses that meet University Requirements for general education must go through UGEC. Courses or degrees offered only to students seeking teacher certification must go through the Teacher Education Council. All undergraduate changes must go before the UUAC. All graduate degree plan changes must go through the Graduate Council.

⁴ A minimum of 30 hours is required for a major. A maximum is specified for each degree (e.g., BA, BS). The university minimum for elective hours is 6, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible.

⁵ Program or course changes that apply to any major that includes Teacher Certification will be reviewed by the college, the Teacher Education Council (TEC), and then the UUAC.

⁶ Courses that satisfy ACU’s University Requirements (General Education) will normally have lower-level numbering, be free of prerequisites and co-requisites, appeal to more than one or two majors, and “not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession” (SACS 2.7.3). Departments may request exceptions to the first three criteria.

⁷ The UUAC approved the clarification that “general requirements for graduation” means the enumerated items in the “General Requirements for Bachelor’s Degrees” section of the catalog.

Revised 8-26-19

Curriculum/Catalog Changes Signature Page

Department/School Chair(s)	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

College Academic Council(s)	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Dean(s)	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Teacher Education Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

General Education Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Undergraduate Academic Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Graduate Council	
_____ <i>Chair's signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Provost	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

Faculty	
_____ <i>Chair of faculty senate</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

President	
_____ <i>Signature</i>	_____ <i>Approval date</i>

New Track, Minor, or Certificate Application

I. Program Identification

- A. Legal Studies
- B. Minor
- C. Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
- D. **Chris Riley** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice, holds a Masters of Public Administration and Doctorate of Jurisprudence, and has been a member of the Texas Bar since 2003. **Andy Little** is Associate Professor of Business Law, holds a Masters in History and Doctorate of Jurisprudence, and has been a member of the Texas Bar since 2000.
- E. Main Campus
- F. Spring 2021

II. Program Details

- A. Description. Up to this point, there is no formally identified set of courses that allows students to concentrate on legal studies. In that regard, ACU's Catalog provides:

Abilene Christian University offers several pre-professional programs Pre-law may also be considered a pre-professional program, but there is no mandatory course of study for pre-law students. The Association of American Law Schools suggests the following basic skills and insights be developed by pre-legal education: comprehension and expression in words, critical understanding of the human institutions and values with which the law deals, and creative power in thinking. The self-discipline and study habits required in law school should be developed in undergraduate courses. Students are urged to consult the pre-law advisor for more specific information.

Therefore, this new minor builds upon ACU's historic success of preparing students for advanced legal studies by formalizing a set of recommended courses based on Dr. Mel Hailey's 25 years of experience serving as ACU's Pre-Law advisor and the recommendations of the American Bar Association, the accrediting body for most American law schools. In addition to formally identifying these existing courses, it creates two new courses: (1) a one hour Legal Studies Seminar that provides ACU students with opportunities to learn about the essentials of preparing for both advanced legal studies and careers opportunities in law and (2) a Legal Studies Internship.

- B. Description of target audience. The target audience is current and prospective students who are interested in pursuing advanced legal studies following graduation or working in a highly-regulated field. Those students often major in Political Science, Criminal Justice, Management, Finance, Accounting, History, or English but maybe as diverse as Computer Science, Engineering, Biology, or Bible. In short, because the law intersects with nearly all disciplines and there is no required major for attending law school, students of almost any

major could select this new minor. The specific audience will be those current and prospective students who expressed interest in a pre-law professional program, which is currently around 100 students.

C. Projected total enrollment for each of the first five years. Based on both the data collected from the Office of Admissions and current students participating in ACU's Pre-Law program, we anticipate 20-25 students per cohort selecting this minor over the next five years for a total of 100-125 students. For example, the following shows the recent number of applicants and admitted students who expressed interested in ACU's Pre-Law program:

Cohort Year	Undergrad Applicants	Admitted Students	Deposited Students	Active Deposits/ Enrolled
2019	446	265	52	38
2020	531	328	49	44

III. Rationale and Need for Program

A. Mission fit. Whether arguing before the United States Supreme Court, serving on the federal or Texas Supreme Court bench, or leading Pepperdine University, ACU's Pre-Law program has historically produced graduates who exemplify what it means to be Christian servants and leaders throughout the world. Moreover, since many law schools do not offer a Christian perspective of what it means to be an attorney, ACU has the responsibility to educate its students who plan to pursue advanced legal studies regarding the unique opportunities and challenges that they will encounter as people of faith in the legal profession. Additionally, through the new seminar course, the minor provides formal opportunities to improve the way ACU educates students with regard to law school preparation and admissions, which will likely result in higher acceptance rates in higher tier law schools. Finally, we believe this minor fits squarely within the priorities of the current strategic plan, both in terms of building new academic offerings around ACU's greatest strengths and in providing additional opportunities for new experiential learning opportunities, which is reflected in the new minor.

B. Societal need. As mentioned above, this new minor provides opportunities for ACU students to pursue legal studies through a structured curriculum that experts believe will best prepare them for law school and beyond. While society probably does not need more lawyers, it does need lawyers who are willing not only to meet basic ethical standards, but to act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with their God. In short, this minor will serve to better prepare ACU students to fulfill needed leadership roles in the legal field.

C. Prospective student interest. As shown in Section II.C., both prospective and admitted students express an interest in legal-related pre-professional programs. Additionally, current students planning to attend law school often ask the Pre-Law Advisor which classes they should take to prepare them for admissions to and success in law school. This will provide a

formal curriculum for interested students. It also allows the ACU Admission to point to a formal academic program as they recruit prospective students that are also interested in other schools with existing legal-related minors.

D. Disciplinary benchmarking. Below is a comparison of schools that provide relevant comparison in both Texas and beyond.

School	Offering	Total Hours
Texas Tech Univ.	Legal Studies Minor	18
Texas A&M Univ.	Pre-law Certificate	12
University of Texas	Philosophy of Law Minor	18
Sam Houston State	Legal Studies Minor	18
Univ. of Texas at Arlington	Legal Studies Minor	18
Dallas Baptist Univ.	Legal Studies Minor	15
Univ. of Incarnate Word	Pre-Law Concentration	15
Lipscomb Univ.	Pre-Law Concentration	39
Belmont Univ.	Legal Studies Minor	18
Taylor Univ.	Legal Studies Minor	18
Colorado Christian	Pre-Law Studies	18
Wheaton	Pre-Law Studies Certificate	24

IV. Curriculum

A/B. Course of study and Courses. The Legal Studies Minor at ACU consists of 18-19 credit hours with a minimum with over 12 advanced hours as reflected below.

Degree plan:

Minor requirements:

- PLAW 310 Legal Studies Seminar (1)

Choose 3 hours of Critical Analysis from:

- PHIL 275 Introductory Logic and Critical Thinking (3)
- PHIL 380 Intro to Philosophy (3)
- POLS 490 Early Political Thought (3)

- POLS 491 Recent Political Thought (3)
- POLS 492 American Political Thought (3)

Choose 5 hours of Professional Skills and Ethics from:

- ACCT 210 Financial Accounting (3)
- PLAW 320 Legal Studies Internship (2-3)
- ENGL 326 Business and Professional Writing (3)
- COMM 343 Business and Professional Communication (3)
- COMM 475 Persuasion (3)
- PHIL 486 Ethics (3)

Choose 3 hours of Communication and Collaboration from:

- COMM 310 - Civil Discourse (3)
- COMM 322 - Discussion, Dissent, and Debate (3)
- COMM 430 - Conflict Management (3)
- COMM 480 - Crisis Management in Organizations (3)
- PSYC 305 - Peacemaking (3)

Choose 3 hours of Promotion of Justice from:

- SOCW 329 - Diversity, Power, and Oppression (3)
- HIST 330 - African-American History (3)
- HIST 455 - Social and Ethnic History in US (3)
- SOCI 460 - Ethics and Social Issues (3)
- SOCI 480 - Inequality and Social Justice (3)

Choose 3 hours of Legal Knowledge from:

- POLS 384 - American Judicial Process (3)
- POLS 431 - Constitutional Law: Powers (3)
- POLS 432 - Constitutional Law: Rights (3)
- BLAW 363 - Legal Environment of Business (3)
- BLAW 461 - Business Law II (3)
- POLC 320 - Criminal Law (3)

Total: 18 credit hours

Course rotation:

Required Courses (1)	PLAW 310 - Legal Studies Seminar (1) (F, S)
Critical Analysis Menu (3)	PHIL 275 - Introductory Logic and Critical Thinking (3) (F, even) PHIL 380 - Intro to Philosophy (3) (F, even) POLS 490 - Early Political Thought (3) (F, even) POLS 491 - Recent Political Thought (3) (S, odd) POLS 492 - American Political Thought (3) (F, odd)

Professional Skills and Ethics Menu (5)	ACCT 210 - Financial Accounting (3) (F, S, S) PLAW 320 - Legal Studies Internship (2-3) (F, S, S) ENGL 326 - Business and Professional Writing (3) (F, S, S) COMM 343 - Business and Professional Communication (3) (S) COMM 475 - Persuasion (3) (S) PHIL 486 - Ethics (3) (S)
Communication and Collaboration Menu (3)	COMM 310 - Civil Discourse (3) (F) COMM 322 - Discussion, Dissent, and Debate (3) (F) COMM 430 - Conflict Management (3) (F, S, S) COMM 480 - Crisis Management in Organizations (3) (F) PSYC 305 - Peacemaking (3) (F, odd)
Promotion of Justice Menu (3)	SOCW 329 - Diversity, Power, and Oppression (3) (S) HIST 330 - African-American History (3) (S, odd) HIST 455 - Social and Ethnic History in US (3) (S, odd) SOCI 460 - Ethics and Social Issues (3) (S) SOCI 480 - Inequality and Social Justice (3) (Fall, alternating)
Legal Knowledge Menu (3)	POLS 384 - American Judicial Process (3) (F, odd) POLS 431 - Constitutional Law: Powers (3) (F, even) POLS 432 - Constitutional Law: Rights (3) (S, odd) BLAW 363 - Legal Environment of Business (3) (F, S) BLAW 461 - Business Law II (3) (F) POLC 320 - Criminal Law (3) (F, even)

C. New courses.

1. PLAW 310 - Legal Studies Seminar (1) - Introduces students with an interest in a legal career to the field of law, with a focus on the practicality of the law school application process; overview of legal practice in the United States and alternative careers; and Christian perspectives on the realities of practicing law.
2. PLAW 320 - Legal Studies Internship (2-3) - A supervised on-the-job learning experience within an approved work setting relevant to academic and career goals under mentorship of a faculty attorney. Approval by the Pre-Law Advisor required before enrolling and 2.75 cumulative GPA.¹

V. Required Institutional Support

¹ In consultation with the provost's office, the two new courses should be submitted to the College of Arts and Sciences Academic Council no later than Feb. 1, 2021, to begin the curriculum review process. The courses should be established to be governed by the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice unless the course creator designates another department that will manage the courses long-term.

A. Faculty requirements and availability. This minor does not anticipate the hiring of new faculty members. Chris Riley, as Pre-Law Advisor for the 2020-21 year, would serve as the primary faculty for the PLAW courses as part of regular load as Assistant Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice. The required courses could also easily incorporate the use of part-time local or remote faculty possessing a Juris Doctorate degree. The proposed menu was shared with the Department Chairs of each of the relevant programs, and based on their review, there is no significant impact on faculty workload for any department. They also offered their full support of this new minor.

B. Impact on existing programs. There are no anticipated enrollment impacts on any other existing programs or majors.

D. Staff requirements. The home department (POLS and CJ) has existing staff to support the new minor.

E. Library resources. The library has existing resources available related to law and legal research including a Library Guide and Lexis Nexis Academic Universe, which contains law reviews, federal and state case law, U.S. and state codes and regulations, and patents. Students will receive information on how to access these resources as well as Martindale, which is an online attorney directory, LSAC webpage, and other free resources like Khan Academy's LSAT Prep Course. The only additional resources that may be necessary are more up to date LSAT Prep books in the library, which can be requested using existing systems already in place in the Library.

F. Physical resources. No new needs. Existing classroom and department space will suffice.

G. Scholarships. Two law schools already offer law school scholarships specifically for ACU students (Baylor and Pepperdine). This establishment of this program could be a way to attract additional scholarships from other schools.

H. Recruiting. See section III.C. above.

I. Additional cost to deliver the program. None.

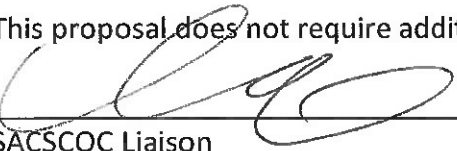
Initial Review and Required Signatures

This proposal complies with curricular requirements of the university and addresses all required questions for institutional review.


Assistant Provost for Curriculum and Assessment

9.21.20
Date

This proposal does not require additional review for institutional accreditation purposes.


SACSCOC Liaison

9/21/20
Date



Chris Riley <cmr97t@acu.edu>

Legal Studies Minor

22 messages

Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:10 PM

To: Fred Aquino <aquino@acu.edu>, John Neill III <jdn00b@acu.edu>, "Richard Beck Jr." <beckr@acu.edu>, Mikee Delony <mxd06b@acu.edu>, Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>, Tom Winter <wintert@acu.edu>, Kelly Elliott <kelly.elliott@acu.edu>

Good afternoon.

Andy Little and I have developed a proposal for a new Legal Studies Minor consisting of the following courses, which include options related to taking a course in your department.

I would like to know if you can support including your course(s) as a part of this minor as well as any general feedback that you have as we prepare to submit the proposal this fall.

Please respond to me individually to avoid unnecessary emails to the group.

Thank you!

Chris Riley, M.P.A., J.D.

Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and SACSCOC Liaison
 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
 Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Compliance
 Abilene Christian University | ACU Box 29004 | Abilene, Texas 79699
 p. 325-674-2918 | f. 325-674-4831

Relator | Connectedness | Learner | Focus | Restorative

Required Courses (3-4)	PLAW 310 - Legal Studies Seminar (1) (F) PLAW 320 - Legal Studies Internship (2-3) (F, S, S) (See descriptions below)
Critical Analysis Menu (3)	PHIL 275 - Introductory Logic and Critical Thinking (3) (F, even) POLS 341 - American Public Policy (3) (F, odd) POLS 492 - American Political Thought (3) (F, odd) POLS 493 - Topics in Contemporary Political Thought (3) (S, even)
Professional Skills and Ethics Menu (3)	ACCT 210 - Financial Accounting (3) (F, S, S) ENGL 326 - Business and Professional Writing (3) (F, S, S) COMM 343 - Business and Professional Communication (3) (S) COMM 475 - Persuasion (3) (S) PHIL 486 - Ethics (3) (S)
Communication and Collaboration Menu (3)	COMM 310 - Civil Discourse (3) (F) COMM 430 - Conflict Management (3) (F, S, S) PSYC 305 - Peacemaking (3) (F, odd) POLS 393 - Peace, Power, and Politics (3) (S, even)
Promotion of Justice Menu	SOCW 329 - Diversity, Power, and Oppression (3) (S) PHIL 451 - Philosophy and Social Justice (3) (F, even)

(3)	HIST 455 - Social and Ethical History in US (3) (S, odd) SOCI 480 - Inequality and Social Justice (3) (Fall, alternating)
Legal Knowledge Menu (3)	POLS 384 - American Judicial Process (3) (F, odd) POLC 320 - Criminal Law (3) (F, even) BLAW 363 - Legal Environment of Business (3) (F, S) BLAW 461 - Business Law II (3) (F) POLS 431 - Constitutional Law: Powers (3) (F, even) POLS 432 - Constitutional Law: Rights (3) (S, odd)

New courses:

PLAW 310 - Legal Studies Seminar (1) - Introduces students with an interest in a legal career to the field of law, with a focus on the practicality of the law school application process; overview of legal practice in the United States; and Christian perspectives on the realities of practicing law. Junior standing required.

PLAW 320 - Legal Studies Internship (2-3) - A supervised on-the-job learning experience within an approved work setting relevant to academic and career goals under mentorship of faculty attorneys. Junior standing required.

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Kelly Elliott <kelly.elliott@acu.edu>
To: Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:15 PM

Hi, Chris,

The name of our HIST 455 course is Social and Ethnic History in the U.S., not Ethical. Not sure if that will change your desire to include the course, but wanted to make sure you have the correct info. This is a great class taught by Tracy Shilcutt and it does fit the themes you seem to have going here. A couple of others that might also fit the bill are HIST 330 African-American History and HIST 334 Historical Perspectives on Gender and Sexualities.

Sounds like a very useful minor!

Kelly

On Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:11 PM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:
Good afternoon.

Andy Little and I have developed a proposal for a new Legal Studies Minor consisting of the following courses, which include options related to taking a course in your department.

I would like to know if you can support including your course(s) as a part of this minor as well as any general feedback that you have as we prepare to submit the proposal this fall.

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New courses:

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PLAW 320 - Legal Studies Internship (2-3) - A supervised on-the-job learning experience within an approved work setting relevant to academic and career goals under mentorship of faculty attorneys. Junior standing required.

Chris Riley, M.P.A., J.D.

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Relator | Connectedness | Learner | Focus | Restorative

--

Dr. Kelly Elliott
 Associate Professor
 Department Chair, History and Global Studies
 Abilene Christian University

John Neill III <jdn00b@acu.edu>
 To: Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:19 PM

Chris,
 The accounting and finance department can support this new minor. We have sufficient capacity in ACCT 210 to include students from this minor.
 John Neill
 Chair, Department of Accounting and Finance
 ACU

On Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:11 PM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:

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Andy Little and I have developed a proposal for a new Legal Studies Minor consisting of the following courses, which include options related to taking a course in your department.

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Professional Skills and	ACCT 210 - Financial Accounting (3) (F, S, S)

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p. 325-674-2918 | f. 325-674-4831

Relator | Connectedness | Learner | Focus | Restorative

Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
To: Kelly Elliott <kelly.elliott@acu.edu>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:24 PM

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Dr. Kelly Elliott
Associate Professor
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Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
To: John Neill III <jdn00b@acu.edu>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:24 PM

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On Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:19 PM John Neill III <jdn00b@acu.edu> wrote:

Chris,

The accounting and finance department can support this new minor. We have sufficient capacity in ACCT 210 to include students from this minor.

John Neill

Chair, Department of Accounting and Finance
ACU

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To: Kelly Elliott <kelly.elliott@acu.edu>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:30 PM

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 To: Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

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Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
To: Kelly Elliott <kelly.elliott@acu.edu>

Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:49 PM

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Lynette Sharp Peña <penyal@acu.edu>
 To: Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 8:39 AM

Hi, Chris.

This minor is a fabulous idea! I definitely would've wanted to do this as an undergraduate.

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2. Communication and Collaboration Menu (Maybe Professional Skills and Ethics):

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Blessings,
Lynette

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Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
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Abilene Christian University | ACU Box 29004 | Abilene, Texas 79699
p. 325-674-2918 | f. 325-674-4831

Relator | Connectedness | Learner | Focus | Restorative

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Lynette Sharp Penya, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication
Chair, Department of Communication & Sociology
Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 28156
Abilene, TX 79699-28156

Office: 325-674-2136
Email: penyal@acu.edu



2 attachments

Small Group Syllabus Summer 2020 online.pdf

215K

**Crisis Communication Syllabus Fall 2019.pdf**
206K

Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
To: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>

Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 8:57 AM

Thanks for the feedback! Very helpful.

Chris Riley, M.P.A., J.D.

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Tom Winter <wintert@acu.edu>
To: Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 11:40 AM

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Thomas L. Winter, EdD
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 325.260.8387 (Cell)

Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
 To: Tom Winter <wintert@acu.edu>

Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 3:30 PM

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325.260.8387 (Cell)

Tom Winter <wintert@acu.edu>
To: Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

Thu, Aug 6, 2020 at 12:48 PM

Chris:

Why is Social Welfare Policies and Services (SOCW 441) not in the critical analysis menu? The course includes a policy analysis requirement. The course also tends to have more room than does the Diversity course.

Just a thought. I'll probably have more as the faculty look this over (some of our students use social work as a pre-law major with the anticipation of working in the field of advocacy in their careers).

Tom

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Mikee Delony <mxd06b@acu.edu>
To: Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

Thu, Aug 6, 2020 at 1:12 PM

Hi Chris,

Language and Literature supports including Business and Professional Writing in the Legal Studies Minor.

Best,
Mikee

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Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Compliance
Abilene Christian University | ACU Box 29004 | Abilene, Texas 79699
p. 325-674-2918 | f. 325-674-4831

Relator | Connectedness | Learner | Focus | Restorative

Required Courses (3-4)	PLAW 310 - Legal Studies Seminar (1) (F) PLAW 320 - Legal Studies Internship (2-3) (F, S, S) (See descriptions below)
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Mikee Delony, PhD
 Chair, Department of Language and Literature
 Professor of English
 Culp Distinguished Professor of English 2014-17
 Co-Sponsor- Alpha Chi National Honor Society
 Abilene Christian University
 Box 28252
 Abilene, TX 79699

Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
 To: Mikee Delony <mxd06b@acu.edu>

Thu, Aug 6, 2020 at 1:15 PM

Thank you!

Chris Riley, M.P.A., J.D.

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 Abilene Christian University | ACU Box 29004 | Abilene, Texas 79699
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On Thu, Aug 6, 2020 at 1:12 PM Mikee Delony <mxd06b@acu.edu> wrote:

Hi Chris,

Language and Literature supports including Business and Professional Writing in the Legal Studies Minor.

Best,
 Mikee

On Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:11 PM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:

Good afternoon.

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Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
 To: Tom Winter <wintert@acu.edu>

Thu, Aug 6, 2020 at 1:27 PM

Based on Dr. Hailey's advice, I've moved away from policy in that section by removing POLS 341 - American Public Policy.

Now, that menu focuses on theory and philosophy exclusively:

PHIL 275 - Introductory Logic and Critical Thinking (3) (F, even)
 PHIL 380 - Intro to Philosophy (3) (F, even)
 POLS 490 - Early Political Thought (F, even)
 POLS 491 - Recent Political Thought (S, odd)
 POLS 492 - American Political Thought (3) (F, odd)

So, for the same reasons, I suspect he would not be in favor of SOCW 441.

Thanks for the continued feedback. I look forward to hearing more from the review of others.

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On Thu, Aug 6, 2020 at 12:48 PM Tom Winter <wintert@acu.edu> wrote:
 Chris:

Why is Social Welfare Policies and Services (SOCW 441) not in the critical analysis menu? The course includes a policy analysis requirement. The course also tends to have more room than does the Diversity course.

Just a thought. I'll probably have more as the faculty look this over (some of our students use social work as a pre-law major with the anticipation of working in the field of advocacy in their careers).

Tom

On Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 3:30 PM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:

Thanks for your response. We expect to maybe have 20-30 students in the minor at a time based on current numbers. The fact that this is one option on a menu makes me feel that a handful of students would likely suffice.

While the minor does not have learning outcomes per se, I've been guided by advice from Dr. Hailey and the following basic areas of knowledge that are helpful to a legal education and to the development of a competent lawyer per the ABA, which accredits law schools"

- A broad understanding of history, including the various factors (**social, political, economic, and cultural**) that have influenced the development of our society in the United States.
- A fundamental understanding of political thought and of the contemporary American political system.
- Some basic mathematical and financial skills, such as an understanding of basic pre-calculus mathematics and an ability to analyze financial data.
- A basic understanding of human behavior and **social interaction**.

- **An understanding of diverse cultures within and beyond the United States**, of international institutions and issues, of world events, and of the increasing interdependence of the nations and communities within our world.

They also identify helpful skills including the "Promotion of Justice," which states, "Each member of the legal profession should be dedicated both to the objectives of serving others honestly, competently, and responsibly, and to the goals of improving fairness and the quality of justice in the legal system."

Thanks again!

Chris Riley, M.P.A., J.D.

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On Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 11:40 AM Tom Winter <wintert@acu.edu> wrote:
Chris:

Our SOCW 329 typically maxes out two sections of about 35 each. We toy with different ways to offer it--one section for majors, one for non-majors, but usually have a mix to assure exposure to diversity of views (odd as it sounds?). If you expect this to have more than a handful of students, we might be pressed to accommodate them, as we are pretty maxed out with our faculty.

What are the competencies that the minor would target? And how would they be measured? This would be helpful to me to determine if the course even looks like it is a good fit.

Keep me in the loop. Want to help if we can.

Tom

On Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:11 PM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:
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Thomas L. Winter, EdD
Director, School of Social Work

Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 27866
Abilene, Texas 79699
325.674.2072
325.260.8387 (Cell)

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Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
To: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>

Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at 11:42 AM

What about COMM 322 - Discussion, Dissent, and Debate. Thinking of adding that as well? Is that limited to Debate Team members?

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On Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 8:57 AM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:
Thanks for the feedback! Very helpful.

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On Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 8:39 AM Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu> wrote:
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I think the communication and sociology courses are a really good fit. I will note that conflict management is required by both Kinesiology and one of the concentrations in our department, so there may not be many seats available in this course even though we teach it three times a year. You may want to consider adding "Crisis Management in Organizations" to that menu. There should be seats in one or the other course. You may want to consider adding the following courses:

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Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Blessings,
Lynette

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Lynette Sharp Penya, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication
Chair, Department of Communication & Sociology
Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 28156
Abilene, TX 79699-28156

Office: 325-674-2136
Email: penyal@acu.edu



To: Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

That is a fabulous idea! Sorry I did not suggest that. I should have. It is open to all majors. I believe COMM 211 is a prerequisite.

Lynette Sharp Penya, Ph.D.
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Relator | Connectedness | Learner | Focus | Restorative

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Lynette Sharp Penya, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication
Chair, Department of Communication & Sociology
Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 28156
Abilene, TX 79699-28156

Office: 325-674-2136
Email: penyal@acu.edu



Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
To: Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu>

Tue, Aug 11, 2020 at 8:47 AM

Thanks!

Chris Riley, M.P.A., J.D.

Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and SACSCOC Liaison
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On Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at 12:48 PM Lynette Sharp Penya <penyal@acu.edu> wrote:

That is a fabulous idea! Sorry I did not suggest that. I should have. It is open to all majors. I believe COMM 211 is a prerequisite.

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On Aug 10, 2020, at 11:42 AM, Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:

What about COMM 322 - Discussion, Dissent, and Debate. Thinking of adding that as well? Is that limited to Debate Team members?

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On Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 8:57 AM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:

Thanks for the feedback! Very helpful.

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On Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 8:39 AM Lynette Sharp Peña <penyal@acu.edu> wrote:
Hi, Chris.

This minor is a fabulous idea! I definitely would've wanted to do this as an undergraduate.

I think the communication and sociology courses are a really good fit. I will note that conflict management is required by both Kinesiology and one of the concentrations in our department, so there may not be many seats available in this course even though we teach it three times a year. You may want to consider adding "Crisis Management in Organizations" to that menu. There should be seats in one or the other course. You may want to consider adding the following courses:

1. Promotion of Justice Menu:
 - SOCI 460: Ethics and Social Issues -- An attempt to help students reach a higher critical and reflective consciousness of the relationship of ethics to professional and business decision making and problem solving (catalog description, currently taught only in Spring). Vic McCracken teaches this course. If you want a recent syllabus, I can get one for you.
2. Communication and Collaboration Menu (Maybe Professional Skills and Ethics):
 - COMM 231: Small Group Communication -- Training in the principles and practices of small group communication including practice with learning situations and problem-solving situations (catalog description). I've attached my most recent syllabus for this course. The course is taught in Fall, Spring, and Summer and fills the social science requirement. This course helps students understand the dynamics of small groups, how to create more effective small groups, and how to communicate more effectively in small groups. This would be useful when attorneys work with groups in their practice.
 - COMM 408: Crisis Management in Organizations -- Examines the theory and practice of crisis management in organizations from both social science and rhetorical perspectives. Using a case study approach and best practices for crisis management, students explore how to use communication to prevent, mitigate, and learn from crises in a way that benefits both organizations and stakeholders (catalog description, Fall only course). I've attached the most recent syllabus for this course. This may be useful for attorneys when they need to work with risk management or in reviewing/crafting messages both during and after a crisis. It would also give students an alternative to the legal perspective in assisting them in understanding stakeholder needs and public relations practitioners' practices.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Blessings,
Lynette

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Tom

On Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 3:30 PM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:

Thanks for your response. We expect to maybe have 20-30 students in the minor at a time based on current numbers. The fact that this is one option on a menu makes me feel that a handful of students would likely suffice.

While the minor does not have learning outcomes per se, I've been guided by advice from Dr. Hailey and the following basic areas of knowledge that are helpful to a legal education and to the development of a competent lawyer per the ABA, which accredits law schools"

- A broad understanding of history, including the various factors (**social, political, economic, and cultural**) that have influenced the development of our society in the United States.
- A fundamental understanding of political thought and of the contemporary American political system.
- Some basic mathematical and financial skills, such as an understanding of basic pre-calculus mathematics and an ability to analyze financial data.
- A basic understanding of human behavior and **social interaction**.
- **An understanding of diverse cultures within and beyond the United States**, of international institutions and issues, of world events, and of the increasing interdependence of the nations and communities within our world.

They also identify helpful skills including the "Promotion of Justice," which states, "Each member of the legal profession should be dedicated both to the objectives of serving others honestly, competently, and responsibly, and to the goals of improving fairness and the quality of justice in the legal system."

Thanks again!

Chris Riley, M.P.A., J.D.

Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and SACSCOC Liaison
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Compliance
Abilene Christian University | ACU Box 29004 | Abilene, Texas 79699
p. 325-674-2918 | f. 325-674-4831

Relator | Connectedness | Learner | Focus | Restorative

On Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 11:40 AM Tom Winter <wintert@acu.edu> wrote:
Chris:

Our SOCW 329 typically maxes out two sections of about 35 each. We toy with different ways to offer it-- one section for majors, one for non-majors, but usually have a mix to assure exposure to diversity of views (odd as it sounds?). If you expect this to have more than a handful of students, we might be pressed to accommodate them, as we are pretty maxed out with our faculty.

What are the competencies that the minor would target? And how would they be measured? This would be helpful to me to determine if the course even looks like it is a good fit.

Keep me in the loop. Want to help if we can.

Tom

On Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:11 PM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:

Good afternoon.

Andy Little and I have developed a proposal for a new Legal Studies Minor consisting of the following courses, which include options related to taking a course in your department.

I would like to know if you can support including your course(s) as a part of this minor as well as any general feedback that you have as we prepare to submit the proposal this fall.

Please respond to me individually to avoid unnecessary emails to the group.

Thank you!

Chris Riley, M.P.A., J.D.

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Required Courses (3-4)	PLAW 310 - Legal Studies Seminar (1) (F) PLAW 320 - Legal Studies Internship (2-3) (F, S, S) (See descriptions below)
Critical Analysis Menu (3)	PHIL 275 - Introductory Logic and Critical Thinking (3) (F, even) POLS 341 - American Public Policy (3) (F, odd) POLS 492 - American Political Thought (3) (F, odd) POLS 493 - Topics in Contemporary Political Thought (3) (S, even)
Professional Skills and Ethics Menu (3)	ACCT 210 - Financial Accounting (3) (F, S, S) ENGL 326 - Business and Professional Writing (3) (F, S, S) COMM 343 - Business and Professional Communication (3) (S) COMM 475 - Persuasion (3) (S) PHIL 486 - Ethics (3) (S)
Communication and Collaboration Menu (3)	COMM 310 - Civil Discourse (3) (F) COMM 430 - Conflict Management (3) (F, S, S) PSYC 305 - Peacemaking (3) (F, odd) POLS 393 - Peace, Power, and Politics (3) (S, even)
Promotion of Justice Menu (3)	SOCW 329 - Diversity, Power, and Oppression (3) (S) PHIL 451 - Philosophy and Social Justice (3) (F, even) HIST 455 - Social and Ethical History in US (3) (S, odd) SOCI 480 - Inequality and Social Justice (3) (Fall, alternating)
Legal Knowledge Menu (3)	POLS 384 - American Judicial Process (3) (F, odd) POLC 320 - Criminal Law (3) (F, even) BLAW 363 - Legal Environment of Business (3) (F, S) BLAW 461 - Business Law II (3) (F) POLS 431 - Constitutional Law: Powers (3) (F, even) POLS 432 - Constitutional Law: Rights (3) (S, odd)

New courses:

PLAW 310 - Legal Studies Seminar (1) - Introduces students with an interest in a legal career to the field of law, with a focus on the practicality of the law school application process; overview of legal practice in the United States; and Christian perspectives on the realities of practicing law. Junior standing required.

PLAW 320 - Legal Studies Internship (2-3) - A supervised on-the-job learning experience within an approved work setting relevant to academic and career goals under mentorship of faculty attorneys. Junior standing required.

Chris Riley, M.P.A., J.D.

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Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Compliance
Abilene Christian University | ACU Box 29004 | Abilene, Texas 79699
p. 325-674-2918 | f. 325-674-4831

Relator | Connectedness | Learner | Focus | Restorative

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Thomas L. Winter, EdD
Director, School of Social Work
Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 27866
Abilene, Texas 79699
325.674.2072
325.260.8387 (Cell)

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Director, School of Social Work
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Abilene, Texas 79699
325.674.2072
325.260.8387 (Cell)



Chris Riley <cmr97t@acu.edu>

Follow Up

Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>
To: Chris Riley <Chris.Riley@acu.edu>

Thu, Sep 24, 2020 at 10:49 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Neal Coates** <coatesn@acu.edu>
Date: Wed, Sep 23, 2020 at 2:15 PM
Subject: Re: Follow Up
To: Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu>

I support the proposed Legal Studies minor.

Thank you, Neal Coates, Chair, Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice

On Wed, Sep 23, 2020 at 12:31 PM Chris Riley <chris.riley@acu.edu> wrote:

I know that I received your verbal support for the Legal Studies Minor, but I also need written proof of your support for the application.

[Quoted text hidden]

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 23, 2020
TO: Chris Riley
FROM: Mark McCallon, Associate Dean for Library Information Services
RE: New Application for Minor in Legal Studies

The library has examined the application for the new minor and is able to support the proposed minor based on the courses offered and the overview of the new courses. Please contact Laura Baker, Liaison for Political Science and Criminal Justice, for additional resources to support the minor. Thank you for letting us review the new minor application.