

Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I = Information Item R = Respond In Writing

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

Since its introduction in 22-23, the Legal Studies Minor has grown to over 50 current students. At the four-year mark, a refresh was due, which included talking to upperclassmen and relevant Academic Advisors early this semester. These changes also allow for the development of a year-to-year pathway to best support students in their law school application process, including the transition to law school, which is currently lacking. These changes also include new course additions to the thematic menus that I hope will encourage more minors.

Minor Requirements

- ~~● PLAW 301 - Legal Studies Externship Credit Hours: 2~~
- PLAW 210 - Legal Studies Externship Credit Hours: 1
- PLAW 310 - Legal Studies Seminar Credit Hours: 1
- PLAW 410 - Legal Studies Launch Credit Hours: 1

Choose 3 hours of Critical Reasoning and Ethics from:

- PHIL 275 - Introductory Logic and Critical Thinking Credit Hours: 3
- PHIL 380 - Introduction to Philosophy Credit Hours: 3
- GOVT 490 - Ancient Political Theory Credit Hours: 3
- GOVT 491 - Modern Political Theory Credit Hours: 3
- GOVT 492 - American Political Thought Credit Hours: 3
- PHIL/BIBP 486 - Ethics Credit Hours: 3
- PHIL/BIBP 352 - Biomedical Ethics Credit Hours: 3
- BIBT 460 - Ethics and Social Issues Credit Hours: 3
- BIBT 470 - Christian Ethics Credit Hours: 3
- GOVT 493 - Contemporary Political Theory Credit Hours: 3

Choose 3 hours of Professional Skills ~~and Ethics~~ from:

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- ACCT 210 - Financial Accounting Credit Hours: 3
 - ENGL 326 - Business and Professional Writing Credit Hours: 3
 - COMM 343 - Business and Professional Communication Credit Hours: 3
 - COMM 475 - Persuasion Credit Hours: 3
 - ~~PHIL 486 - Ethics Credit Hours: 3~~
 - ENGL 329 - Rhetoric as Written Discourse Credit Hour 3

Choose 3 hours of Communication and Collaboration from:

- COMM 310 - Civil Discourse Credit Hours: 3
- COMM 322 - Argumentation and Debate Credit Hours: 3
- COMM 408 - Crisis Communication Credit Hours: 3
- COMM 430 - Conflict Management Credit Hours: 3
- PSYC 305 - Peacemaking Credit Hours: 3
- GOVT 393 - Peace, Power, and Politics Credit Hours 3

Choose 3 hours of Promotion of Justice from:

- SOCW 329 - Diversity, Equity, and Belonging in Practice Credit Hours: 3
- HIST 330 - African American History from Emancipation to Civil Rights Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 460 - Ethics and Social Issues Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 480 - Inequality and Social Justice Credit Hours: 3
- SOCW 245 - Foundations of Economic and Social Justice Credit Hours 3
- ENGL 328 - Social Justice: A Rhetoric Credit Hours 3
- PHIL 451 - Philosophy and Social Justice Credit Hours 3
- BMIS 391 - Service in Global Context Credit Hours 3
- BUSA 438 - International Poverty and Development Credit Hours 3
- GOVT 432 - Con Law: Civil Rights Credit Hours 3

Choose 3 hours of Legal Knowledge from:

- GOVT 384 - American Judicial Process Credit Hours: 3
- GOVT 431 - Constitutional Law: Powers Credit Hours: 3
- GOVT 432 - Constitutional Law: Civil Rights Credit Hours: 3
- BLAW 363 - Introduction to Business Law and Ethics Credit Hours: 3
- BLAW 461 - Business Law II Credit Hours: 3
- CRIM 320 - Criminal Law Credit Hours: 3
- BLAW 365 - Law and Entrepreneurship Credit Hours: 3
- GOVT 484 - International Law and Organizations Credit Hours: 3
- JMC 488 - Communication Law Credit Hours: 3
- MGMT 375 - Employee and Labor Relations Credit Hours: 3

Total: 18 Credit Hours

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TBC	AUAC/Grad	Provost
	Campus-Level Academic Review¹						
	Change to a Course Include signatures from all chairs/program directors for cross-listed courses. ¹						
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 (change of course outcomes)	A	A	A	I	I	A
5.	Number of credit hours	A	A	A	A	A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I	I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A	A	A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I	I	I
9.	Course restriction (e.g., majors only, junior standing)	A	A	A	A	A	A
10.	Level change (U to G or G to U)	A	A	A	A	A	A
11.	Cross list course	A	A	A	A	A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A	A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A	A	A
	Change to a Degree Plan						
14.	Educational Program — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A

15.	Educational Program — Adopt/revise admission requirements	A	A	A	A	A	A
16.	GPA — Revise program-required GPA	A	A	A	A	A	A
17.	Minor — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TEC	AUAC/Grad	Provost	Campus Faculty	Senior VPAA	President
	Full Review									
	Change to Catalog Information (for Campus)									
18.	General requirements for Bachelor's and Associate Degrees	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
19.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
20.	Requirements for graduating with honors	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
	Change to a Degree Plan									
21.	Educational Program — Add or Discontinue ²³	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
22.	Educational Program — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I
23.	Minor — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
24.	Minor — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	-	A	I
25.	Degree — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
26.	Degree — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I

		Dept./School	College	Dean	AUAC	Provost	UGEC	University Faculty	Senior VPAA	President
	Change to General Education Requirements for Undergraduates (System)									
27.	Change course outcomes of an included course	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
28.	Add or drop a required course from the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	A	A	I
29.	Add or drop a course from a menu within the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	-	A	I
30.	Comprehensive revision of General Education Requirements	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I

Notes

² Any change to a cross-listed course requires the signature of both department chairs or program directors overseeing the course to ensure that the courses stay in sync. This includes courses taught at other campuses (e.g. BIBL 101 and BIBO 101).

must include a minimum of 30 hours, and doctoral programs must include a minimum of 30 hours beyond the master's.

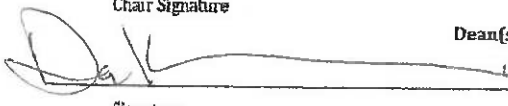
* When a department/school or dean proposes closing a program, approval routing follows the typical process beginning with the department/school. An administrative proposal by the provost or senior vice president for academic affairs would follow the "provost-proposed" routing on the chart.

Updated 8/1/2023

 Department/School(s) 3/6/26
Chair Signature Date

Chair/Program Director Signature Date

 College Academic Council(s) 3/20/26
Chair Signature Date

Chair Signature Date
 Dean(s) 3/20/26
Signature Date

Signature Date

Teacher Education Council

Signature Date

Campus Academic Council:
Abilene Undergraduate or Abilene Graduate

Signature Date

Provost

Signature Date

Signature

Date

University General Education Council

Signature

Date

University Faculty

Abilene Faculty Senate Chair signature

Date

Dallas Faculty Council Chair signature

Date

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Signature

Date

President

Signature

Date



Chris Riley <cmr97t@acu.edu>

Document shared with you: "LSM Minor Change - bilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes"

Kenneth Pybus <kenneth.pybus@acu.edu>
To: Chris Riley <cmr97t@acu.edu>

Tue, Feb 10, 2026 at 4:52 PM

I support the inclusion of JMC 488 Communication Law. Note the singular "Communication" in the name.

Kenneth R. Pybus, J.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication
Abilene Christian University
ACU Box 27892
Abilene, Texas 79699
325-674-2553
[Quoted text hidden]



Chris Riley <cmr97t@acu.edu>

LSM Minor Change ... - We are excited you want to include th...

Rachel Slaymaker <rxw99a@acu.edu>
To: Chris Riley <cmr97t@acu.edu>

Tue, Feb 24, 2026 at 8:55 AM

Chris,

Thanks for the opportunity to include SOCW 245 in the Legal Studies Minor and look forward to having your students in the course.

Thanks again,

Rachel

On Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 2:22 PM Chris Riley (Google Docs) <comments-noreply@docs.google.com> wrote:

Chris Riley (cmr97t@acu.edu) mentioned you in a comment in the following document

LSM Minor Change - Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

1 comment

SOCW 245 - Foundations of Economic and Social Justice Credit Hours



Rachel Slaymaker • 5:05 PM, Feb 10 (CST)

We are excited you want to include this new course! I'm tagging @sjh05e@acu.edu so she is aware. Thanks!



Chris Riley • 1:08 PM, Feb 11 (CST)

Thanks!



Dana Kennamer • 5:48 PM, Feb 18 (CST)

Can we get an email of support from Rachel? that will be easier to document for AUAC

Chris Riley • 2:17 PM, Feb 23 (CST) **New**

@rxw99a@acu.edu, can you please send me an email saying this same thing for records purposes? Thanks!

[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are mentioned in this thread by Chris Riley (cmr97t@acu.edu). [Change what Google sends you](#). You can reply to this email to reply to the discussion.

Google™



Dana Kennamer <dlk20b@acu.edu>

Legal Studies Minor: ENGL 326

1 message

Cole Bennett <cole.bennett@acu.edu>

Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 5:51 PM

To: Chris Riley <cmr97t@acu.edu>, Dana Kennamer <dana.kennamer@acu.edu>

The Department of Language and Literature is happy and willing to accommodate additional students in our ENGL 326 sections as a result of its inclusion on the Legal Studies Minor degree plan.

CB

B. Cole Bennett, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Dept. of Language and Literature

Director, ACU Writing Center

Director, Writing Across the Curriculum

Abilene Christian University

325.674.2406



Cliff Barbarick

12:57 PM Feb 11

We sometimes struggle to have the instructors to offer this course, but we should be able to support its inclusion on a large menu like this.



Chris Riley

1:08 PM Feb 11

Thanks!