INTERDISCIPLINARY LEGAL STUDIES MINOR

In Workflow

1. CRJ Committee Chair (cihan@csus.edu)
2. CRJ Chair (croisdale@csus.edu)
3. HHS College Committee Chair (irwin.thompson@csus.edu)
4. HHS Dean (patterson@csus.edu)
5. Academic Services (catalog@csus.edu)
6. Senate Curriculum Subcommittee Chair (curriculum@csus.edu)
7. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair (kathy.honeychurch@csus.edu)
8. Faculty Senate Chair (kathy.honeychurch@csus.edu)
9. Dean of Undergraduate (gardner@csus.edu)
10. Provost (maguirem@csus.edu)
11. President (khtudor@csus.edu)
12. Catalog Editor (catalog@csus.edu)
13. Registrar's Office (k.mcfarland@csus.edu)

Approval Path

1. 2026-10-14T19:43:49Z
   Abdullah Cihan (cihan): Approved for CRJ Committee Chair
2. 2026-10-15T17:57:37Z
   Tim Croisdale (croisdale): Approved for CRJ Chair
3. 2026-10-20T23:07:46Z
   Scott Thompson (irwin.thompson): Rollback to Initiator
4. 2026-10-20T23:35:58Z
   Abdullah Cihan (cihan): Approved for CRJ Committee Chair
5. 2026-10-21T00:35:04Z
   Tim Croisdale (croisdale): Approved for CRJ Chair
6. 2026-10-21T13:02:26Z
   Scott Thompson (irwin.thompson): Approved for HHS College Committee Chair
7. 2026-10-23T00:15:52Z
   Aishah Patterson (patterson): Approved for HHS Dean

New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 2026-10-20T23:14:29Z

Viewing: Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Minor

Last edit: 2026-10-20T23:14:28Z

Changes proposed by: Jennifer Noble (102079040)

Academic Group: (College)

Health & Human Services

Academic Organization: (Department)

Criminal Justice

Catalog Year Effective:

2027-2028 Catalog

NOTE: This degree major program will be subject to program review evaluation within six years after implementation.

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Jennifer Noble	noble@csus.edu	916-296-2979

Program Snapshot

Type of Program:
Minor

Title of the Program:
Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Minor

Designation: (degree terminology)
Minor

Delivery Mode:
Fully Face to Face

Support Mode:
State Support

Please see the CSU/CIP Code Crosswalk: https://www.csus.edu/academic-affairs/curriculum-workflow/_internal/_documents/csu_codes_to_cip.pdf

Is this a pilot program?
No

Will this program require accreditation?
No

Provide a clear, concise overview of the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification. For NEW programs describe the purpose and focus of the program, identify the target student population(s), and highlight key strengths and distinguishing features of the program.
The Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Minor creates a multi-disciplinary minor for students interested in law and legal careers. The minor will provide students with a structured, interdisciplinary exploration of law, legal institutions, and the role of law in society. The proposed minor was created in close collaboration with the History Department, and draws on coursework from Criminal Justice, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Communication Studies, Business, and Environmental Studies. The minor approaches law as a social institution, an intellectual tradition, and a mechanism for justice, governance, and public policy. The curriculum is intended to develop students' skills in legal reasoning and critical analysis while encouraging consideration of the ethical dimensions of law across a range of contexts, including criminal and constitutional law, civil rights, business, and environmental policy.

The minor is intended primarily for students considering law school or careers in legal and law-related fields, including public service and public policy. It will also serve students whose academic or professional interests would benefit from a broader understanding of law and legal institutions, regardless of whether they intend to pursue a law degree. In particular, the minor will provide an academic pathway for students in STEM, business, the humanities, and other majors that may not otherwise include significant opportunities to study law or legal institutions. Because law schools do not require a particular undergraduate major, students pursue legal education from a wide range of academic backgrounds. The minor will allow these students to maintain their primary fields of study while adding a program of law-related coursework that complements their majors and prepares them to engage with legal issues relevant to their academic and professional interests.

A key strength of the program is its interdisciplinary structure. Rather than approaching law exclusively through the perspective of a single academic discipline, the minor will expose students to different methods of analyzing legal rules, institutions, and problems. Students will be able to examine the historical and philosophical foundations of law, the relationship between law and political and social institutions, and the application of law in areas such as criminal justice, civil rights, business, and environmental policy. This breadth will allow students to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the legal system while selecting coursework that reflects their individual academic and career interests. It also distinguishes the minor from discipline-specific programs by creating opportunities for students from across the university to examine legal questions through multiple disciplinary perspectives.

The minor will also provide an academic pathway for the university's growing population of students interested in law school and legal careers. Establishing the minor will make it easier to identify these students and connect them with pre-law advising, programming, and other resources that can support their preparation for law school and related careers. This may be particularly valuable for students in majors without established pre-law advising structures, who may otherwise have fewer opportunities to connect with faculty, peers, and university resources related to legal education and careers. The interdisciplinary structure of the

minor will also strengthen collaboration among departments offering law-related coursework and among faculty engaged in pre-law advising, creating a more coordinated network of academic and advising resources for students.

Finally, the program builds on resources already available at the university. Because the minor draws entirely from existing courses offered across participating departments, it can provide students with an interdisciplinary program of study without requiring the creation of new courses or generating additional budgetary costs.

University Learning Goals

Undergraduate Learning Goals:

Competence in the disciplines
Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world
Intellectual and practical skills
Personal and social responsibility
Integrative learning

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Curriculum Alignment and Assessment

Program Goals

Provide a brief statement of the program's overarching goals and priorities: • Describe the program’s mission, focus, and intended impact on students. • Identify broad areas of emphasis (e.g., career preparation, research, community engagement, leadership development). • Goals may be aspirational or developmental and do not need to be directly measurable.

Program Goals Statement

The overarching goal of the Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Minor is to provide students with a coherent, interdisciplinary foundation for understanding law, legal institutions, and the role of law in society. The program’s mission is to bring together law-related coursework from across the university to develop students’ abilities to analyze legal systems within their historical, cultural, political, and social contexts; interpret laws, judicial opinions, and constitutional provisions using critical reasoning; and examine the relationships among law, power, justice, and diverse communities. Through these multiple disciplinary perspectives, students will gain a broader understanding of both the foundations of legal systems and the ways in which law shapes, and is shaped by, social institutions and communities.

The minor is intended to serve students considering law school and legal careers, as well as students whose academic or professional interests would benefit from greater knowledge of law and legal institutions. A particular priority is providing an accessible legal studies pathway for students in STEM, business, the humanities, and other majors that may offer fewer opportunities for law-related study. The program is designed to complement students’ primary fields of study and enable them to connect legal concepts and methods of analysis to issues within their own academic, professional, and civic interests.

Broad areas of emphasis include the historical and cultural development of legal systems; legal reasoning and the interpretation of legal authorities; the relationships among law, power, justice, and diverse communities; and the application of legal concepts to contemporary problems in areas such as public policy, business, criminal justice, civil rights, and the environment. The program also emphasizes effective written and oral communication about legal and ethical issues, providing students with opportunities to develop skills that are transferable across academic, professional, and civic settings.

Career preparation is an important component of the minor. By strengthening students’ abilities to analyze complex problems, interpret authoritative texts, evaluate competing perspectives, apply legal concepts, and communicate effectively, the program will provide preparation for law school as well as careers in public service, public policy, business, advocacy, government, and other fields in which legal knowledge and analytical skills are valuable. The minor will also help connect students with pre-law advising, faculty expertise, and other university resources that support their academic and professional development.

Program Learning Outcomes

Provide measurable, program-specific learning outcomes that reflect the most important competencies students will demonstrate upon completion of the program. Programs are expected to assess and use PLOs for continuous improvement.

Program Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome
1. Analyze the development and structure of legal systems within historical and cultural contexts.
2. Interpret laws, judicial opinions, and constitutional provisions using critical reasoning.
3. Evaluate the intersections of law, power, and justice across diverse communities.

4. Apply legal concepts to policy, business, and environmental problems.
5. Communicate effectively about legal and ethical issues in written and oral form.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5

Please attach a Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan

ILS Minor Assessment Plan.docx

Please attach a Curriculum Map Matrix

Curriculum Map Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Minor.pdf

Please attach a Five-Year Budget Projection. For NEW programs, also attach a Budget Narrative.

Budget Impact Statement Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Minor.docx

Please attach the updated roadmap:

Roadmap ILS Minor.docx

Catalog Description (catalog copy):

The Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Minor provides an exploration of law as a social institution, intellectual tradition, and mechanism for justice and policy. Students develop skills in legal reasoning, critical analysis, and the ethical dimensions of law across contexts, from criminal and constitutional law to business, environment, and civil rights.

Admission and Continuation Requirements (catalog copy): minimum GPA and prerequisites (if applicable), required coursework or preparation, portfolio, test scores, and/or letters of recommendation. For graduate programs: expectations for a relevant bachelor's degree (required or preferred disciplines, prerequisite knowledge, or equivalent experience), include evidence that program requirements conform to the minimum requirements for the culminating experience, as specified in Title 5 Section 40510 The Master's Degree and Section 40511 The Doctoral Degree.

Students seeking to declare an Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Minor must 1) have completed 45 units, 2) have declared a major, and 3) have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Program Requirements (catalog copy):

Units required for minor: 21; 6 units from core required classes, 15 units from list of electives. To count towards the minor, core required classes must be passed with a C or higher, and electives must be passed with a C- or higher.

Core Requirements (6 units):

CRJ 2 – Law of Crimes

HIST 180 / POLS 121 – American Legal History

Electives (15 units) – Choose from the list below. No more than 3 elective units may be taken at the lower-division level. No more than 6 elective units may be taken in any one discipline. No more than 3 elective units may be taken as an internship course.

COMS 152 – Freedom of Speech

COMS 153/JOUR 153 – Journalism Law and Ethics

CRJ 116 – Restorative Justice and Conflict Resolution

CRJ 121 – Structure and Function of American Courts

CRJ 125 – Law of Responsibility

CRJ 126 – Law of Evidence

CRJ 127 – Juvenile Law

CRJ 129A/B/C – Law School Readiness Series

CRJ 195 - Justice Epstein Sacramento County Superior Court Judicial Internship (summer only)

ENVS 128/POLS 128 – Environment and the Law

ENVS 165/HIST 165 – American Environmental History

FASH 148 – Fashion Law

HIST 151B – Founding Documents: American Democracy before 1800

HIST 151C – Slavery and the Constitution

HIST 165/ENVS 165 – American Environmental History

HIST 167B – Women and the Law in U.S. History

HIST 173 – The History of the Civil Rights Movement: From Reconstruction to Deconstruction, 1865-Present

HROB 153 – Employment Law

MGMT 10 – Introduction to Business Law
PHIL 60 – Deductive Logic I
PHIL 61 – Inductive Logic I
PHIL 102 – Professional and Public Service Ethics
PHIL 122 – Political Philosophy
PHIL 155 – Philosophy of Law
PHIL 195 – Internship
POLS 118 – Just War, National Rights, and the Law of Nations
POLS 120A – Constitutional Law
POLS 120B – Constitutional Rights and Liberties
POLS 122 – The Law and Bureaucracy
POLS 123 – Elements of Law
POLS 126 – Politics and Lawyers
POLS 127 – International Law
POLS 128/ENVS 128 – Environment and the Law
POLS 195 -- Internship
SOC 155 – Criminology
SOC 156 – Delinquency
SOC 157 – Issues in Courts and Prisons
SOC 158 – Sociology of Deviance
SOC 159 – Sociology of Law

Please attach the Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Overview ILS Minor.docx
ILS Consultation PoliSci PHIL SOC BUS HIST.pdf

Reviewer Comments:

Scott Thompson (irwin.thompson) (Tue, 20 Oct 2026 23:07:46 GMT): Rollback: Please include documentation of consultation with other departments

Key: 653