

SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES

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Law permeates every aspect of social life. Students who major or minor in socio-legal studies—an interdisciplinary program within the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences—focus on fascinating questions that strike at the heart of modern society: How does law operate in people's everyday lives? How do social institutions shape law? How are social institutions shaped by law? How does law empower and constrain individuals, groups, organizations and communities? Students majoring in socio-legal studies often pursue a legal career, but the issues addressed in the major are relevant to all fields of endeavor.

Socio-Legal Studies

Bachelor of Arts Major Requirements

(183 credits required for the degree (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/bachelorofarts>))

All students must take a minimum of 40 credits of coursework. To ensure a broad education, students majoring in Socio-Legal Studies must also complete a second major.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
PLSC 1810	Introduction to Law and Society	4
SOCI 2120	Methods of Socio-Legal Inquiry	4
SOCI 2755	Legal Actors and Institutions	4
Electives		
Remaining hours must be selected from the following approved electives (see internship option below) and topics courses approved by the director.		
Environmental Science		
ENVI 3000	Environmental Law	4
Media, Film and Journalism Studies		
MFJS 3040	Media Law	4
MFJS 3700	New Media Law & Regulation	4
Philosophy		
PHIL 2040	Practical Logic	4
PHIL 2150	Philosophy of Law	4
PHIL 2180	Ethics	4
PHIL 2184	Ethics, Individuals, & the Law	4
PHIL 2700	Biomedical Ethics	4
PHIL 3061	Kant's Ethics/Aesthetics/Politics	4
PHIL 3175	Morality and the Law	4
PHIL 3176	Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Law: Rights, Legal Institutions, and Justice	4
PHIL 3178	Metaethics	4
PHIL 3701	Topics in Philosophy	1-4
Political Science		
PLSC 2001	Law and Politics	4
PLSC 2700	Topics in Political Science	4
PLSC 2701	Topics in American Politics	4
PLSC 2820	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties	4
PLSC 2830	Judicial Politics	4
PLSC 2840	International Law & Human Rights	4
PLSC 2860	Constitutional Law: Governmental Structures and Powers	4

PLSC 2880	Taming Tyranny: How Constitutions Frame Freedom	4
Sociology		
SOCI 2250	Criminology	4
SOCI 2750	Sociology of Law	4
SOCI 2760	Discipline and Punishment	4
SOCI 2765	The Female Offender	4
SOCI 2770	Kids and Courts	4
SOCI 2775	Wrongful Conviction	4
SOCI 2780	Women and the Law	4
SOCI 2785	Family and the Law	4
SOCI 2790	Policing Society	4
SOCI 2795	Capital Punishment	4
SOCI 2820	Drugs and Society	4
Internships		
Student may complete pre-approved internships to fulfill up to 8 credits toward the major. Major and minor courses cannot be double counted.		
Total Credits		40

SECONDARY MAJOR

40 credits. Same requirements as for BA degree.

Minor Requirements

The minor requires 20 credits including one of the following: PLSC 1810 Introduction to Law and Society, SOCI 2120 Methods of Socio-Legal Inquiry, SOCI 2755 Legal Actors and Institutions. Remaining credits are selected from electives listed in the major. Only one course in the student's minor can be from that student's major area. Student may complete a pre-approved internship to fulfill up to 4 credits toward the minor. Major and minor courses cannot be double counted.

Requirements for Distinction in the Major in Socio-Legal Studies

Socio-legal majors may pursue graduating with Program Distinction if they receive a recommendation from a member of the Socio-legal Studies faculty and have an overall DU GPA of 3.5, and GPA within the Socio-legal Studies major of 3.75.

To win the designation of graduation with Distinction in Socio-legal Studies, students must successfully complete a Senior Thesis. The guidelines for completing the thesis are as follows:

- Students must select a faculty member from the Program who will agree to act as Thesis Advisor.
- Students will submit a thesis proposal to the Thesis Advisor for approval before October 15 of the

senior year.

- Students wishing course credit for thesis work should contact the Program Director to register for an appropriate course. The Thesis Advisor will act as the designated instructor.
- The completed thesis, once approved by the Thesis Advisor, must be submitted to a committee of three faculty by April 1 of the senior year. The committee will consist of the Thesis Advisor and two other faculty, one of whom may be from outside the Socio-legal Studies faculty.
- During the month of April, the Thesis Advisor will schedule a one-hour meeting between the student and the faculty committee to discuss the thesis and its implications for the discipline.

o NOTE: If you are in the University Honors Program, you should check with them for specifics on their calendar and requirements for completion of the thesis; their deadlines are different than ours.

o Departmental Theses (for students who are NOT in the HONORS program) MUST be defended by the end of the 7th week of any quarter to ensure timely major approval and inclusion in the commencement program.

- Students who satisfactorily complete a thesis, as determined by the faculty committee, will receive program distinction, which will be noted in the Commencement program and on your transcript. You will also be recognized at our Department Recognition Ceremony in early June.
- Honor cords are not given out for Distinction in the Major; they are only given to students invited to join Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the Sociology Honor Society.

Students wishing further information should contact the Program Director (Randy Wagner; Ricketson Law Building 450; phone: 303.871.6761 email: rwagner@law.du.edu).

BA in Socio-Legal Studies

The following course plan is a sample quarter-by-quarter schedule for intended majors. Because the bachelor of arts (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/bachelorofarts>) curriculum allows for tremendous flexibility, this is only intended as an example; that is to say, if specific courses or requirements are not available in a given term, students can generally complete those requirements in another term. More importantly, students should focus on exploring areas of interest, including Common Curriculum requirements and possible minors or second majors, and maintaining a course load which will allow for completion of the degree within four years.

Ideally, Common Curriculum (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/degreesanddegreerequirements>) requirements other than Advanced Seminar should be completed during the first two years. Students should anticipate taking an average course load of 16 credits each quarter.

Ways of Knowing courses in the areas of Analytical Inquiry: Society and Culture (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/selectingadegreeprogram/courseplans/ai-society-courses>) and Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture (<http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/selectingadegreeprogram/courseplans/si-society-courses>) introduce students to University-level study of disciplines in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Credits earned in Ways of Knowing courses may also apply to a major or minor.

The sample course plan below shows what courses a student pursuing this major might take in their first two years; beyond that, students should anticipate working closely with their major advisor to create a course of study to complete the degree.

First Year

Fall	Credits Winter	Credits Spring	Credits
FSEM 1111	4 WRIT 1122	4 WRIT 1133	4
Foreign Language or Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World	4 Foreign Language or Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World	4 Foreign Language or Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World	4
Analytical Inquiry: Society and Culture or Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture	4 Analytical Inquiry: Society and Culture or Analytical Inquiry: Natural and Physical World	4 Analytical Inquiry: Society and Culture or Analytical Inquiry: Natural and Physical World	4
PLSC 1810	4 SOCI 2755	4 SOCI 2120	4
	16	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Winter	Credits Spring	Credits
Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World or Foreign Language	4 Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World or Foreign Language	4 Scientific Inquiry: The Natural and Physical World or Foreign Language	4
Analytical Inquiry: Natural and Physical Word or Analytical Inquiry: Society and Culture	4 Major Elective	4 Major Elective	4
Major Elective	4 Major Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4
INTZ 2501 ¹	2 Minor or Elective	4 Minor or Elective	4
	14	16	16

Total Credits: 94

¹ INTZ 2501 is required for any student who studies abroad, and may be taken in any quarter within the year prior to studying abroad.