

# LEGAL STUDIES

Legal studies examines how the law is incorporated into every facet of society. Legal studies majors accompany their studies with a secondary major to examine how the law shapes and is shaped by different social, political, philosophical, and historical issues.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### Learn and Do More at RWU

Within all our legal studies courses, students produce work that would be done in a real law office, such as preparing and arguing a mock trial case, working directly with domestic violence clients, and completing a 40-hour training to become a mediator in Rhode Island. As a legal studies student, you can:

- Join the Mock Trial team and compete in invitational, regional and national competitions.
- Join the National Law Fraternity and RWU's pre-law chapter of Phi Alpha Delta.
- Study abroad to focus on law in another country, or to complete requirements for your second major.

### Get a Great Internship

This major includes a guaranteed internship that allows students to gain practical, hands-on experience in the industry. Our students have interned at places such as:

- Family Court
- Public defenders' offices
- Attorney General's office
- State Attorney General's office
- Private law firms
- Women's centers
- Homeless centers
- State courts



- + Do you want hands-on experience looking at court cases and learning alongside law professionals?
- + Are you passionate about social justice issues and protecting minoritized groups?
- + Have you always wanted to attend law school?

## CAREER OUTLOOK

RWU legal studies alumni are working as:

- Judicial law clerks
- Consultants
- Law school students
- Attorneys
- Judges

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



*Had I gone to a different school, I don't think I would have been able to seek these avenues and pursue human rights activism the way I have been able to at RWU.*



Ashley Barton '15,  
Judicial law clerk at  
North Carolina Business Court

# CURRICULUM

## Structure

Our program, while providing a strong pre-law education, has a strong interdisciplinary nature. It's structured to provide students with a foundation to enter law school or go straight into the workforce. Our focus is on teaching students how law interacts with other areas of study and how it is incorporated into every facet of society.

To provide a true interdisciplinary undergraduate curriculum, our program requires you to incorporate a second major from the School of Social and Natural Sciences or the School of Humanities, Arts, and Education.

### Some common second majors include:

- Psychology
- Political science
- Philosophy
- Anthropology + sociology
- Creative writing
- English literature
- History
- Modern languages

During your final year, you will complete a thesis project of a law review article on a topic or issue that incorporates your second major. Examples of past thesis projects include:

- The impact of politics in the appointment of justices to the Supreme Court in the Brett Kavanaugh era.
- Access to justice in the state courts for non-English speakers.
- Copyright law in the age of new technologies and media venues for literary works.
- Laws surrounding parental abuse and neglect of LGBTQ adolescents.
- The politics of legalized sports gambling.

After completing their undergraduate degree at RWU, many of our students continue to law school to earn their Juris Doctor. Some schools our graduates have attended include:

- Roger Williams University School of Law
- Suffolk University School of Law
- Boston University School of Law
- Georgetown University School of Law
- University of Connecticut School of Law
- New England Law
- School of Law at Quinnipiac University



While law school is a common next step, not all students choose this path. Majoring in legal studies at RWU also gives you the flexibility to pursue graduate degrees in the field of your second major. Or, upon graduation, students can enter the workforce as paralegals, human resource assistants, legislative aides, or social workers.

## RWU is Home to the Only Law School in RI

As the state's one and only law school, RWU Law is able to offer students a level of access, connection, and experience to the state bench and bar that few institutions can rival. RWU Law is a leader in legal education and a go-to source for state and regional legal expertise. The legal community at RWU creates a network of internship and career entry points that provide RWU students with a powerful edge.

## 3+3 Legal Studies/Juris Doctor Program

Outstanding students who qualify for this special accelerated program would earn a Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies along with a Juris Doctor in six years rather than seven. This modified program is jointly sponsored by the School of Justice Studies and the Roger Williams University School of Law.