

What is this program?

- The American Bar Association approved legal studies program prepares students for careers as legal assistants by providing a liberal education and the practical skills needed in this field. A legal assistant performs substantive legal work under the supervision of an attorney.
- Interested in law school? Grand Valley's approach to pre-law encourages students to pursue majors that will complement their future law degree while providing the diverse intellectual foundation necessary for success in the field of law. Choose a major that you are interested in learning more about and that will provide you with a good foundation.

Step One: Choosing Your Degree & Declaring Your Major

Select Legal Studies - BS or Legal Studies - BA

- These are the *only* two options available for your catalog year.
- The *only* difference between the two choices is the three course requirements described below. The other required courses are the same!
- One choice is not *better* than another, each is just *different*. Consider your own personal interests and skills as well as the skills you may wish to develop for the professional field.

Bachelor of Science (BS)

Requires a three course sequence in statistics and research methods

- STA 215 Introductory Applied Statistics (Prerequisite: MTH 110)
- CJ 300 Research Methods (Prerequisite: STA 215 & Jr. Standing)
- CJ 400 Qualitative Methods (Prerequisite: CJ 300)

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Requires third semester proficiency of a foreign language of your choice. You should take the language placement exam to determine the appropriate starting point for your skill level. You may also consider starting a new language that you have not experienced before. You should begin your language sequence as soon as possible. Put the appropriate course into your first year schedule replacing a general education course on the plan. Depending on your placement, you will move through the sequence of courses as follows:

101 → 102 → 201

150 → 201

Step Two: Choosing Your Classes

Focus on the General Education Foundation

- Take some time to explore the general education categories and choose courses that interest you. It may help you to identify another interest area that you can pursue as a minor or even second major.
- You should consider taking CJ101 Justice and Society as a general education social & behavioral science course to get a basic understanding of the criminal justice system.
- We would expect for you to have completed the majority of the general education foundation categories by the end of your first year. Whatever courses you do not complete, we will add those to the first semester of your second year.

There is Plenty of Time for the Major Curriculum

- We know you are excited to get started on your major courses but there is plenty of time to pace your major courses throughout your degree plan. You will not start the legal studies core curriculum until your sophomore year. Unless you are part of the LEAP program (see separate advising guide), LS201 should *not* be on your first year schedule.
- See the schedule suggestions on the back of this guide for information and recommendations for what to schedule in your first year.

MTH097 Math Placement*

MTH097 (fall or winter depending on availability)	4	MTH110 (if MTH097 in fall) or General Education Category	3-4
WRT track or General Education Category	3-4	WRT track or General Education Category	3-4
Natural Science with a lab	4	Natural Science without a lab	3
CJ101 (satisfies FND/SB&S)	3	General Education Category	3
General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3	General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3

MTH110 Math Placement*

CJ101 (satisfies FND/SB&S)	3	General Education Category	3
WRT track or General Education Category	3-4	WRT track or General Education Category	3-4
Natural Science with a lab	4	General Education Category	3
General Education Category	3	MTH110 or General Education Category	3-4
General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3	General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3

MTH110 Waived or Advanced Waiver Math Placement

WRT track or General Education Category	3-4	WRT track or General Education Category	3-4
General Education Category	3	General Education Category	3
Natural Science with a lab	4	Natural Science without a lab	3
CJ101 (satisfies FND/SB&S)	3	General Education Category	3
General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3	CIS150	3

Legal Studies

Honors Program Participants

You will complete your 6 credit honors sequence each semester in place of the suggested general education and writing requirements. Any other spaces you have left open should be filled with a second major or minor course or an exploratory elective choice to help find a second major or minor.

Honors students normally have approximately 40 credits of degree electives to satisfy. You should consider a double major or a minor to pursue in addition to LS.

AP/Dual Enrollment

- You should *not* take CJ305 in your first year!
- If you do not meet the above criteria, focus instead on general education or electives to fill any open spaces you have in your schedule. You can expect to have approximately 30 credits of degree electives to satisfy. Consider a minor or even a second major to help you with these requirements.

*A Note about Math Placement

MTH 110 does not need to be completed in the first year. If there is no space available, it can be completed in the second year. You should complete MTH097 in the first year if required by placement.

Writing Track

You may select your writing track. You can choose to complete WRT120 (3cr) in the fall and WRT130 (3cr) in the winter, or you can choose to complete WRT150 (4cr) in either semester.