



Faculty Qualifications: Discipline Description

**Legal Studies**

Active Teaching Disciplines		
For Administrative Use Only		
CIP Code	Description	NCES Definition
22.0302	Legal Assistant/Paralegal	For more information on the NCES CIP taxonomy, see <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55">http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55</a> A program that prepares individuals to perform research, drafting, investigatory, record-keeping and related administrative functions under the supervision of an attorney or court. Includes instruction in legal research, drafting legal documents, appraising, pleading, courthouse procedures, and legal specializations

The qualifications described below represent commonly accepted good practices for teaching in the discipline(s) included in this unit. [1]

**Please provide a general description of unit, including programs and course offerings [2]**

The Department of Legal Studies offers these programs:

- Legal Studies, BS
- Legal Studies, BA

The Department also offers the Legal Studies minor and graduate-level legal studies courses in support of master’s and doctoral programs in other disciplines. The undergraduate Legal Studies program is designed to: (1) prepare graduates for employment in law-related fields in government, non-profit agencies, and private law offices; (2) prepare students for admission to law school; and (3) prepare students for graduate programs in related fields.

**Terminal degree(s) for each discipline taught in the unit [3]**

*A terminal degree in the teaching discipline qualifies a person to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline at the undergraduate and graduate levels. [4]*

The Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree is the first professional and terminal degree for practicing law in the U.S. This degree is also an appropriate credential for teaching all undergraduate courses offered by the Department of Legal Studies.

The following degrees are appropriate for teaching all undergraduate law courses offered by the department as well as graduate courses in the area of degree specialization.

- LLM
- SJD
- PhD in Administration of Justice
- PhD in Law

**Broadly related discipline(s) for each discipline taught in the department**

*Specialization qualifies a person to teach throughout the broad scope of teaching discipline (approximately five or more courses on distinct topics)*

N/A

**Selectively related discipline(s) for each discipline taught in the department**

*Specialization does not qualify a person to teach distinct topics throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline but does qualify to teach a more restrictive set of courses in the discipline (approximately four or fewer courses on distinct topics)*

A degree in one of the following disciplines at the appropriate level (doctorate for graduate, master's for undergraduate) qualifies for teaching courses in specific areas of degree specialization within the legal studies discipline.

- Sociology
- Criminology
- Political Science
- Business
- Tax
- Public Administration
- Criminal Justice

**Justification for use of faculty with 'other' teaching qualifications and additional faculty teaching qualifications information [5] [6]**

It is unlikely that a faculty member (adjunct or full-time) would be hired to teach undergraduate level courses in the department if that individual did not otherwise have a law degree or at a minimum a master's degree in one of the broadly related or selectively related disciplines listed above.

A J.D. or other terminal law degree listed above plus appropriate professional industry experience, qualifies a faculty member to teach graduate level law courses emphasizing the faculty member's

documented area of professional expertise.

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[1] The unit chair/director, in consultation with unit faculty, has responsibility for identifying and articulating commonly accepted good practices in each teaching discipline taught in the unit and for providing appropriate justification as needed. In the case of an emerging discipline for which common collegiate practice has not yet been established, a compelling case must be provided as necessary to substantiate the claims made.

[2] Please provide a general description of the unit course and program offerings at the undergraduate and graduate levels (e.g., degree and certificate programs, minors, departmental contribution to interdisciplinary core courses). This section may also be used to provide other pertinent information about the unit and the discipline(s) it represents (e.g., discipline accreditation, faculty research emphases).

[3] List those degrees for each discipline taught in the unit that are regarded by the respective disciplinary community as terminal degrees in the discipline and thus, qualify a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of that discipline at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In most fields, a terminal degree is the commonly accepted highest degree in the given field of study. In such instances, the terminal degree is usually considered to be the academic (or research) doctorate (e.g., Doctor of Philosophy). However, some academic fields have, through custom, recognized terminal degrees that are not doctorates (e.g., Master of Fine Arts, Master of Social Work). Note that terminal degrees from other disciplines may be appropriate for teaching in the discipline as well, but such credentials should be listed as broadly or selectively related degrees, as appropriate.

[4] A non-terminal master's degree in the teaching discipline qualifies a person to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline at the undergraduate level, not at the graduate level.

[5] Please use this section to provide justification that helps to make the case for special circumstances that apply to your unit including the use of faculty qualified to teach by 'other' qualifications and other special situations. Typically the statements provided in this section should be of a general nature, and not address specific individuals. (Justification for specific individuals is typically handled separately during the teaching certification process.) As appropriate, please cite to appropriate authorities to justify departmental practices (e.g., discipline accreditation guidelines, state regulations).

[6] When a faculty member cannot be qualified to teach on the basis of academic credentials (degree(s) and course work) alone, qualifications other than academic credentials (or combined with credentials) may be appropriate for teaching particular courses. Consideration of other teaching qualifications either in conjunction with or in lieu of academic credentials must be made on a case-by-case basis. Such cases should be exceptional and the evidence of other demonstrated competencies and achievements provided must be compelling. It should also show substantial and significant evidence of professional progress as related to the faculty member's teaching assignment.