



The Legal Studies Program at Washburn University in Topeka, KS

[By Judith Earley]

Washburn University has continued to emphasize quality education since it was founded in 1865. From its beginnings as a small church-affiliated college to its current role as a comprehensive public metropolitan university, Washburn University offers the residents of Topeka, Shawnee County, and Northeast Kansas opportunities for high-quality education. Of course students also come from other parts of Kansas, across the country, and international cities around the world.

The university awards associate's, bachelor's, master's, and professional degrees. The College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Law have historically been the focal points of education at Washburn. It also offers programs through the School of Business, School of Nursing, School of Applied Studies, and Division of Continuing Education. Washburn's educational objective is "to prepare individuals for careers and further study in a variety of disciplines and for a lifetime of continuous learning."

The legal studies program at Washburn University is approved by the American Bar Association and also holds institutional membership in the American Association for Paralegal Education. Combining coursework in law, computer technology, communications, and general education, the goal of the legal studies program is to create a balanced curriculum relevant to modern law office needs. Students may attend full- or part-time; the program is also open to pre-law students and individuals who desire

to learn about the law without committing to a degree program.

A minor in legal studies is available and includes a minimum of 18 hours of coursework in legal studies; this is divided into six hours of lower-division coursework and 12 hours of upper-division coursework. Additionally, the school offers a 36-credit-hour legal studies certificate program. In order to be eligible to earn the certificate, a student must hold an associate's degree or a higher-level degree from an accredited institution.

The mission of Washburn's legal studies program is to provide training and education to persons wishing to enter the paralegal field. The program's faculty includes practicing attorneys who provide students in the program with invaluable real-world perspectives on the curriculum they are being taught. The program is open to full-time and part-time students.

In conjunction with the Kaw Area Technical School (KATS), Washburn's legal studies program also offers an Associate of Arts degree. This is available to students who have completed 1,080 hours of coursework in the legal office professional program at KATS; in return, they are granted 25 hours of college credit toward the A.A. degree. Each of these students must complete an additional 44 hours of general education/ university courses and legal studies courses at Washburn in order to receive an Associate of Arts degree.

ON THE NET

Washburn University
www.washburn.edu

Topeka, Kansas
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topeka%2C_Kansas

Kaw Area Technical School (KATS)
orion.jmc.ksu.edu/sponsors/kats