Society, Ethics, and Law (S.E.A.L.) is a university degree that has been designed for students who are interested in pursuing law school, or developing a highly transferable skill set that is useful to non-profits and businesses alike. To this end, S.E.A.L.’s curriculum is primarily guided by the published recommendations of the American Bar Association (A.B.A.). While the A.B.A. does not recommend nor require any particular major, it does encourage prospective law students to i) pursue opportunities (courses and experiences) that cultivate a specific set of skills; ii) obtain experiences that “can help [them] hit the ground running when [they] become a lawyer; and iii) develop “a broad understanding of history, including the various factors (social, political, economic, and cultural) that have influenced the development of our society in the United States.”

The requirements for this University Studies degree reflect the A.B.A.’s recommendation. Under the broad themes of Society, Ethics and Law, the degree requires classes that contribute to a broad understanding of philosophy, politics, economics and history. Specifically, S.E.A.L. requires that students complete major requirements, a minor in Philosophy, and a second minor outside of the Liberal Arts. In addition to obtaining a broad understanding of society, ethics and law, the degree requires that students pursue experiences and opportunities that typically cultivate the A.B.A.’s recommended skill set:

1. Problem Solving involves “courses and other experiences that will engage [students] in critical thinking about important issues, challenge ... beliefs and improve ... tolerance for uncertainty and criticism.”
2. Critical Reading involves “close reading and critical analysis of complex textual material.”
3. Writing and Editing involves “preparing original pieces of substantial length and revising written work in response to constructive criticism. [...] Language is the most important tool of a lawyer, and lawyers must learn how to express themselves clearly and concisely.”
4. Oral Communication and Listening involves “the ability to speak clearly and persuasively... and excellent listening skills.”
5. Research involves “undertaking a project that requires significant library research and the analysis of large amounts of information obtained from that research.”

The study of philosophy lends itself to the development of the five recommended skills. To this end, the required minor in Philosophy provides an opportunity to cultivate these skills.

Students are strongly advised to take philosophy courses over and above the minimum requirements for a minor, including independent studies and honors research courses.

1 http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/pre_law.html (http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/pre_law.html)
Complete 14 hours of a foreign language (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/ liberal-arts/) through the intermediate level. If you choose to enroll in a language you have studied previously without receiving college credit, you must first take a placement test. See academic advisor.

This minor must be chosen from outside of the College of Liberal Arts.

Any 100-499 course not used elsewhere.

Students must take PHIL 484 (0-3 hours) and then choose the remainder of the required 6 hours from: ARAB 301, ARAB 302, ARAB 321, ARAB 322, CHIN 301, CHIN 302, CLAS 313, CLAS 320, CLAS 321, CLAS 322, COMM 240, COMM 245, COMM 265, COMM 301, COMM 324, COMM 325, COMM 420/WGST 420, FREN 300, FREN 301, FREN 306, FREN 311, FREN 321, FREN 322, FREN 336, FREN 375, FREN 418, GERM 310, GERM 311, GERM 315, GERM 316, GERM 321, GERM 322, GERM 331, GERM 332, GERM 333, GERM 336, GERM 362, GERM 410, GERM 411, ITAL 303, JAPN 301, JAPN 302, JAPN 401, JAPN 402, PHIL 300-499 (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/phi/), RUSS 301, RUSS 302, RUSS 322, RUSS 410, SPAN 301, SPAN 302, SPAN 303, SPAN 304, SPAN 306, SPAN 307, SPAN 311, SPAN 318, SPAN 331, SPAN 332, SPAN 341, SPAN 342, SPAN 403, SPAN 445, SPAN 483, WGST 403, and any course from the other focus areas lists.


Select from PHIL 111, PHIL 205, PHIL 282, PHIL 314, PHIL 315/PHIL 353/AFST 353, PHIL 381, PHIL 465/RELS 465, PHIL 470, PHIL 480, PHIL 482/ENGR 482, PHIL 485, PHIL 489.


Graduation requirements include 3 hours of International and Cultural Diversity (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/international-cultural-diversity-requirements/) courses and 3 hours of Cultural Discourse (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/cultural-discourse-requirements/) courses. A course satisfying a core category, a college/department requirement, or a free elective can be used to satisfy this requirement. The required 6 hours may be met by courses satisfying other areas of a degree program. See your academic advisor for further information.