

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Law
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Law
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	110 UCAS tariff points
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College
UCAS Code	LM32

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Law course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2017-18 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

Applied Sociology

Applied Sociology is a degree which aims to show students the relevance of sociology to everyday life. Applied sociologists work in various industries, including private business, government agencies and not-for-profit organisations. The work of applied sociologists is especially concerned with changing the current state of social life for the better. This can include anything from increasing the health and wellbeing of a disadvantaged community group; working with law enforcement organisations to implement a rehabilitation program for criminal offenders; assisting in planning for natural disasters; and enhancing existing government programs and policies.

Law

Law examines how various aspects of the law are shaped and how the legal system affects different groups in society. This course encourages critical debate about the role of the law in a range of social and professional contexts and these debates may be enriched by

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

aspects of the other discipline combined with Law. What is often now referred to as para-legal practice is now developing its own professional niche as an important part of the legal profession. Legal assistants do many of the jobs senior lawyers such as solicitors do, The course offers knowledge and expertise in practical areas such as the English Legal System, Contractual and Tortious Liability, Land Law and Conveyancing, Wills and Succession and Commercial Law and offers practical skills through modules on Client Care and Practice and Professional Development for Legal/paralegal Practice. Graduates of this programme are well prepared for potential careers in these areas as practitioners or practice managers.

Course Aims

Applied Sociology

- To provide the opportunity for students to develop an understanding of major concepts and themes in contemporary sociology and an ability to relate them to life in the community and globally
- Students will develop a critical approach to their studies in sociology, evaluating theory and evidence accordingly
- To ensure that students develop autonomous learning and research skills which provide a basis for lifelong learning
- To develop and enhance skills in written, oral and IT communication
- To ensure that students have the opportunities to develop a range of analytic and graduate skills adequate for a range of professional and life situations

Law

- Provide opportunity in the locality of West Suffolk for access to honours degree Law combined with another subject, either in preparation for a career in the legal/paralegal sector, or as study for its own sake, complementing their other chosen subject
- Meet the learning outcomes and subject benchmark standards for a “mixed degree” that includes Law, set out in the QAA benchmark statements for Law (2015) www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/Law15
- Provide students with knowledge of the principal features of the English legal system, including relevant aspects of the law of the European Union, the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
- Produce graduates with accurate knowledge of specific aspects of Law e.g. property law, wills and succession and employment law
- Develop a more detailed knowledge of practice and procedure in specific aspects of Law e.g. property law, wills and succession and employment law
- Develop an appropriate level of ability to apply knowledge and to solve problems in relation to specific aspects of Law through a range of teaching and learning methods e.g. role play, case studies, tutorials and problem questions set via written examination
- Develop an ability to handle legal facts and data and apply abstract concepts to them
- Provide the opportunity to develop an appropriate competence in carrying out research using both legal and non-legal sources through both module assignments and an undergraduate dissertation
- Develop powers of analysis enabling the student to be able to discriminate between the legally relevant and the irrelevant, identify flaws in an argument and offer reasons for a point of view
- Demonstrate an ability to learn independently and reflect critically on their learning

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

- Develop written and oral communication to the appropriate standard i.e. to be able to read complex primary materials and to find the key statements from them
- Develop an appropriate ability to understand and present numerical and statistical information as relevant to property law, wills and succession and employment law.
- Offer the opportunity for eventual accreditation by relevant professional bodies; e.g. The Institute of Paralegals

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Law. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).⁶

Applied Sociology

1. Sound understanding of a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches in Applied Sociology and the ability to evaluate their application
2. Critical understanding of social diversity and inequality and their effects
3. Evaluation of the processes that underpin social change and social stability
4. Ability to critically assess a range of research strategies and methods in applied sociology and assess their appropriate use
5. The relationship between, and strengths and weaknesses of, sociological arguments and those of other social science/humanities disciplines
6. The ways in which Applied Sociology can be distinguished from other forms of understanding
7. The ability to assess a range of sociological perspectives and discuss the strengths of each for the understanding of events
8. The ability to draw on materials from a wide range of sociological sources and demonstrate an ability to compare, synthesise and critically evaluate them
9. The ability to draw on evidence to compare and critically evaluate competing explanations in sociology

Generic and graduate skills

1. Critical evaluation of arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem
2. Confidence to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences
3. Be aware of contextual and interpersonal factors in groups and teams
4. The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts and the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further post-graduate study and/or training of a professional or equivalent nature
5. An ability to design, research, and present a sustained and independently conceived dissertation/project in accordance with the academic conventions of Applied Sociology, or an *interdisciplinary* dissertation that includes Applied Sociology in accordance with appropriate academic conventions

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Law

On completion of level 6, students should be able to:

Knowledge

1. Develop further knowledge of the major principles of English Law and where relevant, European Law supported by some important case-law and statutes and with appropriate references to their economic, social, commercial or political context
2. Know relevant aspects of European Law and how it relates to selected aspects of English Law and legal/paralegal practice
3. Demonstrate accurate knowledge of selected substantive and procedural issues in Law in terms of their rules and operational technicalities
4. Demonstrate a broad knowledge of legal practice and procedure

Cognitive

1. Critically evaluate research and theory in Law
2. Make critical judgments of the merits of particular arguments and make reasoned choices between alternative solutions
3. Understand the impact of European Law and its implications for legal/paralegal practice in England
4. Evaluate Law in terms of doctrinal coherence with perspectives from other disciplines studied on the combined honours programme
5. Demonstrate critical understanding of the professional expectations, management and public promotion of legal/paralegal services
6. Demonstrate an increasing understanding of the theoretical background of selected aspects of Law and the analytic competence to explore it
7. Critically evaluate the importance and relevance of data and evidence as applied to selected aspects of Law

Practical

8. Apply knowledge to fairly standard situations which relate to doctrinal disputes
9. Utilise knowledge and understanding of aspects of the management of hypothetical situations relating to professional legal/paralegal practice, including the impact of selected aspects of European Law
10. Use legal terminology and the English language with increasing accuracy
11. Identify and collate relevant statistical or numerical information and use in a report
12. Utilise knowledge and understanding of aspects of the management of hypothetical situations relating to professional legal/paralegal practice
13. Develop existing skills and competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within legal/paralegal organisations

Key Skills

14. Choose appropriate methods for the resolution of problems in a considered manner, drawing on sound knowledge and understanding of concepts, principles and techniques relating to the law
15. Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms including oral presentations, papers and professional reports
16. Communicate their academic and employability development within the "Graduate Headstart" Portfolio of Achievement
17. Demonstrate potential to act independently in the planning and undertaking of legal/paralegal tasks

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

18. Be able to undertake independent research in areas of Law, not previously studied, starting from standard legal information sources
19. Determine their own learning needs and develop appropriate strategies for learning
20. Reflect own learning, and to seek and make use of feedback

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / [name of PSRB] Competency Frameworks:

- Sociology (2016)
- Law (2015)

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Law comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷		Module	Credits	Module Type
Applied Sociology				Law		
Level 4						
Introduction to Applied Sociology	20	R		The English Legal System	20	R
Contemporary Social Inequalities	20	R		Contractual and Tortious Liability	20	R
Making Sense of Modernity	20	R		Land Law and Conveyancing	20	R
Level 5						
<p>Dissertation/Project Preparation (20 credits, Mandatory) NB <i>This is a mandatory module pre-requisite for the final year undergraduate Dissertation.</i> For the remaining modules at Level 5, choose: <u>two</u> modules from one subject and <u>three</u> modules from the other</p>						
Qualitative Methodology for Social Science	20	M		Law of Wills and Succession	20	O
Theorising Social Life	20	O		Client Care and Practice	20	O
Understanding Crime	20	O		Family Law	20	O

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Level 6					
Undergraduate Dissertation/Project (40 credits, Mandatory) <i>The undergraduate Dissertation is mandatory and may focus on Applied Sociology or may be interdisciplinary. NB If Dissertation is to be in Applied Sociology choose one Applied Sociology module and three Law modules If Dissertation is to be interdisciplinary, i.e. in Applied Sociology and Law, choose any two law modules and the two Applied Sociology modules.</i>					
The Sociology of Work and the Professions	20	O		European Union Law	20 O
The Sociology of Health and Illness	20	O		Professional Legal Development	20 O
				Commercial Law	20 O
				Employment Law	20 O

Validated optional modules are available every year.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Law.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Law are likely to have approximately 10 contact hours per week. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar discussion and site visits where appropriate. Students will normally be expected to undertake 25 hours of independent study in an average week if studying full-time, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module’s intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mainly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and up to 8 written and oral examinations depending on the module options chosen.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Law will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£10,080 per year
Part-time International	£1,680 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

As a law student, you will be expected to invest in a number of key texts (likely to total around £300 over the three years) and to fund some visits (a total costs of around £150 over the three years).

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).