

CERTIFICATE IN PRE-LAW

The Certificate in Pre-Law, in combination with a baccalaureate degree in any major, provides valuable preparation for law school. Students completing the certificate acquire knowledge about major court cases and the laws surrounding them, and they enhance their skills related to oral and written communication, critical thinking, analytical analysis, and problem solving. The certificate concludes with a capstone experience in which students apply this knowledge and these skills to other legal challenges.

Admission Criteria

- Matriculated **undergraduates** in any major or undeclared with a GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Matriculated graduate students with a GPA of 3.0
- Non-matriculated students with a bachelor's or graduate degree
- Non-matriculated students who have not completed a bachelor's degree must have completed courses equivalent to GE A2 (written composition) and the GVAR to be fully admitted. Students without one or both of these courses may be conditionally admitted and complete needed courses while taking certificate courses upon advisement.
- Non-matriculated students may take courses through open university as long as there is space in the classes and the instructor approves.

Award of the Certificate

The Division of Graduate Studies processes the award of both graduate and undergraduate certificates. The Certificate Approved Program form and instructions can be found on the Division of Graduate Studies website. Students fill out the form once the coursework is completed and have the form signed by the advisor and department chair.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify and explain powers and limits of American courts, problems of access to judicial power, and basic examples of instruments of judicial power.
2. Students will be able to describe major court cases and cite those cases in analyzing other cases with references to appropriate legal precedents.
3. Students will be able to write cogent analyses of legal issues and legal memoranda using statutes, court cases, legal publications, and government documents.
4. Students will be able to demonstrate analytical legal reasoning and formulate persuasive legal arguments.

Certificate in Pre-Law – 15 units minimum

All courses for the certificate must be completed with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Pre-Law Foundation (3-4 units)

Choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
PHIL 335	Law and Society	3
PLSI 478	Judicial Process	4

Court Cases (3-4 units)

Choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
BECA 324	Media Law	3
COMM 564	Issues in Free Speech	4
JOUR 307/ I R 507/PLSI 507	News Media Law	3
PHIL 378	Philosophy of Criminal Law	3
PLSI 481	Race and Public Law	4
PLSI 552	Individual Rights and the Constitution	4
PLSI 554	Separation of Powers and Federalism	4

Legal Writing (3-4 units)

Choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
C J 335	Legal Writing and Research	4
PHIL 380	Philosophy of Law	3
PLSI 308	Research and Writing for Public Law	4

Pre-Law Capstone (3-4 units)

Choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
PHIL 680	Field Project in Philosophy	1-3
PLSI 555	Moot Court	4
PLSI 610 & PLSI 611	Legal and Public Service Internship and Seminar and Legal and Public Service Internship	4

Pre-Law Elective (3-4 units)

Choose one from those listed above not already taken, from the list below, or one approved by an advisor.

Code	Title	Units
AA S 213	Asian Americans and American Ideals and Institutions	3
AA S 595	Asian American Communities and Public Policy	3
AFRS 375	Law and the Black Community	3
AIS 205	American Indians and U.S. Laws	3
AIS 330	American Indian Law	3
C J 435/ LTNS 430	Race, Crime, and Justice	3
ENVS 450	Environmental Law and Policy	3
ENVS 470	Climate Politics and Policy	3
GEOG 668/ PLSI 513/USP 513	Regulating the City: Law, Space, and Social Difference	4
GPS/PHIL 375	Peace Law and Human Rights in the U.S.	3
HIST/JS 318	The Holocaust and Law: Complicity, Dissent, and Correction	3
HIST 470	The U.S. Constitution to 1896	3
HIST 471	The U.S. Constitution Since 1896	3
HIST 472	The Supreme Court and Social Change in U.S. History	3
I R 330/IBUS 332	World Law	4

I R/PLSI 422	Law and Courts in Comparative Perspective	4
I R 436/PHIL 435	Human Rights in Global Perspective	3
LABR 251	Know Your Work Rights	3
LABR/SOC 555	Labor Rights in the Global Economy	3
LS 402	Introduction to Human Rights Education for Teachers and Local Communities	3
PHIL 455/ SXS 569	Sex and the Law	3
PLSI 553	Legal Issues	4
SOC 452/C J 470	Juvenile Justice	4
WGS 536	Gender, Globalization, and Women's Human Rights	3