

Certificate in Business Law

The School of Law business law certificate is designed for those students wishing to focus on business or transactional law and prepare themselves for a business law practice or to enhance their career prospects in the business field in general. The program provides a strong framework in the fundamentals of business and transactional law and skills through coursework.

Typical career goals: The program will prepare qualified JD degree and post-JD candidates for a wide variety of business and transactional law practices and, for non-law students, it will help provide a strong foundation for legal aspects of the business environment. The program will help prepare law students to compete for careers in law firms with sophisticated business practices or to transition into a variety of other opportunities, whether at law firms, as in-house counsel for businesses, or in solo practice.

Admission requirements: The student must satisfy one of the following requirements: (1) be currently enrolled in the J.D. program at the School of Law or be admitted as a visiting J.D. student at the School of Law; (2) hold a JD degree from an accredited law school; (3) be enrolled in the LL.M. program at the School of Law; or (4) be admitted by the associate dean for academic affairs or that dean's designee as otherwise qualified to complete the certificate requirements successfully. The associate dean for academic affairs, or designee, may limit the number of students eligible to pursue the certificate at any one time.

Course requirements:

Required Courses

Students seeking the certificate will enter the program having already successfully completed, as part of their J.D. degree program or other qualifying studies, the following basic business law courses (or equivalent):

LAWW 4024	Contracts (Irregular)
LAWW 4294	Business Organizations (Irregular)
LAWW 6233	Federal Income Tax of Individuals (Irregular)

Skills Course

Select at least one of the following:

LAWW 5213	Business Lawyering Skills (Irregular)
LAWW 648V	Special Topics (Skills) (Sp, Su, Fa) (Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiating)

Writing Course

Select at least one of the following:

LAWW 406V	Upper Level Writing (Sp, Su, Fa) (Business Drafting-2 hours)
LAWW 602V	Independent Legal Research (Sp, Su, Fa) (An independent research project on a business law topic approved in advance by the associate dean for academic affairs or that dean's designee. 2 hours)

Two or more hours of drafting lab courses that are associated with on of the Core Business Courses.

Experiential Capstone:

LAWW 6814	Corporate Counsel Externship (Irregular) (or another experiential capstone course approved as a substitute by the associate dean for academic affairs or that dean's designee.)
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Electives

Select at least 9 hours of elective business law programming from the following two categories:

Category A – Select at least two of the following Core Business Courses:

LAWW 4442	Law & Accounting (Irregular)
LAWW 6292	Advanced Corporations (Irregular)
LAWW 599V	Debtor-Creditor Relations (Irregular) (3 or 4 hours)
LAWW 6253	Federal Income Taxation of Business Entities (Irregular)
LAWW 5662	Mergers and Acquisitions (Irregular)
LAWW 5133	Real Estate Transactions (Irregular)
LAWW 500V	Special Topics (Irregular) (Securities Regulation – 2 or 3 hours)

Category B Electives

Select from the following to count toward the 9 credits of elective business law programming:

LAWW 5163	Administrative Law (Irregular)
LAWW 6133	Antitrust Law (Irregular)
LAWW 6613	Bankruptcy (Irregular)
LAWW 760V	Bankruptcy - Business Reorganizations (Irregular) (2 hours)
LAWW 500V	Special Topics (Irregular) (Doing Business with Indian Tribes – 3 hours)
LAWW 6523	Employment Law (Irregular)
LAWW 6913	Environmental Law (Irregular)
LAWW 633V	Intellectual Property (Irregular) (2-3 hours)
LAWW 500V	Special Topics (Irregular) (International Ag Trade Law – 3 hours)
LAWW 5513	Labor Law (Irregular)
LAWW 6393	Legal Clinic: Transactional (Irregular)
LAWW 5313	Payment Systems (Irregular)
LAWW 500V	Special Topics (Irregular) (Nonprofit Corporations – 2-3 hours)
LAWW 5303	International and Domestic Sales and Leasing (Irregular)

Transnational Negotiations – 2 hours

LAWW 6192	Workers' Compensation (Irregular)
LAWW 6193	Workplace Legislation (Irregular)

Up to 3 hours of coursework in the Walton College of Business, approved in advance by the associate dean for academic affairs, or that dean's designee.

Such additional elective courses as may be approved by the associate dean for academic affairs, or that dean's designee.

Extracurricular Course of Study

Students must attend at least 250 minutes of extracurricular programming sponsored by the business law society or approved in advance by the associate dean for academic affairs, or that dean's designee. At least 50 minutes of the student's extracurricular programming time must be on topics related to ethics or professional responsibility.

Other requirements:

J.D. candidates

Our J.D. students must declare their intention to complete the program before the spring of their third year of legal studies by notifying the associate dean for academic affairs or that dean's designee. The student must have an overall law school GPA of 2.75 and a GPA of 3.0 in certificate courses at the time he or she declares. In order to successfully receive the certificate upon graduation, the student must successfully complete the required courses, earn a GPA of 3.2 in certificate courses, and an overall GPA of 2.75.

J.D. visitors

Those currently earning a J.D. at another ABA accredited law school but visiting here may earn the business law certificate. They must apply to the associate dean for academic affairs, or designee, before the spring of their third year of legal studies. These students can satisfy certificate course credits with courses taken at their own law school, but must take at least 12 credits in certificate courses here. Also, they must complete corporate counsel externship program or other approved experiential capstone course here.

The student must have an overall law school GPA of 2.75 and a GPA of 3.0 in certificate courses at the time he or she applies. In order to successfully receive the certificate, the student must successfully complete the required courses, earn a GPA of 3.2 in certificate courses.

Post-J.D. candidates

Those who have already earned a J.D. degree from an accredited law school in the United States may also earn a certificate. They must apply to the associate dean for academic affairs, or designee, before commencing the program.

For the purposes of this program, post-J.D. candidates can determine their GPA within the program based in part on courses completed elsewhere. These candidates must satisfy all the required courses, at least 12 credits of which must be taken here, and they must complete the corporate counsel externship program or other approved experiential capstone course here.

Post-J.D. candidates must have at least an overall GPA of 3.0 from the school that conferred their law degree. To complete the program, they must earn a GPA of 3.2 in certificate courses.

LL.M. candidates

Our LL.M. candidates must notify the associate dean for academic affairs one month before enrollment in the LL.M. program of their intention to complete the program and must have the approval of the director of the LL.M. program.

For the purposes of this program, LL.M. candidates can determine their GPA within the program based in part on courses completed elsewhere. LL.M. candidates must satisfy all the required courses, at least 12 credits of which must be taken here, and must take the corporate counsel externship or other approved experiential capstone course here.

To declare, an LL.M. candidate must have at least an overall GPA of 3.0 from the school that conferred their law degree. To complete the program, they must earn a GPA of 3.2 in certificate courses, an overall GPA of 2.75.

General Requirements (Non-J.D./Non-LL.M. Candidates)

Post-baccalaureate students who are not enrolled as J.D. or LL.M. students at the law school (and do not have a J.D. degree) may also earn a certificate. They must apply to the associate dean for academic affairs, or designee, before commencing the program. If they have taken at least 12 credits of the required certificate courses at another ABA-accredited law school, their GPA in those courses must be at least 3.0 to apply. If they have not, their undergraduate cumulative GPA must be at least 3.5. For the purposes of this program, these students can determine their GPA within the program based in part on courses completed elsewhere.

To earn the certificate, these students must complete all the required courses, at least 12 credits of which must be taken here, and they must complete the approved experiential capstone course here. To complete the program, they must also earn a GPA of 3.2 in certificate courses.

Minor or other program component: None, except that current J.D. students and LL.M. students will concurrently be seeking their respective degrees along with the certificate.