

## **Undergraduate Certificate in Legal Studies**

Offered by University of Cincinnati College of Law and  
McMicken College of Arts and Sciences

### **SUMMARY OF PROGRAM**

By joining the study of law from the perspective of many different disciplines on our campus, the Legal Studies Certificate will provide undergraduate students an opportunity to learn about how law permeates our society and to explore interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving through the study of law-related issues. For the certificate, students will complete 18 credits of coursework from a list of classes offered by the Department of Political Science, the College of Law, and many other units on campus.

### **PURPOSE**

Law is an integral part of all facets of our society. Students will benefit from learning about law, the governmental institutions where law is created, the impact of law on our economy and other aspects of our society, and the legal profession. The certificate will be valuable for students who will pursue careers in which knowledge of law will benefit them, such as business, journalism, criminal justice, medicine, engineering, product design, and many other careers. Further, the certificate will benefit students considering attending law school.

#### **Knowledge of Law would Benefit all Students**

Because law is an integral part of our economy and other parts of our society, students in all majors would benefit from learning about law. For example, future journalists might someday need to report on stories related to pending legislation or major lawsuits. Future business professionals might someday need to decide if their new business should be set up as a corporation, how to protect their intellectual property, and how to handle human resources issues related to law. Future criminal justice professionals might someday need to evaluate the best modes of punishment for crimes. Future politicians and policy analysts might someday need to understand the government and the way legislation and other rules are made. All students might someday need to work closely with lawyers to achieve their personal and professional goals and would benefit from a better understanding of lawyers and the legal profession.

#### **Certificate would Benefit Students Considering Law School**

Many students considering law school do not know much about the law, the legal profession, and what lawyers do. This certificate will allow these students to make a more informed choice about attending law school. By allowing students to take some of their classes at the College of Law, where they will be taught in part using the signature pedagogy of law school (the case method) and where they will interact with law faculty, law students, practicing lawyers, and judges,

students will have the opportunity to better evaluate if law school is a good choice for them and the type of law they may be interested in practicing. A better understanding of law and the legal profession would also give students a strong start in law school for those who decide to further their legal studies after earning their undergraduate degrees.

### **Advantages of Interdisciplinary Studies**

Students will benefit from combining studies at the College of Law, the Department of Political Science, and other units on campus. An interdisciplinary approach to problem solving will be crucial for our students in their future careers because problems do not present themselves conveniently organized by discipline. Climate change, income inequality, privacy in a connected world, racial issues in policing, and the impact of drones all require students to evaluate issues using an interdisciplinary approach that, depending on the particular issue at hand, integrates fields such as law, politics, criminal justice, business, environmental studies, and many other disciplines.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students successfully completing the Legal Studies Certificate:

- will be able to identify and discuss the institutions and participants in our legal system;
- will be able to apply basic concepts of U.S. law in their fields of work or study;
- will be able to demonstrate an understanding of political and societal influences on the development of law and how law impacts society;
- will be able to work more effectively with lawyers in their fields of work or study;
- will be able to demonstrate critical thinking, complex problem solving, and analysis skills on law-oriented projects requiring interdisciplinary knowledge; and
- will be able to evaluate in a more informed fashion their interest in attending law school.

## LEGAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE CURRICULUM

**Students will complete 18 credits, including 2 required courses and 4 elective courses.**

### **Required Courses (6 credits):**

- Law, Politics, & Society (3 credits), taught by the Political Science Department
- Introduction to Law & the Legal Profession (3 credits), taught by the College of Law

### **Elective Courses (12 credits):**

- Select ONE elective course for 3 credits from List A - Political Science Pathway
- Select THREE elective courses for 9 credits from either List A or List B - Interdisciplinary Pathway

**List A – Political Science Pathway - elective courses to be offered by the Department of Political Science (Minimum of 3 credits, with maximum of 12):**

- American Courts & Judicial Process (POL 2021)
- Constitutional Law I: Federal System (POL 3021)
- Constitutional Law II: Rights & Liberties (POL 3022)
- International Law & Organization (POL 2088)
- International Human Rights (POL 2089)
- Ethics, Violence, and War (POL 3089)
- Politics of Law & Religion (POL 2022)
- Cooperation in International Relations (POL 2087)
  - If instructor certifies international law component

**List B: Interdisciplinary Pathway – elective courses offered in other units on campus, which may include the following (Up to 9 credits):**

**(Additional courses would be added at the discretion of the Certificate Director)**

- American Constitutional Landmarks (MLTI/LAW 2031)
- Disability Rights Law (MLTI/LAW 2030)
- Legal Environment in Business (BLAW 2080)
- Global Legal Environment (BLAW 4045)
- Legal Aspects of Entrepreneurship (BLAW 4035)

- Consumer Law (BLAW 2096)
- Media, Law, and Ethics (JOUR 2020)
- Media Law (EMED 3035)
- Philosophy of Law (PHIL 3005)
- Organizational Leadership and the Law (OLHR2070)
- Introduction to Justice, Gender, and the Law (WGS 2039)
- Women, Gender, and the Law (WGS 3050)
- Global Biodiversity: Law & Policy (POL 3033 /EVST 6002)
- Global Environmental Law & Policy (POL 3032/EVST 6001)
- Construction Documents, Law, and Project Delivery Systems (CM 2001)\*
- Construction Law (CVE 6044)\*
- Entrepreneurship and Technology Law (AEEM 6067)\*
- Music Business II (JZST 6062)
- From Natural Law to Human Rights? (HIST 4002)
- Mock Trial (MLTI 3050)
  - Up to 3 credit hours
- Legal Internship
  - Up to 3 credit hours of internship credit coming from POL or LAW with approval from the Certificate Program Director
  - Internships for small number of students at College of Law legal clinics which may include Ohio Innocence Project, Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic, and the Domestic Violence and Civil Protection Order Clinic

\* Course is only open to majors in the specific academic unit