College of Law

- Programs
- Academic Information & Policies

The following addresses college-level policies and information. For university-wide policies, please visit the U of S Policies and Regulations.

Half-time Program

The half-time program has been developed to assist both regular and special applicants who meet the ordinary admission requirements. It is intended to accommodate those whose family commitments, financial necessity, or occupational involvement prevent full-time study. It would also apply to those who have not been in an academic institution for a significant number of years, making a part-time program at the outset necessary to re-acquire and develop educational skills.

Persons wishing to be admitted to the half-time program must submit a written statement setting out details of the reasons why they may be unable to pursue a full-time program in the study of law. Applicants must also be prepared to be interviewed prior to acceptance.

The program is not intended for those who want to test their interest in law or who would prefer a light course load. It requires a commitment to at least half of the workload of full-time law students.

Students taking a half-time program are required to attend courses at the ordinarily scheduled times. Such persons must be flexible enough to accommodate the study of law during the daytime when the bulk of the courses offered in the college are scheduled.

Students admitted to the first year half-time program are committed to two years in the half-time program before they can change their status to full-time.

In First Year Part I, students are required to complete a minimum of 12 credit units and a maximum of 18 credit units. In addition, students must complete legal writing assignments in conjunction with one of their courses and must participate in the Orientation
Program and Dispute Resolution Program.

In First Year Part II, students must complete the remaining first-year courses and, depending on the number of courses taken in Part I, may be allowed to take one or two upper-year courses subject to the following requirements:

1. that the upper-year courses which part-time first-year students are allowed to take in Part II be courses related to those already taken in Part I and be subject to the approval of the Associate Dean, Academic.

2. students in Part II may not take upper year seminars or complete the minor paper requirement.

Part-time students, in their second and third years, are permitted to spread the normal two-year load (full-time) over two and one-half years, three years, three and one-half years, or four years.

In the selection of their courses, part-time students are subject to the following requirements:

1. all three years of study must be completed within a period of six years;

2. no fewer than six credit units must be completed in any term, and no fewer than 15 credit units must be completed in any given year.

Note: If a student needs fewer than 6 credit units in a term, or fewer than 15 credit units in a year to graduate, the student may take the number of courses necessary for graduation.

Students may convert to full-time status upon completion of first year or at any other time in upper years.

University of Saskatchewan Native Law Centre

The Native Law Centre, established in September 1975, is Canada’s principal training and research program for Aboriginal law and lawyers. The University of Saskatchewan created the Centre to promote the development of the law and legal system in ways that would better fit the advancement of Aboriginal communities in Canadian society. The Centre undertakes many activities in fulfilling its objective, including a pre-law orientation program that prepares Aboriginal students for first year law.

The Centre also has an active research and publication program; a legal pleadings collection; and acts as a community resource. Research activities focus on issues in Aboriginal, human and treaty rights both in the national and international contexts. National policy organizers often call upon staff members to attend conferences. The Centre publishes the Canadian Native Law Reporter, Justice As Healing, First Nations Gazette and many technical monographs, and organizes interventions in major cases on Aboriginal and treaty rights in the courts. Link: [www.usask.ca/nativelaw](http://www.usask.ca/nativelaw)

Program of Legal Studies for Native People

This is an eight-week pre-law orientation and screening program which many students take as a condition of their admission to law school under a special admissions category for Aboriginal students. Unconditionally admitted Aboriginal students are also encouraged to participate in the Program to get the advantage of course credit and skill development. The Program introduces students to the process, substance and demands of the first year of law school, with particular emphasis on the skills required to succeed in law school. Successful students receive credit for first-year Property at the University of Saskatchewan and at other law schools dependent on individual law school policies.

To be considered for admission to the Program, Aboriginal students must have successfully completed two years of academic work at a recognized university or its equivalent. This requirement is flexible. An applicant who lacks this requirement but who, by reason of maturity and experience, possesses the potential and ability to successfully complete a law program, may be considered for admission.
For further information on the Program of Legal Studies for Native People contact:

Program of Legal Studies for Native People
University of Saskatchewan
Room 160, Law Building
15 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A6
Tel: 306-966-6189
Fax: 306-966-6207

http://www.usask.ca/plsnp

Roger Carter Scholarship

Four scholarships, valued at $250 each, are awarded annually to students of Aboriginal ancestry entering second or third year law at a Canadian law school. The fund was established in honour of Roger Carter, Q.C., the founder of the Native Law Centre and the Program of Legal Studies for Native People.

Harvey Bell Memorial Prize

It provides one or more awards up to $1,000 to one or more students of Aboriginal ancestry receiving his or her LL.B. degree in Canada. The scholarships are in memory of the late Harvey Bell who practiced law in North Battleford, Saskatchewan for many years.

Promotion and Graduation

Complete details on promotion and graduation are outlined in the College of Law Assessment Regulations. Please consult the College of Law website for more details.

Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree with Distinction

A student who attains a Cumulative Weighted Average of 75% in courses credited towards a degree in the College of Law will be awarded the degree with Distinction. A student who attains a Cumulative Weighted Average of 80% credited towards a degree in the College of Law will be awarded the degree with Great Distinction provided, in each case, that all work was completed to the satisfaction of the faculty.

After Law School - Becoming a Lawyer

There are many career and academic options available to a student with a law degree, however many require the student become a practicing licensed lawyer. Each province/territory has its own procedure and rules regarding the process to become a licensed lawyer. Every student is individually responsible to ensure they meet the requirements of the Law Society in the province/territory they are interested in becoming a student-at law and eventually licensed to practice as a lawyer. As well, there are some steps to be aware of that arise during law school.

The information below is provided as an overview and the Law Society in which the student wishes to practice must be consulted. Generally the steps to becoming a lawyer are as follows:

1. Successfully complete law school (Note: There may be mandatory courses/requirements to successfully completing the J.D. degree. Please refer to the appropriate section of the catalogue and the respective Law Society.)
2. Apply to graduate from Law School (in third year).

3. Apply for admission as a Student-at-Law with the respective Law Society (in third year). Most information can now be found online with the respective Law Society. The Law Society will be your governing and professional body. As with all interactions at law school your professionalism and reputation are of utmost importance. You will want to ensure you have your application completed correctly and delivered to the Law Society well within the deadline periods. Usually the student-at-law will be required to demonstrate that he or she is of good character and repute.

4. Article or Clerkship – This process is governed by the respective Law Society. This period usually lasts approximately one year after law school when combined with the bar course. Articling is a process where a student-at-law works under the guidance of a principal which is a licensed lawyer or Judge. In the event the student is working with a Court, the Articles are referred to a Clerkship. Articling is an exciting time as the student will gain invaluable experience and practical information to provide the foundation to practice as a lawyer. Students generally seek articles in the same manner as any other employment search by reviewing postings, researching and contacting employers, submitting applications and attending interviews. Recruitment usually occurs in second year at law school for articles to start the end of third year. Summer positions are also available after first and second year with recruitment occurring early in the year. Recruitment rules are different in each province and are often set by the law society and/or local bar associations. The Career Services office has numerous services and resources to assist students. It is important for students to ensure they are familiar with the rules and to contact the Career Services office if they have any questions.

5. Complete the Bar Admission Course/examinations – This process is governed by the respective Law Society. In Saskatchewan the Bar Admission program is the CPLED program which also operates in Manitoba and Alberta.

6. Apply to be admitted a Lawyer – Near the end of articles the student will apply to the respective Law Society to become a lawyer. Each jurisdiction has developed its own application procedure which may include signing the rolls, a ceremony and taking the oath. A student-at-law should look into the procedure as soon as possible to ensure no delays in the licensing process.

A Law degree does not automatically entitle the recipient to become a member of a Law Society. Anyone who wishes to practice law should be aware that not all applications are accepted by the respective Law Society. Therefore if a prospective student has any concerns it is worthwhile to review the procedure and requirements ahead of time.

Law Society of Saskatchewan
Tel: 306-569-8242
Website: http://www.lawsociety.sk.ca

Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education
Tel: 306-966-7874
Website: http://www.cpled.ca

LL.M. Program

The College offers specialized programs in a wide range of areas, including Aboriginal, Commercial, Constitutional, Criminal, and Human Rights Law. For details on the LL.M. program, please refer to the College of Graduate Studies and Research section.

Study Abroad Opportunities

For information on study abroad opportunities at the University of Saskatchewan, please visit the Go Abroad website.
Juris Doctor

The program of studies leading to the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.) requires three years of study in the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan.

In order to obtain the degree of Juris Doctor, a student must satisfy the requirements for admission; register annually for the prescribed courses; pay the required fees; attend classes and participate in the first year orientation and Dispute Resolution week; pass examinations as prescribed; successfully complete the requirements in upper year which include a minor paper, a major paper, and a seminar. Students must complete a minor or major paper in second year. Normally, second year students will undertake the minor paper and then complete the major paper and seminar in third year; however, students may choose to do the major paper and seminar in second year and leave the minor paper to third year, or may choose to do all three requirements in second year. Students may not take additional courses in other faculties without the permission of the Associate Dean, Academic.

Read more

Students in their second year must complete "Administrative Law" (LAW 340.3). In their second or third year, students must also take "Legal Ethics and Professionalism" (LAW 421.3) as well as one of three other courses, "Business Organizations I" (LAW 361.3), "Trusts" (LAW 326.3) or "Fiduciary Obligations" (LAW 463.3).

These changes were implemented in order to comply with competency requirements established by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada for graduates with common law degrees who intend to apply for entry to provincial bars and law societies as of 2015.

Students are required to attend classes in courses in which they are registered. Persistent failure to attend may lead to exclusion from the examinations.

The faculty believes that success in the study of law requires full-time application by the student; therefore, a student is advised to avoid outside employment during the term.

A leave of absence arising during the school year is not permitted except in unusual circumstances. Students who complete with approval only one term are considered part-time students for promotion or supplemental purposes. Students who withdraw from the College can return (1) if first year students - by applying for re-admission in competition with other students applying for admission in that year; (2) if second or third year students - with permission of the Associate Dean, Academic.

Students ordinarily must complete the J.D. requirements within six years in order to receive that degree. However, students wishing to complete the J.D. requirements beyond a five year period must obtain permission from the Associate Dean, Academic. A leave of absence of up to two years is permitted with approval of the Associate Dean, Academic before the commencement of the academic year. An absence for a third year requires approval of the Board of Examiners.

Information on academic requirements for promotion and graduation may be found in the College of Law Assessment Regulations.

Program Requirements

Juris Doctor (J.D.)
Year 1

During first year, students must also complete a "Legal Research and Writing" (LAW 243.0), in which students must receive a grade of 60% or better.

- LAW 201.6
- LAW 204.6
- LAW 208.6
- LAW 212.6
- LAW 231.3
- LAW 233.3

Year 2

Students must receive a grade of 60% or better to satisfy each of the program requirements.

- course load of 15 credit units per term including the following:
  - minor paper
  - major paper (Year 2 or Year 3)
  - Seminar class (Year 2 or Year 3)
  - LAW 340.3
  - LAW 421.3 (Year 2 or Year 3)
  - one of LAW 326.3, LAW 361.3, or LAW 463.3 (Year 2 or Year 3)

- in special cases, a student may be given permission by the Associate Dean Academic to undertake a program involving a load in excess of 15 credit units.

Students may be permitted to take 6 credit units given by another College, during either second or third year, for credit in the College of Law. The course(s) must be approved by the Associate Dean, Academic. Applications are assessed from the standpoint of how the outside senior-level course contributes to the applicant's understanding of the law.

Year 3

Students must receive a grade of 60% or better to satisfy each of the program requirements.

- course load of 15 credit units per term including the following:
  - major paper (if not completed in Year 2)
  - seminar class (if not completed in Year 2)
  - LAW 421.3 (Year 2 or Year 3)
  - one of LAW 326.3, LAW 361.3 or LAW 463.3 (Year 2 or Year 3)

- in special cases, a student may be given permission by the Associate Dean Academic to undertake a program involving a load in excess of 15 credit units.

Students may be permitted to take 6 credit units given by another College, during either second or third year, for credit in the College of Law. The course(s) must be approved by the Associate Dean, Academic. Applications are assessed from the standpoint of how the outside senior-level course contributes to the applicant's understanding of the law.