

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Oklahoma City University School of Law offers a number of certificate programs for students pursuing the JD or LLM degree. In order to qualify for a certificate, a student must submit an “Intent to Pursue a Certificate” form to the Registrar prior to the student’s final semester of law school.

We offer certificates in the following areas:

- American Indian Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Energy Law
- Commercial Law
- Health Law
- Homeland Security Law
- Public Law
- Wills, Trusts, and Estates (Certificate in Estate Planning)
- Wills, Trusts, and Estates (Certificate in Wills and Trusts)

The requirements for the certificates are given below.

CERTIFICATE IN AMERICAN INDIAN LAW

A student shall receive a Certificate in American Indian Law upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree, submission of an Intent to Pursue a Certificate form, and completion, with a cumulative B average, of the following coursework:

1. American Indian Law
2. Tribal Law
3. At least two of the following:
 - a. Family Law
 - b. Federal Jurisdiction
 - c. Environmental Law
 - d. Oil and Gas Law
 - e. Indian Gaming Law (offered every other year)
 - f. Any other elective course with significant American Indian law content approved by the program director, including elective courses previously listed for this certificate but no longer offered.
4. Satisfaction of the student’s upper-class writing requirement through one of the following seminar courses or competition:
 - a. Law and Anthropology
 - b. Native American Economic Development
 - c. NALSA Moot Court Competition
 - d. Seminar approved by the program director
5. Either one of the following clinical or externship courses:
 - a. American Indian Wills Clinic
 - b. Native American Externship

Professor Emeritus Dennis Arrow is the program director for this certificate.

CERTIFICATE IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A student shall receive a *Certification in Dispute Resolution* upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree, submission of an Intent to Pursue a Certificate form, and completion of the following courses with a cumulative B- average:

1. Arbitration Advocacy (formerly Client Representation in Arbitration)
2. Mediation Advocacy (formerly Client Representation in Mediation)
3. Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation Advocacy (formerly Client Representation in Negotiation)
4. Pretrial Litigation
5. Trial Practice

With the permission of the program director, a student may substitute a course with significant dispute resolution content (as determined by the program director) for Mediation Advocacy.

A student who entered Oklahoma City University School of Law prior to 2017 may receive a *Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution Advocacy* upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree and completion of the following three courses with any cumulative grade average: Arbitration Advocacy (formerly Client Representation in Arbitration); Mediation Advocacy (formerly Client Representation in Mediation); and Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation Advocacy (formerly Client Representation in Negotiation).

The program director for this certificate is Dean Emeritus and Professor Valerie Couch.

CERTIFICATE IN ENERGY LAW

A student shall receive a Certificate in Energy Law upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree, submission of an Intent to Pursue a Certificate form, and completion, with a cumulative B- average, of the following courses:

1. Environmental Law
2. Oil and Gas Contracts (offered every other year)
3. Oil and Gas Law
4. Oil and Gas Regulation (offered every other year)
5. Oil and Gas Tax Law (offered every other year)

The student is encouraged, but not required, to complete his or her upper-class writing requirement by means of a seminar paper on a topic in energy law. The student is encouraged, but not required, to complete his or her clinic-or-externship requirement within an energy law practice.

If the student is unable to complete all five courses before the completion of the JD degree, the person may complete the missing courses after graduation and receive the certificate. The courses must be taken for academic credit and may not be audited. Standard tuition and fees apply to coursework completed after graduation.

This certificate replaces the previous Certificate in Energy and Natural Resources Law. Students who entered Oklahoma City University School of Law prior to 2017 and who satisfy the requirements of the previous certificate may elect to receive the prior certificate in lieu of the Certificate in Energy Law.

The program director for this certificate is Professor Eric Laity.

CERTIFICATE IN COMMERCIAL LAW

A student shall receive a Certificate in Financial Services and Commercial Law upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree, submission of an Intent to Pursue a Certificate form, and completion of the following requirements:

1. Completion, with a B- cumulative average, of
 - a. All of the following courses:
 - i. Commercial Paper
 - ii. Consumer Bankruptcy
 - iii. Sales and Leases
 - iv. Secured Transactions, and
 - b. One of the following courses:
Financing the Start-Up (offered every other year)
International Business Transactions (offered every other year)
Securities Regulation (offered every other year).
2. Satisfaction of the upper-class writing requirement by means of a publishable paper (either a seminar paper, directed research paper, or law review note, but not a supervised paper) on a topic in commercial law, as approved by the program director.
3. Satisfaction of the clinic or externship requirement with a commercial law practice, as approved by the program director.

The program director for this certificate is Professor Michael Gibson.

CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH LAW

A student shall receive a Certificate in Health Law upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree, submission of an Intent to Pursue a Certificate form, and completion of the following requirements:

1. Completion, with a B- cumulative average, of five of the following courses, composed of:
 - a. Healthcare Law (formerly known as Law and Medicine or as Health Law)
 - b. At least two of the following core courses:
 - i. Administrative Law
 - ii. Behavioral and Mental Health Law (offered every other year)
 - iii. Bioethics (offered every other year)
 - iv. Disability Law (offered every other year)
 - v. Healthcare Regulatory Law (offered every other year)
 - vi. Law & Genetics (offered every other year)
 - vii. Public Health Law (offered every other year)
 - c. And any of the following elective courses:
 - i. Agency and Unincorporated Business Associations
 - ii. Employment Law
 - iii. Information Privacy Law (offered occasionally)
 - iv. Products Liability (offered every other year)

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- v. Any other elective course with significant health law content approved by the program director, including elective courses previously listed for this certificate but no longer offered.
2. Completion, to the satisfaction of a full-time law faculty sponsor, of a publishable paper (seminar, directed research or law review note, but not a supervised paper) on a health law topic approved by the program director (the same paper may be used to satisfy this certificate requirement and the upper-class writing requirement).
3. Completion of one of the following:
 - a. Pro bono work consisting of 50 hours during one semester in a health law field approved by the program director.
 - b. Paid employment consisting of 100 hours during one semester in a health law field approved by the program director.
 - c. Externship at a placement site approved by the program director.
 - d. A second paper (seminar, directed research law review note, or a supervised paper) to the satisfaction of a full-time faculty sponsor, on a health law topic approved by the program director.

The program director for this certificate is Professor Emeritus Vicki MacDougall.

CERTIFICATE IN HOMELAND SECURITY LAW

A student shall receive a Certificate in Homeland Security Law upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree, submission of an Intent to Pursue a Certificate form, and completion of the following requirements:

1. Completion, with a cumulative B- average, of six of the following courses, composed of:
 - a. Homeland Security Law
 - b. At least two of the following courses:
 - i. National Security Law
 - ii. Criminal Procedure
 - iii. Administrative Law
 - c. And any of the following elective courses:
 - i. Aviation Law (usually offered during the summer)
 - ii. Cybersecurity Law
 - iii. Federal Criminal Law
 - iv. Firearms Law and the Second Amendment (offered occasionally)
 - v. Information Privacy Law (offered occasionally)
 - vi. State and Local Government (offered every other year)
 - vii. Legislation
 - viii. Military and Veterans Law (offered every other year)
 - ix. Policing and the Law (offered every other year)
 - x. Any course listed under (b) above that is not used to satisfy requirement (b).
 - xi. Any other elective course with significant homeland security law content approved by the program director, including elective courses previously listed for this certificate but no longer offered.
2. Completion, to the satisfaction of a full-time law faculty sponsor, of a publishable paper (seminar, directed research, or law review note, but not a supervised paper) on a Homeland Security Law topic approved by the program director (the paper may also be used to satisfy the upper-class writing requirement).
3. Completion of one of the following:
 - a. Externship at a Homeland Security-related placement site approved by the program

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- director.
- b. Pro bono work consisting of a minimum of 50 hours during one semester at a Homeland Security-related placement site approved by the program director.
- c. Paid employment consisting of a minimum of 100 hours during one semester at a Homeland Security-related placement site approved by the program director.
- d. A second paper (seminar, directed research, law review note, or a supervised paper) to the satisfaction of a full-time law faculty sponsor, on a Homeland Security Law topic approved by the program director.

The program director for this certificate is Professor Marc Blitz.

CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC LAW

As the relationship between law and public policy becomes more complex and the role of attorneys in government agencies increases, there is a great need for attorneys with both an excellent grounding in the theory of law and political science and a well-rounded exposure to the doctrines of public law in diverse areas such as Environmental Law, Securities Regulation, and Federal Criminal Law. The Certificate in Public Law enables students, through a well-planned series of courses, extensive writing, and opportunities to do an externship in the field, to acquire excellent training in public law that will make them attractive not only to government employers, but to any employer who deals with public law issues.

A student shall receive a Certificate in Public Law upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree, submission of an Intent to Pursue a Certificate form, and completion of the following requirements:

1. Completion, with a cumulative B- average, of six of the following courses, composed of:
 - a. Administrative Law
 - b. At least one of the following courses:
 - i. Legislation
 - ii. State Constitutional Law (offered occasionally)
 - iii. State and Local Government (offered every other year)
 - c. Any of the following elective courses:
 - i. American Criminal Law and Restorative Justice
 - ii. American Indian Law
 - iii. Environmental Law
 - iv. Estate and Gift Tax Law
 - v. Federal Criminal Law (offered occasionally)
 - vi. Federal Jurisdiction (offered occasionally)
 - vii. Immigration Law
 - viii. Income Tax Law
 - ix. Securities Regulation (offered every other year)
 - x. Any course listed under (b) above that is not used to satisfy requirement (b).
 - xi. Any other elective course with significant public law content approved by the program director, including elective courses previously listed for this certificate but no longer offered.
2. Completion, to the satisfaction of a full-time law faculty sponsor, of a publishable paper (seminar, directed research, or law review note, but not a supervised paper) on a public law topic approved by the program director (the paper may also be used to satisfy the upper-class writing requirement).
3. Completion of one of the following:
 - a. A Government Practice Externship or a Judicial Externship, to the satisfaction of the

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- Director of Externship Programs;
- b. A second paper (seminar, directed research, law review note, or a supervised paper) on a public law topic approved by the program director, to the satisfaction of a full-time law faculty sponsor; or
 - c. A brief (for a moot court team approved for academic credit) on a public law topic approved by the program director, to the satisfaction of a full-time law faculty sponsor.

The program director for this certificate is Professor Andrew Spiropoulos.

CERTIFICATE IN REAL ESTATE LAW PRACTICE

A student shall receive a Certificate in Real Estate Law Practice upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree and completion of the following requirements:

1. Completion, with a cumulative B- average, of six of the following courses, composed of:
 - a. The following three courses:
 - i. Environmental Law
 - ii. Land Use
 - iii. Oklahoma Land Titles (offered every other year)
 - b. At least three of the following courses:
 - i. American Indian Law
 - ii. Agency and Unincorporated Business Associations
 - iii. Oil and Gas Contracts (offered every other year)
 - iv. Oil and Gas Law
 - v. State and Local Government (offered every other year)
 - vi. Texas Marital Property Law
 - vii. Any other elective with significant real estate law practice content approved by the program director, including elective courses previously listed for this certificate but no longer offered.
2. Completion, to the satisfaction of a full-time law faculty sponsor, of a paper (a seminar paper, a Directed Research paper, a law review note, a Supervised Paper, or other paper approved by the program director) on a real estate law practice topic approved by the program director.
3. Completion of one of the following:
 - a. To the satisfaction of the Director of Externship Programs, a Government Practice Externship, a Judicial Externship, or a Corporate Counsel Externship, at a placement site that is related to real estate law practice and that is approved by the program director;
 - b. Pro bono work consisting of a minimum of 50 hours during one semester at a real estate law practice placement site approved by the program director;
 - c. Paid employment consisting of a minimum of 100 hours during one semester at a real estate law practice placement site approved by the program director; or
 - d. A course or seminar on contract drafting.

The program director for this certificate is Professor Paula Dalley.

CERTIFICATES IN WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATES

This certificate program is designed to equip students with the legal knowledge and practice skills to be effective as beginning practitioners in the area of wills, trusts, and estates. The required courses provide a basis in the relevant legal doctrine, the advanced courses allow the student to focus on one area in depth, and the experiential learning component gives the student practical experience in dealing with clients, drafting, and addressing estate planning issues.

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This program includes two certificates:

- *Certificate in Estate Planning*: this is suitable for students who think they may seek a position in the Estate Planning department of a large firm where the nature of the practice and clientele will make advanced estate tax knowledge beneficial. The course, Estate and Gift Tax Law, is required for this Certificate.
- *Certificate in Wills and Trusts*: this is suitable for students who think they may work in a general practice firm or in a solo practice, where advanced estate tax knowledge is likely not necessary. The course, Estate and Gift Tax Law, is not required for this Certificate.

A student shall receive a Certificate in Estate Planning or a Certificate in Wills and Trusts upon completion of all requirements for the *Juris Doctor* degree, submission of an Intent to Pursue a Certificate form, and completion, with a cumulative B average, of the following coursework:

1. All four of the following courses:
 - a. Estate and Gift Tax Law (required only for the Certificate in Estate Planning)
 - b. Estate Planning
 - c. Income Tax Law
 - d. Wills, Trusts, and Estates
2. At least one of the following advanced courses:
 - a. Advanced Trust Law
 - b. Agency and Unincorporated Business Associations
 - c. Consumer Bankruptcy
 - d. Administrative Law
 - e. American Indian Law
 - f. Texas Marital Property Law
 - g. Oil and Gas Law
 - h. Any other elective course with significant wills, trusts, and estates law content approved by the program director, including elective courses previously listed for this certificate but no longer offered.
3. Any one of the following clinical or externship courses:
 - a. American Indian Wills Clinic
 - b. Advanced American Indian Wills Clinic
 - c. Government Practice Externship with a placement at either of the following:
 - i. Oklahoma Health Care Authority
 - ii. Oklahoma State Department of Health
 - d. Judicial Externship with a placement at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court
 - e. Litigation Practice Externship with a placement at either of the following:
 - i. Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma
 - ii. Senior Law Resource Center
4. Either one of the following:
 - a. Additional clinical or externship course from among those listed above; or
 - b. Final written 2-hour exam covering estate planning scenarios, drafting, the law of wills and trusts, and, for the Certificate in Estate Planning, estate tax law.

The Program Director for these certificates is Professor Carla Spivack.