

Program in Criminal Law and Policy Certificate Program

Students at the College of Law may enroll in a program that will lead to the award of a Certificate in Criminal Law and Policy at Commencement. The program offers a structured curriculum preparing students for careers in criminal prosecution, defense, and policy, and a credential attesting to their commitment and training in the field. Professors Jordan Woods and Bryan Schwartz serve as the Faculty Co-Directors of the certificate program. Students must enroll in the program prior to the beginning of their fifth semester of law school, i.e., generally no later than the end of second year. However, students are encouraged to review the requirements for the certificate early in their law school careers. This helps to ensure interested students can satisfy these requirements and to address potential conflicts in advance.

ENROLLING AND TRACKING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE CERTIFICATE:

Current students should enroll and verify their progress in fulfilling the requirements on the certificate program's [Brightspace website](#). Students should contact the Faculty Co-Directors to be added to the Brightspace website. Students must enroll in the program prior to the beginning of their fifth semester of law school, i.e., generally no later than the end of second year.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS:

To earn a certificate, a student must demonstrate satisfactory completion of the following requirements:

A. Course Requirements:

1. First-Year Criminal Procedure (Investigations) (required for graduation)
2. Criminal Law
3. Evidence (required for graduation)
4. Trial Advocacy (Basic or Advanced)
5. A seminar or specialized course on a criminal justice topic at the College of Law or, with approval from the Faculty Co-Directors, related courses in other departments at the University. A list of approved courses is included below.

B. Writing and Research Requirements:

A substantial paper making an original analytical contribution on a criminal justice topic. While the paper must be related to the criminal justice system, this requirement is sufficiently broad to include a range of issues, including traditional criminal law and procedure topics as well as topics related to immigration, juvenile justice, mental health, and family law. The paper topic must be approved in advance by the Faculty Co-Directors. A purely descriptive paper does not satisfy this requirement. A paper written as part of a seminar, independent study, or law journal—if supervised by a faculty member or other approved person—may satisfy this requirement. If graded, the paper must receive at least a B. If ungraded, the paper must be of quality equivalent to at least a B.

C. Enrichment Requirement

Participation in the Program in Criminal Law and Policy Wednesday Lunch Speaker Series. This speaker series has been central to the success of the PCLP, and it has been a remarkable opportunity for students to interact with leaders in the criminal justice system, including elected prosecutors, public defenders, judges, defendants, policymakers, and activists. Past speakers have explored a broad range of issues, including the death penalty, prosecuting and defending organized crime, prison life, wrongful convictions, victims' rights, international criminal prosecutions, prosecutorial ethics, and forensic science. To satisfy this requirement, students must attend 16 of the events while enrolled at the College of Law. Students should keep track of a list of speakers they attended on the form available on the Certificate's [Brightspace Site](#) as this information is needed when applying for the PCLP certificate before graduation.

D. Practice Experience Requirements:

1. Completion of the Criminal Defense Clinic, Criminal Prosecution Clinic, Attorney General Clinic, Wrongful Conviction Clinic, Child and Family Law Clinic, Immigration Clinic, Civil Rights Restoration Clinic, or completion of a similar internship or externship approved by a Faculty Co-Director; AND
2. A summer or school-year practice experience, paid or volunteer (other than that used to satisfy the requirement of D(1)) with a prosecution or defense agency (local, state, federal, tribal, or military), a policy office, or a clerkship in a court with criminal jurisdiction totaling at least 300 hours. The Career Development Office provides students with information about many of these opportunities. With approval of a Faculty Co-Director, this requirement may be met through work at more than one agency.

E. GPA Requirement:

At the time you are awarded your JD, you must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or better.

List of Approved Criminal Justice Courses to Satisfy Requirement A(5): (Other courses may be approved on an individual basis. Note that several of these courses/seminars are not offered each year.)

1. A second clinical experience for credit other than the one used to satisfy D(1).
2. LAW 675: Advanced Criminal Procedure
3. LAW 645B: Advanced Trial Advocacy (only if not used to satisfy A(4)).
4. LAW 607B: Investigations: Criminal, Civil, and Internal
5. LAW 620B: Crimmigration
6. LAW 621C: National Security Surveillance
7. LAW 627D: Federal Border Crimes
8. LAW 631N: Criminal Law and Restorative Justice in Indian Country
9. LAW 650A: Crime and Punishment
10. LAW 650B: Public Defense
11. LAW 650D: Wrongful Convictions: Causes and Remedies
12. LAW 650G: Prosecutorial Ethics and Decision Making
13. LAW 656J: National Security Law and Litigation
14. LAW 656P: Prosecution and Adjudication
15. LAW 662C: Legal Ethics for Criminal Lawyers
16. LAW 667A: Sentencing Law
17. LAW 681B: Anatomy of a Criminal Case
18. LAW 681I: Seminar on Policing
19. LAW 696G: Capital Punishment
20. LAW 698J: Prosecution Ethics and Misconduct
21. LAW 698L: White Collar Crime: Ethics and Compliance

Additional information about the Program in Criminal Law and Policy is available here: <https://law.arizona.edu/criminal-law-policy-program>. If you have questions about the requirements or your ability to meet them, please contact Professor Jordan Woods (jbwoods@arizona.edu) or Professor Bryan Schwartz (schwartzb@arizona.edu).

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