

PRE-LAW STUDIES CERTIFICATE

Pre-Law Advisor, Stephen N. Bretsen

Wheaton College offers a certificate program in Pre-Law Studies. This is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide students with a concentration of course work that supports the future study and practice of law.

The requirements of the certificate are 26 hours from three groupings:

- Group 1—Core Requirements
- Group 2—Law-Related Courses
- Group 3—Supporting Elective Courses

Requirements

The program change consists of adding two courses as Law-Related Elective Courses - PSCI 328 Immigration (a former experimental course that is being submitted for approval as a catalog course) and PSCI 394 Spirit of the Laws. Based on reviews of the syllabi and various discussions among the professor teaching the courses, the Pre-Law Studies Certificate director, and the Dean of Social Sciences and Education, the courses have legal sufficient content to merit inclusion as Law-Related Elective Courses. In addition, the graduate studies of the professor teaching the courses, Dr. Alex Haskins, had a legal orientation.

Although a number of PSCI courses are already listed as Law-Related Courses, the number is not surprising given the relationship between government and law, and the new overlap policy and the certificate's own requirements should prevent students from just taking PSCI courses for their Law-Related Courses.

The requirements of the certificate are 26 hours from three groupings:

- **Group 1—Core Requirements:** The required core courses are PSCI 274 Introduction to Law and a four-hour internship. The internship will be approved for academic credit and administered through the student's major department but must be related to the field of law and approved by the Pre-Law Advisor. If the student's major department is unwilling to approve and administer the internship, the Pre-Law Advisor may do so for academic credit outside the student's major department.
- **Group 2—Law-Related Courses:** A total of ten elective hours must be taken from an approved group of law-related courses. Course work must be elected from at least two departments.
- **Group 3—Supporting Elective Courses:** A total of eight elective hours must be taken from an approved list of supporting courses. Course work must be elected from at least two departments, one of which is not elected under Group 2, Law-Related Courses. The required and approved elective courses are as follows, with relevant "topics in..." courses considered on a case-by-case basis:

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses Required		
PSCI 274	Introduction to Law	4
LAW 496	Pre-Law Internship (or Major Department 496 Internship)	4
Law-Related Elective Courses		
Select 10 credits from at least two departments:		10

B EC 352	Business Law
CORE 337	AIS: Justice, Law and Society
IR 367	International Law
PHIL 318	Philosophy of Law
PSCI 311	Constitutional Law
PSCI 325	Criminal Law Procedure
PSCI 327	Civil Rights and Police Action
PSCI 328	Immigration
PSCI 368	American Political Thought
PSCI 387	Law and Religion
PSCI 394	Spirit of the Laws
SOC 367	Crime & Delinquency

Supporting Elective Courses

Select 8 credits from at least two departments, one of which is not elected under Law-Related Courses: 8

ANTH 353	Culture and Difference
ANTH 376	Culture Theory
COMM 252	Argumentation and Debate
COMM 353	Advanced Persuasive Speaking
COMM 362	Group Dynamics
COMM 363	Persuasion
B EC 226	Financial Accounting
or B EC 227	Managerial Accounting
B EC 328	Business Ethics
ENGW 214	Persuasive Writing
ENVR 231	Environmental Law, Justice, and Development
HIST 251	American History to 1865
or HIST 252	American History from 1865
HIST 377	British History to 1688
HIST 483	History of Christianity in North America
PHIL 243	Intro To Logic
PHIL 448	Advanced Topics in Philosophy (448-3 Ethical Theory)
PSCI 135	American Politics and Government
PSCI 365	Classical and Medieval Political Thought
PSCI 366	Modern Political Thought
SOC 337	Racial and Ethnic Relations
SOC 356	The Family
SOC 376	Sociological Theory

Total Credits 26

Courses

Pre-Law Courses

LAW 496. Pre-Law Internship. (4 Credits)

General elective credit for an internship with a practicing legal professional. Prerequisites: (i) junior or senior standing; (ii) a minimum of 16 hours of courses in the student's department major and 8 hours of required or elective courses toward the Pre-law Studies Certificate; (iii) the internship is for the Pre-law Studies Certificate, and the student is unable to secure approval for a Major Department 496 Internship; and (iv) approval of the Pre-Law Advisor. Graded pass/fail.