



Pre-Law Certificate

**Department of Social Sciences,
Ellis College of Arts and Sciences**

Required Number of Hours: 12

Description of certificate: (Include an introductory paragraph and certificate plan of study.)

The Pre-Law certificate is an interdisciplinary program open to any registered student. Law schools emphasize the value of reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, critical thinking, and a command of written English. Through means of the certificate, motivated students have the opportunity to further develop critical thinking skills and acquire knowledge that is supportive for applications to law school, multiple employment opportunities in the public or private sector, and performing the duties of citizenship in a free and democratic society. Regardless of the major, a pre-law certificate is an asset for any resume.

Required: Select either of the following two courses. The course not selected can be used as an elective.

PSC 4053/HIS 4283 American Constitutional Development

PSC 4173/HIS 4173 Rights, Freedoms and Justice

Electives: From the list below, select any three courses from at least two disciplines. No more than six credits from any one discipline can be counted for the certificate. Only courses in which the student earned the grade of "C" or better can be counted for the certificate.

PSC 3213 Judicial Process

PSC 4163 Public Policy

PSC 3113 Legislative Process
PSC 4073/HIS 4713 Social and Political Thought
PSC 4223 The American Presidency
HIS 3163 Recent America
HIS 4263 Arkansas and the Southwest
PHI 2133 Logic and Argument (strongly encouraged for LSAT preparation)
PHI 3113 Ethics
CRJ 2013 Introduction to Criminal Justice System
COM 2153 Argumentation and debate
COM 4093 Persuasion
ENG 2133 Rhetoric and Argument
ENG 3313 University Writing
ECO 2013 Principles of Macroeconomics
ECO 2023 Principles of Microeconomics

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will acquire a basic understanding of the organization of the judiciary and legal process.

Students will acquire a basic understanding of case law and how it develops in each area of jurisprudence through Supreme Court decisions.

Several of the suggested electives will help students prepare for success on the LSAT

For History and Political Science majors making plans for law school, completing the certificate will both strengthen their application and develop skills necessary for success in law school.

The pre-law certificate may help non-lawyers who have a job situation that requires law related tasks like: researching regulations, negotiating contracts, checking on possible copyright or patent infringements.

Contact information:

*Larry J. Monette, Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Social Sciences Chair
870.230.5240*

E-Mail: monettl@hsu.edu