

Certificate in Criminal Law & Justice

The certificate in Criminal Law & Justice recognizes successful curriculum concentration in the field of criminal law and procedure. To obtain the certificate, students must satisfy the requirements set forth below. The certificate is awarded to eligible students at graduation.

A. Course Requirements

To obtain the certificate, a student must complete the following course requirements:

Level 1

All of the following:

- CJ: Criminal Procedure I
- CJ: Criminal Procedure II
- CJ: Criminal Law I
- Evidence

Level 2

One of the following:

- Any class with the prefix “CJ” unless listed for Levels 1 or 3
- Crimes Against Animals
- Cyber Crime
- Environmental Enforcement
- International Criminal Law
- Juvenile Justice
- Sexual Assault: Victims’ Rights, Remedies, and Reality
- Individual Research (on a criminal law, procedure, or justice topic)

Level 3

One of the following:

- Appellate Advocacy
- CJ: Crime Victim Litigation Clinic
- CJ: Criminal Justice Reform Clinic
- Externship (in a placement related to criminal law and justice)
- Legal Practicum: Environmental Enforcement
- Moot Court*
- Trial Advocacy

A student may be able to receive credit for one course of up to three (3) credits, taken at another law school. A student seeking such credit must contact the Associate Dean of Faculty or the faculty member who chairs the Criminal Law Committee, both of whom have discretion to grant or deny the request. If the Director allows the course to count toward the certificate, only the credit earned

* The following moot courts satisfy the Level 3 requirement because they develop skills that are applicable to a criminal practice: ABA: Negotiation; ABA: Tax I; Appellate Advocacy Regional; Client Counseling; International; Mock Trial; NALSA; National Animal Law Moot Court; Pace National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition.

for that course will be applied to the certificate. The grade earned for the course will not be counted in determining the student's GPA for the certificate.

B. Writing Requirement

The paper must focus directly on criminal law, criminal procedure, or criminal justice.

The paper must satisfy the criteria for either the "WIE" or the "Capstone" writing requirement. If these criteria are met, it is immaterial whether the student actually uses the paper to fulfill the "WIE" or "Capstone" writing requirement.

Students should plan ahead in determining how to meet the writing requirement. In particular, it is important to consider the following:

- The paper must involve substantial independent research. Some papers clearly fail to meet this requirement (*e.g.* moot court briefs or memoranda for which the professor has artificially limited the scope of the problem or research involved). The nature of some other papers, or the amount of work actually done by the student, may also result in difficulties with this requirement.
- There will be a strong presumption against allowing co-authored papers to qualify for the Certificate.
- The student has the burden of ensuring that the paper topic, scope, and research level meet the Certificate requirements. If there is any doubt, the student should initiate a consultation among the student, the supervising faculty member, and the Certificate Director early in the paper process.

C. Grade Point Requirement

The student must maintain a grade point average of B (3.00) or better in courses taken and selected as qualifying for the Certificate.