

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Higher Education Opportunities in Legal Studies for Notaries

Master of Arts in Applied Legal Studies Program

This Master of Arts (MA) program is primarily for students intending to practice as Notaries Public in the Province of British Columbia but may also be of interest to existing Notaries who wish to obtain a graduate degree focused upon their area of professional practice.

The degree, a Master of Arts (MA), is granted on the successful completion of the required number of courses and a final examination and, in the case of aspiring Notaries, will prepare students for admission to notarial practice, subject to further requirements, prescribed by the Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia, and for business and public service.

The number of individuals entering notarial practice in British Columbia is governed by the Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia. Conferral of the degree is no guarantee of a position in the Society's post degree professional training programs or in notarial practice.

Admission Requirements

Applicants should regard their satisfaction of the entrance requirements as meaning only that they are eligible for selection.

Since there is competition for admission, a regular applicant should have an undergraduate academic average substantially higher than the minimum in order to have a reasonable chance of admission.

Certain factors such as financial hardship, learning disabilities or other disadvantages may be considered in the discretionary category. Note that only a limited number of positions will be available each year in the discretionary category.

To be eligible for selection, an applicant must have

- obtained an undergraduate degree in an approved course of study from a degree granting institution with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher: or
- obtained an undergraduate degree from a degree granting institution with a

- cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0 (B, or good, overall grade) and have subsequently completed an approved course of study at a degree granting institution resulting in (i) the award of either a certificate, diploma or other approved qualification with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (a B, or good, overall grade) or higher, or (ii) a recognized professional qualification relevant to notarial practice, such as accounting; or
- successful completion of 90 or more units of an approved course of study leading to an undergraduate degree at a degree-granting institution with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher and possess sufficient and appropriate work experience relevant to notarial practice that, in the view of the admissions committee, compensates for the lack of a completed degree, or
 - practiced as a Notary Public for a period of at least 10 years, be in good standing with the Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia, and have completed an approved course of study at a degree granting institution resulting in the award of a certificate, diploma or other approved qualification with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher (a B, or good, overall grade), or
 - met the criteria for discretionary applicants as set out below.

Applicants are responsible for providing full documentation. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

Discretionary Applicants

Special life factors may impede the ability of an otherwise promising candidate to satisfy some of the regular admission criteria. Accordingly, the admissions committee may consider factors such as age, disability, financial disadvantage, membership in an historically disadvantaged group, or any other factors that the applicant identifies. These factors are considered in the context of the applicant's life achievements and work experience, including community or charitable volunteer work.

Discretionary applicants must have completed the first two years of an approved course of study leading to an undergraduate degree at an approved college or university. A personal statement, two reference letters and, where appropriate, documentation such as medical reports are required. Each applicant is considered individually on their merits. An interview before the admissions committee may be required.

Application

Potential applicants who wish to enter notarial practice in British Columbia are strongly encouraged to contact the Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia before submitting an application to ensure they are likely to be eligible for admission to practice in the Province.

The following must be submitted by February 1st each year, for admission to the

program in the Fall of that year.

- completed application form which can be obtained from the Dean of Graduate Studies website
- all post-secondary academic transcripts
- application fee of \$90
- other documentation as required (e.g. letters of reference, medical certificates, special circumstances letters, or other supporting documentation for discretionary applicants).

Degree Requirements

The following ten graduate courses are required. Courses are normally offered in the following sequence.

Fall Term

ALS 601-3 Canadian Law and Legal System
ALS 602-3 Legal Research and Writing
ALS 620-3 Selected Topics in Applied Legal Studies

Spring Term

ALS 603-3 Legal Philosophy
ALS 610-3 Contracts
ALS 611-3 Real Property I

Summer Intersession

ALS 612-3 Real Property II
ALS 615-3 Personal Planning

Fall Term

ALS 630-6 Topics in Legal Practice
ALS 631-3 MA Examination

The courses taught during the first Fall term usually employ a mixed mode of delivery where students attend campus for several days at the start of term, and for several days at the end. Weeks 3 through 12 are delivered via online. Spring term courses are usually delivered online. Students attend campus for the summer intersession (usually from mid May to mid June). The final capstone course in the Fall term follows the same mixed delivery mode. Students also complete a final examination (normally at the end of the final term) that shows mastery and critical engagement with the depth and breadth of the program's subject matter.

While students are encouraged to complete the degree program within 16 months it is possible to take courses and complete the program on a part-time basis over a longer period. It should be noted, however, that some courses must be taken sequentially, and that all the requirements for the degree must be completed within 5 years. Students wishing to take the program on a part-time basis should contact the Coordinator of the Applied Legal Studies Program for further information.

Those who do not wish to obtain notary public accreditation, or who are practicing notaries, may be permitted to substitute up to 9 credit hours of courses, with the approval of the Coordinator of the Applied Legal Studies program. Only one of these courses may be a directed readings course.

Fees

Fees for the Applied Legal Studies program are paid on a “per term” basis. The 2009/2010 fees for the program are \$1,629.00 per term plus a mandatory supplementary on-line and distance education fee of \$40 per course.

The Diploma in Legal Studies

The Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Legal Studies (Dip. Leg. Stud.) is available through on-campus course offerings, in distance education format, or through a combination of the two modes. It is open to holders of a recognized Bachelor’s or higher degree in any field other than law or legal studies.

The Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Legal Studies will offer an excellent foundation for students planning on attending law school or for those pursuing graduate work in law and social policy, public administration, applied legal studies, or allied programs.

The aim of the Post Baccalaureate Diploma program is to apply a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of law and legal institutions by placing law into its social, philosophical, and economic context. Courses in the legal studies program adopt a social problems/issues perspective rather than engaging in the training of students for a career in the practice of law. It is believed that the study of law in this manner is an invaluable component of citizenship and should be useful for many chosen career paths.

Students must make separate application for admission to Simon Fraser University in accordance with Simon Fraser University procedures and deadlines for the appropriate semester.

Diploma requirements at Simon Fraser University include an undergraduate degree and thirty semester hours of upper division courses. (Students must ensure that they have the necessary lower level prerequisites for all courses in which they enroll.)

Lower Division Course Requirements

Students must complete the following courses:

CRIM 135-3 Introduction to Canadian Law and Legal Institutions
POL 151-3 The Administration of Justice

Students must select at least one from the following:

CRIM 210-3 Law, Youth and Young Offenders
CRIM 230-3 Criminal Law
CRIM 231-3 Introduction to the Judicial Process

Note: PHIL 120 Introduction to Moral Philosophy is also strongly recommended for Legal Studies Minor students. It is a prerequisite for PHIL 320 and PHIL 321.

Upper Division Course Requirements

Students must complete both of:

CRIM 332-3 Sociology of Law
CRIM 338-3 Philosophy of Law

In addition, students must select one of the following concentrations and complete all of the courses listed under their chosen concentration:

Criminal Law

CRIM 310-3 Young Offenders and Criminal Justice: Advanced Topics
CRIM 314-3 Mental Disorder, Criminality and the Law
CRIM 330-3 Criminal Procedure and Evidence
CRIM 331-3 Advanced Criminal Law
CRIM 335-3 Human Rights and Civil Liberties

Women and Law

CRIM 333-3 Women, Law and the State
CRIM 335-3 Human Rights and Civil Liberties
CRIM 432-3 Gender in the Courts and the Legal Profession
WS 303-4 Special Topics in Women's Studies (as Women and the Law)

Psychology and the Law

PSYC 369-3 Law and Psychology
PSYC 468-4 Selected Topics in Psycho-Legal Psychology

CRIM 314-3 Mental Disorder, Criminality and the Law
CRIM 435-3/GERO 435-3 Adult Guardianship Law

Education and Law

EDUC 445-4 Legal Context of Teaching
EDUC 446-4 Law for the Classroom Teacher
EDUC 448-4 Law in the Curriculum

Business, Economics and the Law

BUEC 391-3 Law in the Economic Society
BUEC 495-3 Legal Aspects of Economic Relationships
BUS 393-3 Commercial Law (subject to space availability)
ECON 388-3 Introduction to Law and Economics

Fundamental Rights and Law

CRIM 335-3 Human Rights and Civil Liberties
PHIL 320-3 Social and Political Philosophy -or- PHIL 321-3 Moral Issues and Theories
POL 324-4 The Canadian Constitution
POL 417-4 Human Rights Theories

The balance of the required 30 credits will be fulfilled by taking courses from those listed below:

BUS 393-3 Commercial Law (subject to space availability)
BUEC 391-3 Law in the Economic Society
BUEC 495-3 Legal Aspects of Economic Relationships (changed to: Seminar in Law and Economics)
CRIM 310-3 Young Offenders and Criminal Justice: Advanced Topics
CRIM 314-3 Mental Disorder, Criminality and the Law
CRIM 330-3 Criminal Procedure and Evidence
CRIM 331-3 Advanced Criminal Law
CRIM 333-3 Women, Law and the State
CRIM 335-3 Human Rights and Civil Liberties
CRIM 336-3 Corporate Crime and Corporate Regulation
CRIM-416/417/418-3 Current Issues in Criminology and Criminal Justice (on legal topic)
CRIM 430-3 Judicial Administration and Planning
CRIM 432-3 Gender in the Courts and the Legal Profession
CRIM 435-3/GERO 435-3 Adult Guardianship Law
CRIM 436-3 Corporate Crime and Corporate Regulation: Advanced Topics
CRIM 437-3 Crime and Misconduct in the Professions
ECON 388-3 Introduction to Law and Economics
EDUC 445-4 Legal Context of Teaching
EDUC 446-4 Law for the Classroom Teacher

EDUC 448-4 Law in the Curriculum
HIST 312-4 Poverty, Crime and Madness: Society and the Outcast
PHIL 320-3 Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 321-3 Moral Issues and Theories
POL 324-4 The Canadian Constitution
POL 344-4 Public International Law
POL 346-4 International Organizations
POL 351-4 The Public Policy Process
POL 355-4 Governing Instruments
POL 417-4 Human Rights Theories
POL 459-4 Selected Topics in Governance
PSYC 369-3 Law and Psychology
PSYC 468-4 Selected Topics in Psycholegal Psychology
WS 303-4 Special Topics in Women's Studies (as Women and the Law)

NOTE: Some courses may require prerequisites; students are responsible for satisfying the prerequisites for all courses in this certificate. An overall CGPA of 2.25 must be maintained. A minimum of C- is required in all courses. Courses must be completed at Simon Fraser University. See the School's academic advisor for further information.

Fees

Fees for the Diploma in Legal Studies program are paid on a "per unit" or credit hour basis. The 2009/2010 fee for an undergraduate unit or credit hour is \$163.80, plus a student activity fee, a Universal Transit Pass fee, and a mandatory supplementary on-line and distance education fee of \$40 per course whenever the course is offered through the Centre for On-Line and Distance Education.

The Certificate in Legal Studies

This certificate is primarily aimed at individuals who are interested in working within the justice system and students who wish to focus their criminology undergraduate studies on courses that relate to the law and legal studies. It is strongly recommended for those who wish to qualify for admission to the M.A. in Applied Legal Studies program.

The Certificate in Legal Studies consists of six courses (18 units) as follows:

CRIM 332-3 - Sociology of Law
CRIM 335-3 - Human Rights and Civil Liberties
CRIM 338-3 - Philosophy of Law

Plus three courses, chosen from the following list:

BUS 393-3 Commercial Law (subject to space availability)
BUEC 391-3 Law in the Economic Society

BUEC 495-3 Legal Aspects of Economic Relationships (In the process of being changed to: Seminar in Law and Economics)
 CRIM 310-3 Young Offenders and Criminal Justice: Advanced Topics
 CRIM 314-3 Mental Disorder, Criminality and the Law
 CRIM 315-3 Restorative Justice
 CRIM 317-3 Prostitution in Canada
 CRIM 330-3 Criminal Procedure and Evidence
 CRIM 331-3 Advanced Criminal Law
 CRIM 334-3 Law and Human Reproduction
 CRIM 336-3 Corporate Crime and Corporate Regulation
 CRIM-416/417/418-3 Current Issues in Criminology and Criminal Justice (when offered as a legal studies topic)
 CRIM 429-3/FNST 429-3 Indigenous Peoples and Law
 CRIM 432-3 Gender in the Courts and the Legal Profession
 CRIM 436-3 Corporate Crime and Corporate Regulation: Advanced Topics
 CRIM 437-3 Crime and Misconduct in the Professions
 CRIM 442-3 Restorative Justice Practice: Advanced Topics
 ECON 388-3 Introduction to Law and Economics
 EDUC 445-4 Legal Context of Teaching
 EDUC 446-4 Law for the Classroom Teacher
 EDUC 448-4 Teaching about Justice, Law and Citizenship
 HIST/FNST 443-3 Aboriginal Law & History
 PHIL 320-3 Social and Political Philosophy
 PHIL 321-3 Moral Issues and Theories
 POL 324-4 The Canadian Constitution
 POL 344-4 Public International Law
 POL 346-4 International Organizations
 POL 351-4 The Public Policy Process
 POL 417-4 Human Rights Theories
 POL 459-4 Selected Topics in Governance*
 PSYC 376-3 Experimental Psychology and the Law
 PSYC 379-3 Clinical Forensic Psychology
 PSYC 476-4 Selected Topics in Psycho-Legal Psychology I
 PSYC 477-4 Selected Topics in Psycho-Legal Psychology II
 PSYC 479-4 Selected Topics in Psycho-Legal Psychology III
 WL 204-3 Human Rights Literature
 WS 303-4 Special Topics in Women's Studies (as Women and the Law)

Additional relevant courses may be added to the list of optional courses as they become available.

NOTE: Some courses may require prerequisites; students are responsible for satisfying the prerequisites for all courses in this certificate. An overall CGPA of 2.25 must be maintained. A minimum of C- is required in all courses. Courses must be completed at Simon Fraser University. See the School's academic advisor for further information.

Fees

Fees for the Diploma in Legal Studies program are paid on a “per unit” or credit hour basis. The 2009/2010 fee for an undergraduate unit or credit hour is \$163.80, plus a student activity fee, a Universal Transit Pass fee, and a mandatory supplementary on-line and distance education fee of \$40 per course whenever the course is offered through the Centre for On-Line and Distance Education.

For further information about Legal Studies at Simon Fraser University contact Professor Robert Gordon, Director of the School of Criminology: 778 782 4305 or rgordon@sfu.ca