

Law and Government Institute Certificate Programs - Objectives/Outcomes

Revised March 2025

Administrative Law/Constitutional Law

Students who earn this certificate will have focused their elective legal studies on administrative and/or constitutional law. Students will take the foundational course Government Law Colloquium, the core courses State Constitutional Law or State Administrative Law, and two other qualifying electives or seminars (only one elective or seminar is required if the student takes *both* State Constitutional Law *and* State Administrative Law). (All Widener Law Commonwealth students are required to take Constitutional Law and Federal Administrative Law.) Students also will complete a writing assignment and a work experience, both of which must be substantively at the intersection of law and government/public policy. Students must earn at least a 2.6 GPA in the required certificate courses to earn the certificate; a 3.25 GPA earns the certificate “with honors.”

This certificate focuses on the balance of power between government branches and the laws that govern administrative agencies. Students completing the certificate will have a heightened understanding of administrative and constitutional law principles, especially at the state level, in a practical context. The certificate aims to intensify a student’s experiential learning through a required internship that imparts professional and practical skills while also building knowledge. The certificate program enhances analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, collaborative skills, and communication skills. By completing the certificate requirements, students are exposed to government in action while gaining a deeper understanding of government law.

Legislation & Public Policy

Students who earn this certificate will have focused their elective legal studies on the development and implementation of legislation and public policy. Students will take the foundational course Government Law Colloquium, the core courses Legislation and Legislative Drafting, and one other qualifying elective or seminar. Students also will complete a writing assignment and a work experience, both of which must be substantively at the intersection of law and government/public policy. Students must earn at least a 2.6 GPA in the required certificate courses to earn the certificate; a 3.25 GPA earns the certificate “with honors.”

This certificate focuses on the legislative process, including the drafting of statutes and ordinances, as well as the intersection of law and public policy. Students completing the program will have heightened understanding of the legislative drafting process. The certificate aims to intensify a student’s experiential learning through a required internship that imparts professional and practical skills while also building knowledge. The certificate program enhances analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, collaborative skills, and communication skills. By completing the certificate requirements, students are exposed to government in action while gaining a deeper understanding of government law.

Environmental Law

Students who earn this certificate will have focused their elective legal studies on environmental and sustainability law. Students will take the foundational course Government Law Colloquium, the core course Environmental Law, one qualifying elective, one qualifying seminar, and one qualifying experiential. Students also will complete a writing assignment and a work experience, both of which must be substantively at the intersection of law and government/public policy. Students must earn at least a 2.6 GPA in the required certificate courses to earn the certificate; a 3.25 GPA earns the certificate “with honors.”

This certificate focuses on the role of law in fostering environmental protection and sustainable development. Students completing the program will have heightened understanding of federal and state environmental law, as well as the tools and questions necessary to apply sustainable development concepts to real world legal situations. The certificate aims to intensify a student’s experiential learning through a required externship that imparts professional and practical skills while also building knowledge. The certificate program enhances analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, collaborative skills, and communication skills. By completing the certificate requirements, students are exposed to government in action while gaining a deeper understanding of environmental law and sustainable development.

Government Contracting

Students who earn this certificate will have focused their elective legal studies on public procurement law. Students will take the foundational course Government Law Colloquium, the core courses Government Contracting and Contract Drafting, and one qualifying elective or seminar. Students also will complete a writing assignment and a work experience, both of which must be substantively at the intersection of law and government/public policy. Students must earn at least a 2.6 GPA in the required certificate courses to earn the certificate; a 3.25 GPA earns the certificate “with honors.”

This certificate focuses on the process of negotiating, drafting, and implementing contracts for goods and services, including information technology, on behalf of public entities. Students completing the program will have heightened understanding of the government procurement process. The certificate aims to intensify a student’s experiential learning through a required internship that imparts professional and practical skills while also building knowledge. The certificate program enhances analytical skills, problem-solving capabilities, collaborative skills, and communication skills. By completing the certificate requirements, students are exposed to government in action while gaining a deeper understanding of government law.