

Law School Program

■ Juris Doctor

Program Educational Objectives

The Law School Program cultivates legal professionals to meet all of the following four characteristics.

- Capable of putting the knowledge, experience and skills already gained as an adult member of society into the actual work of legal profession
- Well-rounded human nature and perception as well as high ethics as a legal professional
- Ability to apply specialized legal knowledge to concrete dispute solution and solve new problems flexibly with the appraisal of existing ideas
- Capable of contributing to social development with a sufficient understanding of leading-edge legal areas

Graduate Profile	<p>Specifically, the Program cultivates legal professionals as mainly described below (any of them depending on the backgrounds and goals of individuals), while, whether in any case, the knowledge, experience and skills owned by adult members of society are utilized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human resources to whom the civilian population can easily access to solve legal disputes such as general civil or criminal cases, household disputes, illegal activities and consumer problems - Human resources who can use advanced specialized knowledge to plan national or municipal policy - Human resources such as corporate personnel in charge of legal affairs who can use advanced specialized knowledge in the leading-edge areas of law, including global business, social security law and intellectual property law - Human resources of well-rounded human nature backed up by social experience
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Diploma Policy

The degree of Juris Doctor is commenced to those who have fulfilled the requirements for the completion of the Professional degree programs, as set out in the Graduate School Regulations of the University of Tsukuba and related university regulations, and who are deemed to have the following competences.

	Competences	Evaluation perspectives
Knowledge and Skills	1. Legal mind: Ability as a working-level legal professional to grasp appropriately legal problems out of concrete cases and solve them	① If the basic and systematic knowledge about basic laws and the legal thinking ability were gained ② If applied and classic legal knowledge and comprehensive interpretation ability for the legal problems in relation to basic laws were gained ③ If the understanding of laws different from that for positive laws was gained
	2. Awareness of mission, development of ethical view, work processing and solving: Advanced professional awareness and specialized ability to practically process and solve legal dispute cases	① If basic skills necessary for legal professionals are gained ② If the overview of lawsuits is understood through concrete problems concerning lawsuit work ③ If lawsuit work is experienced through firsthand cases or simulated trial
	3. Meeting leading-edge challenges: Ability to appropriately meet leading-edge legal challenges that arise with social transition	If specialized knowledge about the leading-edge and applied areas of law is gained
Guidelines for Assessing Learning Outcomes	To complete the program, students are required to possess four qualities: the ability to utilize the knowledge, experience, and skills they have already acquired as working adults in their work as legal professionals; rich humanity and sensitivity, as well as a strong sense of ethics as legal professionals; the ability to apply specialized legal knowledge to specific dispute resolutions and the ability to criticize existing ways of thinking and flexibly solve new problems; and the ability to fully understand cutting-edge legal fields and contribute to the development of society. To this end, drafting (writing) ability is assessed through a written examination for bar exam subjects, while in other subjects, the sensibility and ethics of a legal professional, as well as legal knowledge and application ability in cutting-edge legal fields, are assessed primarily through reports. Drafting (writing) ability is assessed based on the ability to identify problems in specific cases, interpret legal provisions, create solution standards, and construct answers using legal syllogisms. In addition, for the students in the Course for Students without Legal Background, the requirement for promotion from the first to the second year is to achieve a certain score in the common achievement assessment, which is a multiple-choice test, as determined by the department and specified in the "Course Guide". This ensures that students have a firm grasp of the basic knowledge and concepts of the Constitution, Civil Law, and Criminal Law.	

Curriculum Policy

To allow students as working adult members of society, who in reality can involve themselves in daily learning only for a very limited length of time, to effectively gain systematic knowledge of law, the Program offers systematic and repetitive education with the adoption of a three-stage system of subjects for the basic legal subjects that especially demand systematic knowledge. With this, students seek to complete the acquisition of specialized legal knowledge, thinking ability, analytical ability, expressive ability, etc. that are necessary for actual work as legal professionals.

<p>Curriculum Design Framework</p>	<p>The curriculum is organized for adult members of society with working experience including those who are and who are not legal professionals passing the bar exams, so that they will be able to deliver a variety of legal services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the basic legal subjects, students acquire extensive legal qualities, that is, the legal mind. - With the practical basic legal subjects, which use concrete dispute cases as study materials, students learn the techniques for practically processing legal problems and directing themselves to resolution. - With the legal basic/interdisciplinary subjects, students expand their horizon to a greater understanding of law from a point of view different from that for positive laws. - With the developed/leading-edge subjects, students gain the proficiency that can work with the leading-edge legal problems arising in the actual society.
<p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Program includes “Course for Students without Legal Background” intended for students with no legal study background (to be completed by 3 years) and “Course for Students with Legal Background” intended for students with legal study background (to be completed by 2 years). - The “extension system” is available to meet the need of working adult members of society who manage to work their way through school to seek to be certified as legal professionals. The use of this system permits students with no legal study background to extend the learning period to four years if the period of three years, which is the standard limit to complete the Program, is estimated to be insufficient due to their circumstances such as reasons related to their work condition. For students with legal study background, the period permitted to extend using this system is up to three years. - For students who never have learned law in earnest before the enrollment in the Program, we also highlight introduction training such as basic seminars, etc. - The Program is committed to structuring a system that allows working students to learn out of the classroom (on occasions of a business trip, etc.) through ICT (information and communications technology). - To operate as a practical legal professional, students are required to have the attitude to appropriately grasp where a legal problem lies in the case in dispute through conversation with concerned parties, then determine the course of action to take for the problem, and finally enter the actual negotiation to lead the problem to resolution. <p>Therefore, to see whether students have acquired these capabilities, the Program places emphasis on how they react in the classes in which an interactive style is basically adopted.</p>

Admission Policy

<p>Desired Student Profile</p>	<p>He or she should be an adult member of society with working experience, etc. who wish to gain the ability to identify and logically analyze legal problems to deliver legal services in the future by linking legal knowledge and skills to the knowledge, experience and skills that they now already possess.</p>
<p>Student Selection Process</p>	<p>【Candidates with no legal study background】</p> <p>① First exam: Written exam Successful candidates are selected with the score of the written exam. The written exam gives such tasks that can appropriately evaluate the candidates' ability in reading, logical thinking, analysis and discussion.</p> <p>② Second exam: Oral exam and document screening (Only for successful candidates of the first exam) Each candidate is separately interviewed to see if they have the qualities, noble goals and enthusiasm to be a legal professional.</p> <p>Then, the acceptance of candidates (final successful candidates) is decided up to the overall evaluation including the evaluation of the oral exam, the undergraduate performance, etc. provided in the submitted application documents, remarkable linguistic qualifications, other qualifications, and the relationship between the candidate's experience as an adult member of society and the reason for wishing to learn in the Law School Program and be a legal professional.</p> <p>【Candidates with legal study background】 Candidates are required to take a legal subject essay exam as the first exam (written exam) to evaluate if they are recognized as a learned individual versed in required basic knowledge of law. The successful candidates of the first exam are decided with the score of the written exam (legal subject essay exam), and they are placed to take the second exam (oral exam and document screening) to select final successful candidates as is the case with candidates of no legal study background.</p>

Learning Support Framework

Academic Support	Law School Program offer tutoring seminars taught by young and mid-career lawyers, with the aim of providing detailed support to students as working person majoring in law, especially those without Legal Background, to overcome the academic constraints they face, and by providing students with more opportunities to come into close contact with legal practitioners, helping them to cultivate a sense of legal practice and to reaffirm and raise their awareness as those aspiring to become legal practitioners. In the tutoring seminars, explanations are given to help students understand the content of the law, such as how to read articles, and students' drafts are corrected to improve their writing skills. In addition, individual study consultations are held by tutors as needed, and advice is given on what students need to improve their grades and how to balance their studies with work.
Opportunities for Peer Interaction	To promote interaction among students, we hold lunch meetings and bar exam report sessions for each or all grade levels as appropriate. Through these opportunities, we support the formation of independent seminar groups.
Opportunities for Student-Faculty Interaction	Each student is assigned one faculty member who is available to provide academic advice and other support. Students can also ask faculty members questions during lunch meetings. Each faculty member has set office hours, but they are also available to answer questions and provide academic advice at any time outside of these hours. Office hours are made known to students through the Course Guide. Even in on-demand courses where opportunities to interact with faculty tend to be limited, students can still interact by holding optional Q&A sessions.

Approaches to Assuring and Enhancing Educational Quality

To improve the quality of education, faculty members observe each other's classes twice a year under the leadership of the FD Planning and Steering Committee, and these discussions are held at FD meetings attended by all full-time faculty members. The FD meetings also analyze the results of the common achievement assessment test for first-year students to verify the success of Constitutional Law, Civil Law, and Criminal Law courses. The appropriateness of these activities is verified through self-evaluations conducted by the Self-Evaluation Committee in accordance with the Agreement (Internal Rules) on Self-Evaluation for the Law Department, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Business Sciences.

In addition, joint FD meetings are held with Chiba University, Kanazawa University, and Kyushu University, and participating faculty share the results with all full-time faculty members to improve teaching methods. The appropriateness of the above-mentioned educational quality assurance and improvement measures was confirmed in the accreditation evaluation conducted by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) in 2024.