

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LAW

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Bachelor of Arts in Law (B.A. in Law) in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective Fall term, 2023.

Background

The success of and interest in the Minor in Law program suggests that undergraduate students are eager to take law and law-related classes during their undergraduate education. Building on the success of the Minor in Law program, the proposal seeks to take the next step and create a new B.A. in Law degree program. The program will build and expand on the existing structure of the Minor in Law program, adding additional core classes and electives offered at the Law School, as well as additional courses offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and partner units across campus.

Program Description

The B.A. in Law degree provides a distinctive, interdisciplinary program for those with an interest in law. Students will emerge with a strong foundation in law, critical thinking and writing, ethics, political and legal theory, and legal and justice systems that will make them competitive for innovative and emerging employment opportunities in a variety of fields and industries or for pursuing graduate studies, potentially including law school. Moreover, this program will build on the distinctive training associated with law school combined with the expertise of WSU's liberal arts programs to promote informed, well-rounded, and civic-minded undergraduates who will be well-prepared to be the leaders of the future.

Admission Requirements

The B.A. in Law degree program is designed to admit students who satisfy the general undergraduate admission requirements of the University, which are comparable to the admission standards at other universities that offer this major.

Curriculum Requirements

The B.A. in Law degree requires a minimum of 120 credits including the University General Education requirements.

Graduation Requirements

Candidates for the B.A. in Law degree must earn a minimum of 120 credits including all program and University General Education requirements and attain a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Program Administration

The program will be housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). CLAS will provide a Program Director to act as the CLAS administrator supervising the program and coordinating efforts with departments in CLAS and the Law School. CLAS will provide an academic advisor to assist with advising for the new program. The Program Director will supervise this academic advisor regarding program-related duties and activities.

Submitted by: Mark Lawrence Kornbluh, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

The Law School has created a specific office, the Office of Non-J.D. Programs. The Assistant Dean of Non-J.D. Programs and the Non-J.D. Programs office will assist with administration of the program, including curriculum oversight and development, program assessment, coordination of student recruitment activities and academic advising.

An Advisory Board of faculty from the Law School and CLAS's Departments of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Philosophy, and Political Science teaching law-related topics and, where possible, community stakeholders involved in the law and related areas will advise as requested on curriculum development, recruitment, and program evaluation.

Budget and Resource Requirements

The program will primarily use resources that currently exist in the Law School and CLAS and will require some additional faculty resources. Except for two required LEX courses, all coursework in the curriculum currently exists. The new LEX courses will be developed and taught by full-time and part-time faculty.

Accreditation

Apart from accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, this program does not require professional or specialized accreditation.

Approvals

The proposal is supported by the department chairs in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Philosophy, and Political Science, as well as the Dean of the Law School. The proposal was approved by the faculty and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the faculty of the Law School, and the Provost.