Certificate in Intellectual Property Law

Introduction

The Intellectual Property Law certificate program fosters the knowledge, skills, and values that the contemporary intellectual property lawyer needs in the rapidly changing and challenging environment of intellectual property. Using the intellectual property law field as a lens, you will learn how to apply foundational legal concepts in diverse intellectual property settings, including litigation, transactional work, and prosecution. This program will expose you to the foundations of intellectual property law and ensure familiarity with key concepts, laws, policies, institutions, skills and values in the intellectual property field.

This brief guide is designed to provide you with an overview of the certificate requirements. For additional information, please visit the Intellectual Property Certificate Program webpage at law.gsu.edu/IPCertificate.

Core competencies in intellectual property law

The intellectual property certificate program builds core competencies in three key domains: (1) knowledge (including the key concepts, theories, doctrines, laws, policies, systems, and institutions in the intellectual property field); (2) lawyering skills (including cognitive, analytical, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication skills); and (3) professional values and ethics (including developing a mindset that promotes the responsible, civil, and ethical practice of law). These three domains reflect what competent lawyers should know, what they should be able to do, and how they should act as professionals. The core knowledge, skills, and values competencies are addressed in the certificate requirements.

Eligibility

You must be a student in good academic standing based on the successful completion of the first full year of law study (30 hours), and you must remain in good standing to continue participation in the certificate program.

Application process

To apply, submit the Declaration of Interest form (see below) to the program administrator, Jackie Stephenson. You may apply for the program as early as the spring semester of the first year of the full-time program or spring semester of the second year of the part-time program, or anytime thereafter so long as enough time remains to complete the program requirements, but no later than the end of add/drop period of the last semester prior to graduation. Formal participation in the program counting toward the requirements for the certificate will not begin until the second full year of law study.

The Declaration of Interest form is not binding. You may change your mind and decline to pursue the certificate at any time.

Advisement

After you have formally declared an interest in pursuing a certificate intellectual property, you will be assigned a faculty advisor.

You are required to meet with your faculty advisor at least once each academic year to discuss your progress and goals. You are encouraged to take advantage of faculty advisement to make course selections and discuss potential career paths.
Requirements to earn a certificate in intellectual property law

For the certificate, you must complete 18 - 21 credit hours, depending on the mix of two- and three-credit hour elective courses as detailed below. You should discuss your course selections and scheduling with your faculty advisor.

Course work

You must take the following courses to earn a certificate in intellectual property. There is no mandatory sequence for taking the courses, although you are encouraged to take them as early as possible after your first year.

- Law 7010 - Administrative Law (3 credits) or Law 7101 - Corporations (3 credits)
- Law 7158 - Copyrights (3 credits)
- Law 7417 - Patent Law (3 credits)
- Law 7478 - Trademarks and Unfair Competition Law (3 credits)
- Choice of three courses or 9 credit hours from the elective course list:
  - Law 7053 - Advanced Patent Law
  - Law 7065 - Antitrust Law
  - Law 7079 - Arts and Entertainment Law
  - Law 7098 - Biotechnology Law, Policy and Ethics
  - Law 7137 - Cyberlaw
  - Law 7178 - Different and Unusual Forms of Intellectual Property
  - Law 7234 - Food and Drug Law
  - Law 7268 - International Intellectual Property
  - Law 7269 - Licensing of Intellectual Property
  - Law 7271 - Advanced Intellectual Property Seminar
  - Law 7355 - Law & Emerging Technologies
  - Law 7390 - Mass Communications
  - Law 7416 - Patent Drafting and Prosecution
  - Law 7473 - Sports Law
  - Law 8006 - Summer IP Program in DC (IP Field Placement & Concurrent Seminar)

Please note that the course Intellectual Property Survey (LAW 7270) would not count towards the certificate’s electives requirement.

Extracurricular Activities

You must complete the College’s Intellectual Property Student Mentoring Program. Registration to the mentoring program is done through the College’s IP Law Society.

Grades and honors

Grades

You must have a minimum average GPA of 3.0 in all courses taken in satisfaction of the certificate requirements. If you take more than the minimum number of elective courses needed to fulfill the certificate requirements, you can utilize the highest grades in other intellectual property courses taken when computing the required average 3.0 GPA for the certificate.
Honors
You will be awarded honors in the certificate program if you earn an average GPA of 3.6 or higher in all intellectual property courses taken in satisfaction of the certificate program requirements.

Verification before graduation
You must submit a Verification for Certificate in Intellectual Property Law form (see below) confirming your satisfaction of certificate requirements no later than the drop/add date of your last semester in the J.D. program before graduation to the program administrator, Jackie Stephenson. Your intellectual property faculty advisor must sign your verification form before you submit the verification form to the program administrator. The program administrator will verify your grades after graduation, when available from the Registrar’s Office.

All effort should be made to submit your Verification for Certificate in Intellectual Property Law form in a timely manner. The program administrator at her discretion, may choose not to accept late, incomplete or unsigned forms.

Contact

For more information and to download forms, visit the Intellectual Property Certificate Program website: law.gsu.edu/IPCertificate

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the program administrator:

Jackie Stephenson
Phone: 404-413-9035
Email: jstephenson7@gsu.edu