

Effective December 2016

Mitchell Hamline's Law and Business Certificate prepares J.D. students to become business leaders, business managers, and business lawyers. It supplements the J.D. degree and demonstrates that a student has achieved business law competency, practical experience in business contexts, and mastery of critical business thinking and communications skills through a rigorous course of study, research and writing, and practical experience. Students seeking the MHSL Law and Business Certificate will be exposed to foundational business law, key principles of business as well as ethical problem solving of complex business issues.

To earn the Law and Business Certificate, students must complete a rigorous course of study that includes foundational, required, and elective courses in a range of business topics including accounting and finance, organizational structure and governance, business strategies and planning, capitalization, taxation, compliance and risk management, and business communications. Students will also gain practical experience in business through the Law and Business Externship program or equivalent clinic, externship, or work experience.

The following program description applies to the regular on-campus student body. A separate program description is under development for the hybrid program student body.

1. **Course Requirements.** To obtain the Law and Business Certificate, a student must complete the **Foundational Courses** and **Required Courses** as follows:

▶ **Foundational Courses**

- Accounting & Finance Survey (2 credits)*
- Introduction to Business Organizations (3 credits)

▶ **Required Courses:**

- The Start-Up Business Enterprise (3 credits)*
- Transactions and Settlements (3 credits)
- Commercial Law Survey (3 credits)
- Income Tax (3 credits)

▶ **Elective Courses: (9 credits required)**

- Deals and Dispute Resolution (3 credits)*
- Employment Law (3 credits)
- Lawyer as Business Owner (3 credits)

* courses to be offered as a summer unit

Courses other than those listed above and that are sufficiently focused on business or business law may also meet the criteria. Students should consult with their assigned faculty advisor and the director of the Business Certificate programs. Some options include:

- Comparative International Business Transactions (2 credits) – London summer (July 3-12, 2018)
 - The Business of IP: Independent Film Production (2 credits) – summer on campus in St. Paul (June 23-28, 2018)
 - Deals and Dispute Resolution (3 credits) will be offered year round, summer term, fall and spring term. If you do not take this class in the summer module, you can take it in semester 8 hybrid.
2. **Practical Experience Requirement.** To obtain the Law and Business Certificate, a student must obtain practical experience with a substantial foundation in law and business through the equivalent of four (4) credits provided by an externship or clinical experience listed in the Elective Course list above or a work experience equivalent to four (4) credits that is approved by the director of the Business Certificate programs.
 3. **Writing Requirement.** To obtain the Law and Business Certificate, a student must complete a scholarly paper on a business law or business topic. The paper must meet the guidelines applicable to the Advanced Research and Writing (ARW) requirement for graduation from Mitchell Hamline School of Law and be approved by the director of the Business Certificate programs. A student may satisfy the Writing Requirement by completing a paper or a course that satisfies the ARW requirement, provided that the subject of that paper or course is business law or business.
 4. **Academic Requirement.** To obtain the Law and Business Certificate, a student must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0 (calculated at the time of graduation) in all of the Foundational Courses, Required Courses and Elective Courses and any independent research and writing project that the student completed to satisfy the Writing Requirement.
 5. **Advisor Requirement.** A student who is interested in pursuing the Law and Business Certificate will be assigned to a faculty advisor in the student's area of interest. Once assigned an advisor, the student is required to meet with their advisor before each registration period. The faculty advisor will mentor and advise the student in selecting courses, fulfilling the practical experience and writing requirements, and completing the other steps necessary to obtain the Law and Business Certificate.
 6. **Extra-Curricular Activities Requirement:** To obtain the Law and Business Certificate, a student must attend six extra-curricular activities in the area of law and business over their law school career.