

## Request for New Emphasis/Minor/Certificate

Effective Date: FALL 2026

Submission Date: 8/22/2025

Department: HPASS

College of: Arts & Science

Contact Person: DARREN BOTELLO-SAMSON

Proposal for a New: Certificate  Modality of Program: Face to Face

Title of new Minor/Emphasis/Certificate: PRE-LAW

Major: N/A

Minor Required? No

New Minor/Emphasis/Certificate – **REQUIRES ACADEMIC PLANNING EXCEL ATTACHED.**

- Used to create new Minors/Emphases/Certificates and CAN require KBOR approval or notification. See KBOR requirements below.

- Approved requests become effective in the next academic catalog.

1. Purpose/Justification for New Minor/Emphasis/Certificate:

The certificate would allow students of any major to better prepare for law school and to demonstrate that preparedness with a certificate.

2. Will this affect any education majors? *If "yes," this requirement will need approval of the Council for Teacher Education before upload to "College Curriculum Legislation" in SharePoint.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Does this relate to, and/or may affect, any other departments, unit curricula, or programs at PSU or any other Regent university? *If "yes", please provide an explanation and attach all documentation (emails) between departments.*

☒ Yes ☐ No

Electives come from multiple programs/departments/schools. Emails documenting approval for all non-HPASS courses attached.

4. Does this new minor, emphasis, and certificate meet University catalog definitions? *These can be found at bottom of page 2.*

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Will additional resources or costs be required? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
If so, what will be needed?

6. Describe the program assessment plan:

- a. Enrollment targets = 5 per year  
b. Outcome expected and process to evaluate =  
The Political Science Pre-law emphasis generally maintains 20-30 students at any time. While law school interest varies year-to-year, it never does away completely. We would track the number of  
c. Plan to discontinue if enrollment targets not met =  
The certificate requires no additional courses or resources, but if interest does not develop, the certificate will be reverted back to the Political Science - Pre-Law emphasis.

**Questions for certificate only: If you have questions, contact the Financial Aid Office, 4240.**

***If "yes" to both questions, it is the department's responsibility to send a copy of this legislation form to the Director of Admission and Financial Assistance to initiate Department of Education Approval.***

1. Are students pursuing only this certificate eligible for federal financial assistance based on federal guidelines? No ☐
2. Does the course content contained within this certificate provide relevance to employment opportunities or meet professional objectives for the student?  
Yes ☐

**Definition of an Emphasis**

Area of Emphasis is a specific subject area that exists within an approved degree program and major. At Pittsburg State University a minimum of 12 credit hours and no more than 24 credit hours are expected for an area of emphasis in a baccalaureate degree program.

**Definition of a Minor**

Minors at Pittsburg State University may range from 15 to 24 credit hours. When selected to accompany a degree that requires a minor there must be at least nine unique credit hours in the minor that are not found in the student's major in order to meet graduation requirements. In instances where the major requires a minor (not the degree type), academic departments/schools may specify minors that best achieve the learning objective for their students.

**Definition of Certificate Program**

A certificate program can be undergraduate or graduate in course content and provides a specific body of knowledge for personal or career development or professional continuing education. Certificates may be taken while also pursuing a degree or independent from any other studies at Pittsburg State University. It is recommended that if the student is only pursuing a certificate and not in conjunction with a degree and wishes to apply for federal financial assistance that they visit with personnel in the Student Financial Assistance office regarding the eligibility for aid for the certificate of interest. At Pittsburg State University a certificate can range from 12 credit hours to 24 credit hours.

## Authorization Sign-Off Sheet

**Checklist: Check once verified.**

Required fields completed.

Listed courses are currently active

Course Id's match Course names.

Course hours are correct.

Required 120 credit hour minimum met.

Academic Planning Excel Attached

Current Program Guide from Online Catalog

KBOR Forms Attached, if applicable

-Approved: Department Chair/Director

Date: 15 Oct 25

Signature: Keye Thym

-Approved: College Curriculum Committee

Date: 12/2/25

Signature: Christopher Childers

-Approved: Dean of College

Date: 12/2/25

Signature: Christopher Childers

-Approved: Council for Teacher Education (if applicable)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

-Approved: University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

-Approved: Faculty Senate

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature, Recorder Faculty Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

**New Minors Where No Board-Approved Degree Program Exists will need KBOR Approval**, it can be found at:

[https://www.kansasregents.org/academic\\_affairs/new\\_program\\_approval](https://www.kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/new_program_approval)

Following Faculty Senate Approval, submit sign off sheet and final complete package, in electronic format, to the office of the provost (220 Russ) for forwarding to KBOR for board approval. (must be entered into KBOR PI/CIP system at time of submission).

*The Provost's Office will notify the department, college and Registrar of the completion of the approval process.*

Please Note: This is a 3-month process, at least, and is designed to eliminate questions and concerns at the beginning of the process. Any questions/concerns not addressed prior to the College Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, may result in an additional month added to the process.

**Originating Departments(s):** After completing this form, please upload it to the SharePoint, within the appropriate College folder, "Preliminary Legislation", to allow for review and questions. Any modifications should be saved as "original file name.v2.docx" and uploaded as well.

Following final College Curriculum Committee approval, please apply the appropriate signatures, and send them to your College Administrator.



**Make sure to attach the program guide from current catalog! (For Revised Curriculum)**

<https://www.pittstate.edu/registrar/catalog>

Academic Planning Document for 2025-2026			
Major/Emphasis/Minor/Certificate - Pre-Law			
Course Prefix	Course Nu	Course Name	Cr. Hr.
<b>Core Courses -</b>			<b>9</b>
POLS	101	U.S. POLITICS	3
<b>SELECT 6 HOURS FROM THE FOLLOWING:</b>			<b>6</b>
POLS	609	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	
POLS	661	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I	
POLS	662	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW II	
<b>Support Courses -</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Emphasis Courses -</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Elective Courses -</b>			<b>6</b>
<b>COURSES COUNT IN ONLY ONE AREA.</b>			
<b>SELECT 6 HOURS FROM THE FOLLOWING:</b>			
ACCTG	585	ACCOUNTING LAW	
ACCTG	626	FRAUD EXAMINATION	
CMCET	634	CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT	
CMCET	635	CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION	
COMM	626	LAW OF MASS COMMUNICATION	
EST	629	LEGAL ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY	
GEOG	401	URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING	
GEOG	502	GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE	
HIST	576	HISTORY OF U.S. PRESIDENTS	
HIST	578	ELECTIONS IN US HISTORY	
HIST	646	MODERN SCOTLAND	
HIST	648	VICTORIAN BRITAIN: POLITICS AND SOCIETY	
HRD	556	LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN THE WORKPLACE	
JUST	500	CRIMINAL LAW AND SOCIETY	
JUST	501	CRIMINAL PROCEDURE	
JUST	538	PHILOSOPHY OF LAW	
JUST	591	NATIVE AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND THE LAW	
MGT	430	LEGAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS	
POLS	412	LAW IN FILM AND LITERATURE	
POLS	512	ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS	
POLS	513	IMMIGRATION POLITICS AND POLICY	
POLS	514	CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM	

POLS	562	LAW AND POLITICS	
POLS	609	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	
POLS	661	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I	
POLS	662	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW II	
REC	426	LAW OF THE PROFESSIONS IN RECREATION, SPORT, AND HOSPITALITY	
REC	450	SPORT OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE	
SWK	365	SOCIAL PROCESS AND SOCIAL POLICY	
SWK	599	FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK	
Total Credit Hours -			15
Minor -			
General Education, 34-35 hours -			
Total Credit Hours:			15

Be sure all information is correct and courses are active before submitting.

Curriculum Revisions **REQUIRE** a program guide from the current catalog, 24/25.

Your legislation will be returned if either is found.



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**Re: Pre-Law Certificate**

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**From** Alex Binder <abinder@pittstate.edu>  
**Date** Tue 7/1/2025 9:07 AM  
**To** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>

Darren,

I love the idea! Those courses you identified are good. We don't currently have an economics course dedicated to law specifically, but I think it could be good to add one or two to the list of electives. I know Economics majors do well on the LSAT and "thinking like an economist" is similar to thinking like a lawyer. ECON 433 Sports Economics would be a good fit, I think, and not just because I teach it. A good portion of the course involves monopoly & anti-trust law, public financing of stadiums & facilities, unions & collective bargaining, and the recent changes to college sports that involve a lot of court cases. ECON 468 Labor Economics would also be a good fit (e.g. discrimination law and unions/collective bargaining), but we haven't been able to offer it for a while and I'm not sure we will in the near future, but in the event that we do, I think it would be good to have on your list of electives.

There are some prerequisites for a few of those:  
ACCTG 585 - MGT 430  
ACCTG 625 - ACCTG 201 & ACCTG 422  
ECON 433 - Any ECON course (three of which — 191, 200, 201 — count as gen ed)  
ECON 468 - ECON 200 & ECON 201 (one will count as gen ed)

Best,  
Alex

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Alexander D. Binder, PhD  
Associate Professor of Economics | Faculty Chair  
Kelce College of Business  
Pittsburg State University  
Kelce 211B  
(620) 235-4546

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**From:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 9:18 PM  
**To:** Alex Binder <abinder@pittstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Pre-Law Certificate

Dear Alex

I hope your summer is going well. Over this summer, I am working on creating a Pre-Law Certificate in HPASS. The spirit of this idea is help identify students from across campus who are considering attending



law school after graduation and give them the opportunity to earn a credential that will help them be better prepared for law school. This would be a 15-hour certificate, including a core of U.S. Politics and two upper-division courses in law. The remaining 6 hours could come from a number of courses across campus, including possibly courses from your program. The guiding spirit of this idea is that if there is a student in the Business School interested in law school, they could take U.S. Politics for general education, a couple of upper-division law courses for general law school preparation, and a couple of courses that could come from their own program, courses which would cover a topic likely to be useful to someone practicing law in their field.

I am hoping to have legislation ready by the start of the fall semester. To that end, I was hoping you could help me by identifying any classes within your program that are either law-related or cover an area in which practitioners of law in an area related to business, economics, finance, management, or accounting would find useful.

At the moment, I have identified the following courses as potentially included:

- ACCTG 585: Accounting Law
- ACCTG 626: Fraud Examination
- HRD 556: Legal and Ethical Issues in the Workplace
- MGT 430: Legal and Social Environment of Business

If you or your faculty can think of any other courses that should be included, please let me know. I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have about the certificate or the inclusion of your courses.

Enjoy your summer,

Darren

Darren,

I love the idea! Those courses you identified are good. We don't currently have an economics course dedicated to law specifically, but I think it could be good to add one or two to the list of electives. I know Economics majors do well on the LSAT and "thinking like an economist" is similar to thinking like a lawyer. ECON 433 Sports Economics would be a good fit, I think, and not just because I teach it. A good portion of the course involves monopoly & anti-trust law, public financing of stadiums & facilities, unions & collective bargaining, and the recent changes to college sports that involve a lot of court cases. ECON 468 Labor Economics would also be a good fit (e.g. discrimination law and unions/collective bargaining), but we haven't been able to offer it for a while and I'm not sure we will in the near future, but in the event that we do, I think it would be good to have on your list of electives.

There are some prerequisites for a few of those:

ACCTG 585 - MGT 430

ACCTG 625 - ACCTG 201 & ACCTG 422

ECON 433 - Any ECON course (three of which — 191, 200, 201 — count as gen ed)

ECON 468 - ECON 200 & ECON 201 (one will count as gen ed)

Best,

Alex

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Alexander D. Binder, PhD  
Associate Professor of Economics | Faculty Chair  
Kelce College of Business  
Pittsburg State University  
Kelce 211B  
(620) 235-4546

☐  
Julie Allison

To: Darren Botello-Samson

Tue 6/24/2025 10:04 AM

Darren,

It's great to hear from you and about your progress. I think we have two classes that would be of direct benefit. They are:

PSYCH 771: Psychology and Law

PSYCH 773: Criminal Psychopathology

I also think that PSYCH 263: Developmental Psychology, PSYCH 289: Research Methods I and PSYCH 392: Research Methods II could be beneficial. Just a few weeks ago, I had several conversations from a previous PSYCH student who is now a lawyer, who was preparing for an



expert witness who was going to discuss research. Her knowledge of research really helped her challenge research cited by that expert.

If you would like to discuss this further, feel free to call me. My number is 620-249-8154.

Julie

Julie Allison, Ph.D.  
Professor  
208D Whitesitt Hall  
Department of Psychology and Counseling  
Pittsburg State University  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

jallison@pittstate.edu



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**RE: Pre-Law Certificate**

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**From** Don Colegrove <dcolegrove@pittstate.edu>  
**Date** Tue 8/19/2025 9:13 AM  
**To** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>

I'd forgotten about EST 629. So the courses would be EST 629, CMCET 634, and CMCET 635.

Don

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**From:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 9:03 AM  
**To:** Don Colegrove <dcolegrove@pittstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law Certificate

Don:

Thanks for the information. The fact that such courses are generally taken in the last semester isn't really relevant for the certificate. The idea of the certificate is to give the student a credential that demonstrates an understanding of law. The political science core of the certificate focuses on law in its most general. Your program's courses focus on the intersection of law and construction. If those classes are electives for your majors, the certificate would encourage them to take those courses. If they are required courses for the major, the combination of those courses with law courses produce a student with a better understanding of law, both generally and in construction, thus better preparing them for law school.

Which courses specifically are you referring to? Here's what I can find:

- CMCET 634: CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
- CMCET 635: CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Also, what about EST 629: Legal Issues in Environmental Health and Safety? It seems relevant, but I don't know anything about it.

Darren

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**From:** Don Colegrove <dcolegrove@pittstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 6:07 PM  
**To:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Law Certificate

Hello,

We have several classes that do refer to specific areas of construction law. They are our Management class, Administration class, and Contracts class(best fit). The problem is that these classes most students take in there last semester. I'm not sure how that would work with your certificate approach.

I don't know if this helps or not.

Don

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**From:** Darren Botello-Samson <[dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu](mailto:dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 4:03 PM

**To:** Don Colegrove <[dcolegrove@pittstate.edu](mailto:dcolegrove@pittstate.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law Certificate

Hello Don:

I was wondering if you had time to think about this. See below.

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**From:** Darren Botello-Samson

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 5:54 PM

**To:** Don Colegrove <[dcolegrove@pittstate.edu](mailto:dcolegrove@pittstate.edu)>

**Subject:** Pre-Law Certificate

Dear

I hope your summer is going well. Over this summer, I am working on creating a Pre-Law Certificate in HPASS. The spirit of this idea is help identify students from across campus who are considering attending law school after graduation and give them the opportunity to earn a credential that will help them be better prepared for law school. This would be a 15-hour certificate, including a core of U.S. Politics and two upper-division courses in law. The remaining 6 hours could come from a number of courses across campus, including possibly courses from your program. The guiding spirit of this idea is that if there is a student in Construction interested in law school, they could take U.S. Politics for general education, a couple of upper-division law courses for general law school preparation, and a couple of courses that could come from their own program, courses which would cover a topic likely to be useful to someone practicing law in their field.

I am hoping to have legislation ready by the start of the fall semester. To that end, I was hoping you could help me by identifying any classes within your program that are either law-related or cover an area in which practitioners of law in an area related to the various Construction programs would find useful. I am more than happy to answer any questions you have about the planned certificate or about the applicability of your courses.

Enjoy your summer,

Darren



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**Re: Pre-Law**

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**From** Julie Allison <jallison@pittstate.edu>  
**Date** Wed 6/25/2025 9:27 AM  
**To** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>

Darren,

Both undergraduate and graduate students may take the 700-level courses; however, it's mostly undergraduates who enroll.

Julie

Julie Allison, Ph.D.  
Professor  
208D Whitesitt Hall  
Department of Psychology and Counseling  
Pittsburg State University  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

jallison@pittstate.edu

620-235-4529 (office)  
620-235-6102 (fax)

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**From:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 7:58 PM  
**To:** Julie Allison <jallison@pittstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law

Hi Julie:

Thanks for getting back to me. I have a question regarding 771 and 773. Are these graduate level courses? Would undergraduate students be able to take them.

I don't think the General Psychology prerequisite will be a problem. I would think that any student taking PSYCH courses for the certificate would likely be PSYCH majors and would have taken it already.



Darren

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**From:** Julie Allison <jallison@pittstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 10:08 AM  
**To:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law

Darren,

I forgot one: PSYCH 571: Abnormal Psychology. Please note that General Psychology is a pre-requisite for all the rest of the classes. Students usually take this to satisfy general ed classes.

Julie

Julie Allison, Ph.D.  
Professor  
208D Whitesitt Hall  
Department of Psychology and Counseling  
Pittsburg State University  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

jallison@pittstate.edu

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**From:** Julie Allison <jallison@pittstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 10:04 AM  
**To:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law

Darren,

It's great to hear from you and about your progress. I think we have two classes that would be of direct benefit. They are:

PSYCH 771: Psychology and Law  
PSYCH 773: Criminal Psychopathology

I also think that PSYCH 263: Developmental Psychology, PSYCH 289: Research Methods I and PSYCH 392: Research Methods II could be beneficial. Just a few weeks ago, I had several conversations from a

previous PSYCH student who is now a lawyer, who was preparing for an expert witness who was going to discuss research. Her knowledge of research really helped her challenge research cited by that expert.

If you would like to discuss this further, feel free to call me. My number is 620-249-8154.

Julie

Julie Allison, Ph.D.  
Professor  
208D Whitesitt Hall  
Department of Psychology and Counseling  
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**From:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 4:37 PM  
**To:** Julie Allison <jallison@pittstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law

Hi Julie:

I hope your summer is going well.

Last semester I sent your department an email about a planned Pre-Law Certificate to be offered by HPASS. I left the previous email attached if you want to review it.

As it now stands, we are looking at a 15-hour certificate, which would consist of 9 hours of political science (U.S. Politics and two upper division law courses), then 6 more hours of electives. The idea is that these electives could come from any program and would prepare the student in their discipline on issues relevant to someone from that discipline going to law school. For example, I imagine that there are some psychology courses that would be particularly relevant to a PSYCH major attending law school that may not necessarily be useful for a student of another major also attending law school. If you could identify some of those courses, I would appreciate it. I would like to start the legislative process early in the fall.

Darren

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**From:** Julie Allison <jallison@pittstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 29, 2025 10:10 AM  
**To:** Robin Blair <rblair@pittstate.edu>; Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law

Darren,

Thank you for reaching out. I would very much liked to be involved in some of your discussion. Would you like to set up a time to meet?

Julie

Julie Allison, Ph.D.  
Professor  
208D Whitesitt Hall  
Department of Psychology and Counseling  
Pittsburg State University  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

jallison@pittstate.edu

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**From:** Robin Blair <rblair@pittstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 3:44 PM  
**To:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>; Julie Allison <jallison@pittstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law

Darren,  
Yes, I'm Chair of our department, but I think your questions and suggestions are most relevant to Julie Allison, who oversees those emphases. I'm including her in the email chain for you two to continue the conversation. Thanks for bringing these things to our attention!  
Robin

Robin D. Blair, Ph.D. (she/her)  
Associate Professor  
Chair, Department of Psychology and Counseling  
Director, Clinical Psychology Program  
Pittsburg State University

Schedule a time to meet with me here: <https://pittstate.campus.eab.com/pal/ewSIYESXc4>

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**From:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>

**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 3:15 PM

**To:** Robin Blair <rblair@pittstate.edu>

**Subject:** Pre-Law

Dear Robin:

I have you down as the interim chair for Psychology; if that is no longer the case, could you please pass this message along to whomever is the chair?

This is Darren over in HPASS; I am a professor of political science and I also do a lot of pre-law advising for any student, regardless of major. We are working on an idea for a pre-law certificate or a legal studies certificate that students of any major could pursue as a credential to improve their law school application and as a way to introduce students to subject of law so they can be better prepared. At the moment, I am foreseeing some core coursework in political science and criminal justice that will focus on law generally and/or cover topics every law student studies. This would then be supplemented by electives of courses from across campus that have some kind of law content. Ideally, the courses would also be courses for the student's major.

I am writing you today for a few reasons. First, psychology and political science, as far as I know, are the only disciplines on campus with some kind of law-focused emphasis. I wanted, therefore, to open up communication with you in this initial planning stage in the event that this certificate could prove useful to your students and your program. I do not see this certificate in any way replacing your psychology and legal issues emphasis as I imagine that not every students pursuing that emphasis is considering law school. But this could supplement the curriculum of those who are considering law school, and if it can be done in a way that enhances all programs involved, that is something to be pursued.

Second, I was hoping you could suggest psychology courses that have a law focus. I know you have a number of psychology courses associated with the legal issues emphasis, but I imagine that many of those courses are not law courses, per se. For example, I think a course like Psychology and the Law would be more germane to this certificate than a course in Positive Psychology. In other words, I do want the list to be rather selective and focused.

Finally, I was looking over the curricula for your emphases and have some updates and suggestions to offer. In your Legal Issues emphasis, you list POLS 661: Constitutional Law I as an elective. This is our course on separation of powers. I think that POLS 662: Constitutional Law II, which is our course on civil rights/liberties and does not require POLS 661, might be a better fit for that emphasis. Also, in your Military emphasis, you have POLS 587: U.S. Foreign Policy as having some prerequisites; that course no longer has prerequisites. Also, you may want to consider POLS 680: International Security for that emphasis, as it deals almost exclusively with military issues; Foreign Policy deals with military issues along with other issues, such as trade and diplomacy.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Thank you,



Darren

Darren Botello-Samson  
Professor of Political Science and Pre-Law Advisor  
Department of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences  
Pittsburg State University  
Pittsburg, KS USA



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**Re: Pre-Law Certificate**

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**From** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>

**Date** Tue 8/19/2025 8:50 AM

**To** Cole Shewmake <cshewmake@pittstate.edu>

Cole:

Thanks for the feedback. The prerequisite shouldn't be a stumbling block. The idea is to identify courses that your majors could take that focus on law in their area. That is supplemented by a political science core that gives them a stronger background in law generally.

Darren

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**From:** Cole Shewmake <cshewmake@pittstate.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 8:37 AM

**To:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>

**Cc:** Natalie Bird <nbird@pittstate.edu>; Shelby Hutchens <nhutchens@pittstate.edu>

**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law Certificate

Good morning Darren,

I discussed this with a couple of our Recreation Services, Sport, and Hospitality Management faculty when you sent this originally, then failed to reply to you. They identified REC 426 and REC 450 as courses that would complement Pre-Law certificate. Dr. Natalie Bird teaches REC 426 and Dr. Shelby Hutchens teaches REC 450. Both of those classes have a prerequisite of REC 160 (our intro class), but if that is huge stumbling block, we might be able to work around that.

Thanks for reaching out!

Cole

Dr. Cole Shewmake, Professor/Chair  
Health, Human Performance, & Recreation Department  
Faculty Athletic Representative  
Pittsburg State University  
620-235-4911  
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**From:** Darren Botello-Samson <dbotello-samson@pittstate.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 3:58 PM

**To:** Cole Shewmake <cshewmake@pittstate.edu>

**Subject:** Re: Pre-Law Certificate

Hello Cole:

I was wondering if you have had anytime to think about this: See below

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**From:** Darren Botello-Samson

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 5:58 PM

**To:** Cole Shewmake <cshewmake@pittstate.edu>

**Subject:** Pre-Law Certificate

Dear Cole:

I hope your summer is going well. Over this summer, I am working on creating a Pre-Law Certificate in HPASS. The spirit of this idea is help identify students from across campus who are considering attending law school after graduation and give them the opportunity to earn a credential that will help them be better prepared for law school. This would be a 15-hour certificate, including a core of U.S. Politics and two upper-division courses in law. The remaining 6 hours could come from a number of courses across campus, including possibly courses from your program. The guiding spirit of this idea is that if there is a student in your program interested in law school, they could take U.S. Politics for general education, a couple of upper-division law courses for general law school preparation, and a couple of courses that could come from their own program, courses which would cover a topic likely to be useful to someone practicing law in their field.

I am hoping to have legislation ready by the start of the fall semester. To that end, I was hoping you could help me by identifying any classes within your program that are either law-related or cover an area in which practitioners of law in an area related to HHPR would find useful.

At the moment, I have only identified REC 426: Law of the Professions... as a potential elective course. If there are other courses available that one of your majors would find useful, please let me know. I am more than happy to answer any questions you have about the planned certificate or about the applicability of your courses.

Enjoy your summer,

Darren