



PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

INDIGENOUS LEGAL STUDIES

Specialization in Indigenous Legal Studies

Any student in the JD program may earn this Specialization by undertaking a course of study that will assist them in any number of career paths, including practice in the area of Aboriginal and/or Indigenous laws. An eligible student receives a Certificate signed by the Academic Director, Indigenous Legal Studies and the Dean. No official notification is made on a student's academic transcript. A student may, however, at their discretion, note achievement of the Specialization on their curriculum vitae.

The Specialization *may* be available to transfer students depending on their circumstances; such cases are assessed on a case by case basis.

The requirements for the Specialization are based on Allard's JD curriculum, which includes the mandatory foundation courses all first year students must complete: Law 200 Indigenous Settler Legal Relations (3 credits) and Law 291 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights (2 credits). This means that a student must have completed Law 200 and Law 291, or provide evidence of equivalency, in order to apply for the Specialization. *

In addition to the mandatory foundation courses indicated above, in order to earn the Specialization certification, a student must complete **14 credits** from the list below:

Mandatory

Law 352	Aboriginal Peoples and Canadian Law	3 credits
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11 credits in Aboriginal law courses must come from the following list:

LAW 320	Indigenous Peoples in Comparative and International Law	3 credits
Law 353	Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Litigation	3 credits
Law 354	Aboriginal Self Government	3 credits
Law 356	First Nations and Economic Development	3 credits
Law 358	Topics in First Nations Law (see examples listed below)	1-3 credits
	Taxation, Assimilation & Reconciliation	3 credits
	Historical and Contemporary Issues	3 credits
	Indigenous Children and Youth: Legacy of Residential Schools	3 credits
	Indigenous Law and Climate Change	3 credits
	Indigenous Legal Theory	3 credits



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Introduction to Indigenous Legal Orders within the Settler State 3 credits

Métis Law 3 credits

Experiential Learning and Clinical Courses

Law 483 Kawaskimhon (Aboriginal Rights) Moot 5 credits

Law 488 Clinical program: Indigenous Community Legal Clinic 6 credits**

Law 379/380 W̱SÁNEĆ law field school 6 credits**

Law xxx Indigenous Laws Research Externship 6 credits**

Other courses*** with sufficient Aboriginal or Indigenous laws or Indigenous legal issues content (including those from other UBC programs), and courses taken at other institutions by transfer students or exchange students, *may* count toward the Specialization subject to review by ILS Associate Director and approval by ILS Academic Director. Where it is reasonably possible to do so, approval must be sought in advance of registration for the academic year.

Students should note that not all courses are offered every year. Where a JD student in their third (or graduating year) is unable to complete 14 credits in Aboriginal and Indigenous laws or Indigenous legal issues through enrolment in the above noted courses or experiential opportunities, – either due to a lack of available courses or a serious timetabling conflict – the student may be granted permission to take a Directed Research paper to count toward the outstanding credits required. Such a DR (between 2 and 4 credits) – must contain relevant Indigenous content as determined by the ILS Academic Director. Students in this situation should contact the ILS Associate Director well in advance of the deadline for Directed Research for any given term.

A student electing to participate in either the Kawaskimhon Moot, the ICLC, W̱SÁNEĆ law field school, or the Indigenous Laws Research Externship may not use a Directed Research to count toward the required 14 credits. A student participating in any of the experiential learning or clinical programs and the Kawaskimhon Moot may only apply credits from one experience toward the required 14 credits.

Once a student has met the above requirements, they provide the ILS Associate Director with their name, student number, course names and numbers that meet the requirements. Once that is confirmed, their name will be added to that year's list of student receiving the Specialization Certificate.

*Students who graduate in 2022 will not be required to have completed Law 200.

**Although these courses are worth 15 credits, only 6 credits will be counted towards the Specialization to ensure that a student is pursuing a diversity of course work in Aboriginal and Indigenous laws and Indigenous legal issues.



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*** If a student has written a paper primarily devoted to Aboriginal law, Indigenous laws or Indigenous legal issues for a course that is not on this list, and the paper counts for the majority of marks for the course, a student may submit the paper to the ILS Associate Director who will provide it to the ILS Academic Director for review to ascertain whether it suffices to meet the requirements for the applicable credits.

Any questions can be addressed by email to the ILS Associate Director for clarification