The Department of Philosophy offers a Pre-law Certificate that is primarily guided by the published recommendations of the American Bar Association (A.B.A.). The A.B.A. encourages prospective law students to pursue classes that cultivate a set of skills that will enhance the study of law. The study of philosophy lends itself to the development these recommended skills. To this end, Philosophy’s Pre-law Certification requires that students take classes that typically cultivate the A.B.A.’s recommended skill set:

1. **Problem Solving** involves “courses and other experiences that will engage [students] in critical thinking about important issues, challenge ... beliefs and improve ... tolerance for uncertainty and criticism.”

2. **Critical Reading** involves “close reading and critical analysis of complex textual material.”

3. **Writing and Editing** involves “preparing original pieces of substantial length and revising written work in response to constructive criticism. [...] Language is the most important tool of a lawyer, and lawyers must learn how to express themselves clearly and concisely.”

4. **Oral Communication and Listening** involves “the ability to speak clearly and persuasively... and excellent listening skills.”

5. **Research** involves “undertaking a project that requires significant library research and the analysis of large amounts of information obtained from that research.”

The Certification requires students to take 12 hours of classes, one of which is an introduction to logic and 9 of which are at the 300-400 level. Students must complete at least one Philosophy class that is writing intensive.

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/pre_law.html

**Program Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Semester Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 240</td>
<td>Introduction to Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one from:

- PHIL 332 Social and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 334 Philosophy of Law

Select one from:

- PHIL 485 Directed Studies
- PHIL 491 Research
- PHIL 497 Independent Honors Studies
- PHIL 300 to 499 (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/phil)

**Total Semester Credit Hours** 12

1 Must be any course with a ‘W’ designation.