

# PHILOSOPHY PRE-LAW - CERTIFICATE

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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.).<sup>1</sup> The A.B.A. encourages prospective law students to pursue classes that cultivate a set of skills that will enhance the study of law. 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."<sup>1</sup>
2. Critical Reading involves "close reading and critical analysis of complex textual material."<sup>1</sup>
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."<sup>1</sup>
4. Oral Communication and Listening involves "the ability to speak clearly and persuasively... and excellent listening skills."<sup>1</sup>
5. Research involves "undertaking a project that requires significant library research and the analysis of large amounts of information obtained from that research."<sup>1</sup>

Students pursuing the certificate must enroll through an advisor before completing 105 credit hours.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/pre\\_law.html](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/pre_law.html)

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
COMM 203	Public Speaking <sup>1</sup>	3
	or COMM 243or Argumentation and Debate	
PHIL 240	Introduction to Logic <sup>1</sup>	3
PHIL 491	Research <sup>2,3</sup>	0
Select two of the following: <sup>1</sup>		6
PHIL 332	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 334	Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 336	Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 470	Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law	
<b>Total Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

<sup>1</sup> Must earn a grade of C or higher.

<sup>2</sup> Must be taken after or concurrent with the completion of the other credit hours for the certificate. Students must submit a philosophical writing sample, which may be a piece of writing previously submitted for one of the courses listed above.

<sup>3</sup> Students must sign up for the certificate through an advisor before completing 105 credit hours.