

Tribal Lawyer Certificate

The Tribal Lawyer Certificate program is designed to ensure that law students aspiring to a career representing Indian nations have the skills necessary to appreciate and strengthen the unique nature of Indigenous tribal legal systems.

The Tribal Lawyer Certificate is available to concurrently enrolled KU Law J.D. students

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Effectively representing Indian nations and tribes requires an understanding of the laws, history and policies that affect them. For more than 200 years, the United States has pursued conflicting policies for dealing with the Indigenous peoples located within its borders. As a result, there exists an extremely complicated body of federal, state and tribal law that affects every aspect of Indigenous life.

The complexity of "Indian law," and the lack of specific programs designed to educate graduates as to the unique legal and cultural needs of Indian people, has created a situation in which lawyers representing Indian tribes place too great an emphasis on state law and federal law when dealing with Indian nations. As a result, these lawyers may unconsciously be contributing to the weakening of unique tribal legal and governance traditions by recommending the adoption of tribal laws and policies founded upon the Anglo-American legal and political traditions rather than the unique traditions of their tribal clients.

Students may satisfy the Tribal Lawyer Certificate requirements by taking courses such as Federal Indian Law and the Tribal Judicial Support Clinic (<https://law.ku.edu/academics/hands-on-learning/clinics/tribal-judicial/>), combined with several law courses in economic development, taxation, federal courts and natural resources.

Students who intend to pursue a certificate program should complete the Declaration Form (https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_29o4EizEB6qoNWm/). The form deadline for your intention to pursue a certificate is **November 1st of your 3L year**, though you may certainly do so at an earlier point. If you fail to meet the requirements of the certificate by the time you graduate, you will not earn the certificate.

In addition to all other J.D. degree requirements (<https://law.ku.edu/academics/degrees/jd-program/requirements/>), students must complete the requirements below to earn the Tribal Lawyer Certificate.

Required Courses:

Code	Title	Hours
LAW 914	Federal Indian Law	
LAW 998	Tribal Judicial Support Clinic (or approved internship)	

Core Courses (three of the following):

Code	Title	Hours
LAW 850	Administrative Law	
LAW 892	Business Organizations	

LAW 964 National/International Moot Court Competitions: _____ (N.A.L.S.A)

LAW 966 Oil and Gas

LAW 995 Water Law

Elective Courses (three of the following):

Code	Title	Hours
LAW 860	Alternative Dispute Resolution	
LAW 879	Comparative Law	
LAW 881	Conflict of Laws	
LAW 930	Corporate Finance	
LAW 925	Employment Law	
LAW 910	Federal Courts and the Federal System	
LAW 913	Federal Income Taxation	
LAW 939	Labor Law	
LAW 954	Legislation and Statutory Interpretation	
LAW 955	Legislative Simulation and Study	
LAW 956	Local Government Law	
LAW 974	Public International Law	
LAW 928	Remedies	
LAW 994	Special Topics: _____ (with approval of certificate director)	

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Acquire Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law.
- Develop legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, professional skills, and written and oral communication in the legal context.
- Exercise proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system.