Law
Law is more than just a set of rules or a series of arguments between lawyers. It is an important cornerstone of our society. Knowing how the law works prepares you to participate more fully in society. Law is not just for lawyers.

The Carleton advantage

Carleton University is home to Canada’s premier legal studies program. We offer the most comprehensive Bachelor of Arts (BA) program in Law in the country. Our programs reflect the growing demand for legal studies outside the professional LLB (Bachelor of Laws), by placing law and legal issues within a social context.

Our courses move beyond the study of legal rules to examine what we know about the law and how it works in our society. You will acquire knowledge of the underlying dynamics of law, including an in-depth understanding of its rules, agents, institutions and power structures.

Studying law in all these different facets is what defines the strength of Carleton’s programs.

You will be taught not only by experienced, award-winning professors with a keen understanding of the law but also by seasoned professionals with extensive experience who work with us as part-time instructors and are drawn from federal departments, government agencies, Bar associations and private-sector organizations in Ottawa.

You also will have access to online legal materials and databases available to the legal profession.

The capital advantage

Carleton’s proximity to Canada’s important legal institutions, including the Supreme Court of Canada, the National Library, Parliament and the federal departments of Justice and Public Safety, gives you access to legal decision makers and policy makers and to research holdings unavailable anywhere else in the country. You will also have the opportunity to work with national and international organizations headquartered in Ottawa.

Legal studies is the basis upon which you can build any number of careers today—you will benefit from a better understanding of both the law and its place in our society, as well as its influence in shaping relationships among individuals and between citizens and the state.
For example:

- criminologists, security consultants, police and correctional workers need to know the institutions, processes and social context of criminal law;
- producers and television station managers need to know about content regulations;
- educators and communicators require knowledge of freedom of expression and copyright regulations, and privacy acts;
- intellectual property rights, licensing and electronic commerce are concerns of business and high-tech industry managers;
- policy advisors and people who work in nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) need to know the laws relating to their areas of concern and need to be equipped to negotiate the legislative process;
- the executive director of a women’s shelter should be familiar with criminal law, family law, child welfare and employment law;
- bankers and financial analysts need a thorough understanding of commercial law subjects; and
- government workers, industry leaders, urban planners and environmentalists need to know about environmental law and regulations.

The capital advantage

The Ottawa area is one with considerable environmental work activity. Several government departments are involved with the research that leads to environmental legislation and regulation.

Associations with these departments, as well as with the National Capital Commission, national museums and the National Research Council Canada, provide an unparalleled background for your study in environmental science and invaluable networks for career opportunities after you graduate.

Choosing the right program

Bachelor of Arts (General)
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Bachelor of Arts (Combined Honours)

The Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton offers a choice of undergraduate programs.

The Bachelor of Arts (General) requires 15.0 credits, normally completed after three years of study.

The four-year Bachelor of Arts (Honours) program provides a more rigorous and extensive study of
law, and requires 20.0 credits for completion. You can combine Law with another discipline, including our interdisciplinary program in Human Rights and Social Justice, for a combined Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree.

Students in the Bachelor of Arts (General), Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Arts (Combined Honours) may earn the notation Mention : Français on their diploma by completing part of their program in French.

We also offer a concentration in Law for students in the Criminology and Criminal Justice program, as well as a four-credit minor in Law for students in other disciplines.

Concentrations and work experience
Focusing your studies in a particular area and integrating your academic work with hands-on experience can give you an important edge in today’s competitive job market.

Students in any of the Honours Law programs can choose one of three concentrations, two of which include a co-operative education option.

The concentration in Law, Policy and Government should be considered if you are interested in a career in the government or with an organization that is directly affected by government decision-making. A co-op placement with this concentration may include work within a government department or non-governmental organization, such as an advisory board or commission.

The concentration in Business Law is for those interested in how the legal environment affects business and non-profit organizations. A co-op placement allows you to apply your academic knowledge in a business environment.

Our concentration in Transnational Law and Human Rights offers students the opportunity for in-depth consideration of the potential (and limits) of law in addressing human rights issues both in Canada and internationally, while also considering the development of transnational approaches to law and human rights.

Study abroad
The Department of Law and Legal Studies participates in an innovative exchange program with the Division of Applied Social Science, Faculty of Development and Society, at Sheffield Hallam University in the United Kingdom.
Third- or fourth-year Bachelor of Arts (Honours) students may study for a year within this professional school firmly rooted in the social scientific study of law. Students who successfully complete six units in the LLB (Honours) program in Sheffield will receive 5.0 credits toward their Carleton BA (Honours).

A variety of courses
The Department of Law and Legal Studies offers a wide range of courses at the undergraduate level. Many courses are offered in the evening, as well as in the summer, to accommodate part-time students.

The introductory course Introduction to Legal Studies investigates the general nature and functioning of the law, and illuminates aspects of the Canadian legal system.

Second-year students choose from courses dealing with issues raised in private law, criminal law, public law and international law. These courses provide a foundation for more specialized courses at the third- and fourth-year levels.

Third- and fourth-year courses offer an extensive array of subject choices in areas such as criminal justice reform, law and the information society, feminist theory, human rights, business law, international organization, intellectual property, mediation, employment law, constitutional law and health law.

Courses taught at this level provide you with a theoretical and practical knowledge of law and legal studies, challenge you to critically engage with traditional concepts of law, and help you develop your analytical and research skills.

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**Devin Harm,**
Second-year student in Law

I chose to study Law at Carleton because of its unique and unparalleled program. Being in the nation’s capital with access to so many resources provides an experience that no other university in Canada has to offer students interested in Law. The faculty and department consist of some of the brightest individuals in their respected fields and it’s a privilege to be taught by such influential people. Not only are the professors experts in their fields of study, but also they are truly vested in making sure that you succeed within and outside of the classroom.
Your first-year experience

First-year Seminars
First-year BA students are strongly encouraged to include a First-year Seminar (FYSM) in their first-year course load. Our First-year Seminars will get you away from the lecture hall and give you the chance, in a small class of no more than 30, to discuss and debate topics with your classmates and your professors. You will also get early and frequent feedback on class assignments and instruction in research, writing and study skills.

Although some FYSMs count as courses leading to a major, you do not have to choose a FYSM in your major discipline.

A sample first year

- 1.0 credit in Introduction to Legal Studies
- 1.0 credit in any First-year Seminar
- 3.0 credits in electives

Future opportunities

The workplace
The overwhelming majority of Carleton Law graduates are employed in professional, managerial or administrative positions, including:

- federal and provincial administration
- policy analysis
- welfare and social work
- social sciences
- education
- health care
- legal occupations

Graduate studies
Graduates of our program are well qualified to go on to graduate studies in a variety of fields, including legal studies, political science, public administration and international relations.

If you think that you may wish to pursue an advanced degree, you are encouraged to investigate graduate programs early in order to ensure that your program is suited to meet the relevant graduate-level requirements.

Professional programs
Many professional programs, including law, teaching, social work and business, are interested in attracting well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds. Law provides a strong foundation for such programs.
1. Why would I choose an Honours program?
Honours programs have many advantages, including offering more courses in your chosen field and access to co-op and internship opportunities where available, as well as preparing you for graduate studies, professional programs and employment.

2. When do I have to declare a major?
You will need to choose a major by the end of your first year. Course registration is generally easier for students who have declared a major, so even if you are not 100 per cent certain it is best to choose a major upfront and change it later if you need to.

3. Where can I go for academic advice?
Once you are studying at Carleton, you can contact the Department of Law and Legal Studies for academic advice, or you can visit our Academic Advising Centre, which offers a range of services including academic advising and free study-skills development workshops.
carleton.ca/academicadvising

Admission requirements
For admission to the Bachelor of Arts program in Law, you must have the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent, including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses. Your six 4 U/M courses must include 4U English (or Anglais).

It is Carleton University policy to consider your best performance in any eligible course in the admissions assessment.

Since the number of qualified applicants may be greater than the number of available spaces, cut-off averages and required marks may vary. Please refer to our website at admissions.carleton.ca/requirements for the current admission requirements.

For more information
Please visit our website at carleton.ca/law or consult the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at carleton.ca/cuuc.
Do you want more information?
Please contact us at:

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This document is available in a variety of accessible formats upon request. A request can be made on the Carleton University website at: carleton.ca/accessibility/request.