

## **Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law**

The Faculty of Law is pleased to offer the Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law to all JD students. Should a student successfully complete the required 20 units (detailed below), this concentration would be noted on an official graduating transcript. To enroll, please complete a [‘change of program’](#) through your online student center by selecting this program under the Concentration selection and submitting.

***Students seeking program guidance are encouraged to contact Andrew Showalter, Specialist, Indigenous Education & Reconciliation prior to course registration ([adshowal@ucalgary.ca](mailto:adshowal@ucalgary.ca)).***

### **Concentration Requirements:**

A student must complete 20 units from the following:

The following 8 units are mandatory:

- **Law 400:** Constitutional Law (5 units)
- **Law 594:** Indigenous Peoples and the Law (3 units)

12 units from the following list of electives:

- **Law 587** - Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot (3 units)
- **Law 660.xx** - Residential School Litigation (3 units)
- **Law 660.xx** - Reconciliation and Lawyers (3 units)
- **Law 660.xx** - Restorative Justice (3 units)
- **Law 660.xx** - MMIWG (3 units)
- **Law 660.xx** - Indigenous Economic Development (3 units)
- **Law 660.xx** - Negotiating Indigenous Rights (3 units)
- **Law 696.xx** - Law of Modern Treaties (3 units)<sup>1</sup>

With approval, students may complete one of the following two options to fulfill 3 of the 12 units of elective courses. Papers must meet the required criteria and be the credits approved by the Associate Dean Academic (detailed below):

- Law XXX – Directed Research Paper in relevant area (3 units, contingent on willing Professor to supervise)
- Law XXX – Existing elective course wherein the term paper component is eligible to satisfy the upper year writing requirement, and the topic of the term paper is focused on Aboriginal and/or Indigenous Law (consistent with the criteria below)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Law of Modern Treaties occurs in the Spring term, and registration does not open until Winter. An information session will be offered during the Fall term for this specific course if it is to be offered the upcoming Spring.

<sup>2</sup> Students who complete a major paper in one of the listed courses above cannot apply for that paper to count towards the Concentration to satisfy an additional 3 units.

## **Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law**

### **Criteria for assessing law student papers:**

In order to count as credit towards the Concentration, a paper must:

1. Be eligible to satisfy the Upper Year Writing Requirement.
2. Analyze and critically evaluate court and tribunal decisions, statutes, policies, and/or secondary materials related to Aboriginal law and/or Indigenous law.
3. Employ strictly doctrinal analysis and/or theoretical concepts and frameworks in explaining, analyzing, and/or critiquing judicial decisions, tribunal decisions, international legal instruments, and/or statutes relating to Aboriginal and/or Indigenous law.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in conducting legal research specific to Aboriginal law and/or Indigenous law, including accessing primary and secondary sources, analyzing legal precedents, and synthesizing complex legal information to support legal arguments and recommendations related to Aboriginal law and/or Indigenous law.

### **Process for evaluating student papers:**

1. Papers must be submitted to the Associate Dean Academic by emailing the Specialist, Indigenous Education & Reconciliation ([adshowal@ucalgary.ca](mailto:adshowal@ucalgary.ca)). Papers may be submitted as soon as they are submitted to the Course Instructor of Record but must be submitted by the last day of term classes to be considered.
2. The Associate Dean Academic will contact a Professor serving on the Indigenous Strategy and Student Support Committee to review the paper and determine whether it satisfies the criteria (detailed above) for the Concentration.
3. The Reviewing Professor will conclude the review by the date at which upper year grades are submitted and will inform the Associate Dean Academic and Specialist, Indigenous Education & Reconciliation of the decision.

**In summary, there are three pathways through which a student can complete credits that count toward the Concentration:**

- **A Directed Research Paper course in combination with units listed above;**
- **A major paper from a non-listed course in combination with units listed above; or**
- **Credit allocation from the listed units above.**

## **Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

A student who enrolls in this Concentration will commit to the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the historical and contemporary legal frameworks governing Indigenous peoples' rights and interests, including treaty rights, land claims, and self-governance structures, within the Canadian legal context.
2. Analyze and critically evaluate court and tribunal decisions, statutes, policies, and guidance related to Aboriginal law, applying theoretical concepts and frameworks to assess their implications for Indigenous communities, governance, and justice.
3. Apply ethical and culturally sensitive approaches in legal practice by recognizing and addressing the unique cultural, social, and historical factors that shape Aboriginal and Indigenous law, while demonstrating respect for Indigenous legal traditions, knowledge systems, and protocols.
4. Collaborate effectively with Indigenous communities, legal practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders to inform legal advice and perspectives that promote reconciliation, social justice, and the protection of Indigenous rights within the broader legal system.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in conducting legal research specific to Aboriginal law, including accessing primary and secondary sources, analyzing legal precedents, and synthesizing complex legal information to support legal arguments and recommendations related to Aboriginal and Indigenous law.
6. Develop advanced communication skills by effectively articulating legal concepts, arguments, and recommendations related to Aboriginal and Indigenous law in written and oral formats, tailored to diverse audiences including Indigenous and non-Indigenous legal professionals, policymakers, community members, stakeholders and rights-holders.