

Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law

The Faculty of Law (the Faculty) is pleased to offer a new 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. The University of Calgary administrative bodies recently approved creation of this concentration and the Faculty is now working with the Registrar's Office to integrate it into relevant registration and records systems. Starting in Winter 2025, students will be able to complete a 'change of program' through their online student center to enroll. Doing so will be relatively straight forward for current and future 1L and 2L students who are in a position to choose and prioritize their electives accordingly. * *Students seeking guidance on their course selections are encouraged to contact Andrew Showalter, Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation prior to course registration on June 18 by email at adshowal@ucalgary.ca.*

ATTENTION 3L Students: For students entering 3L in September 2024, there may still be a pathway to getting this concentration, depending on electives selected to date. **Should you wish you pursue this Concentration you would need to prioritize registration for the remaining units you require. Students who have already completed a major paper in a non-listed elective course or Directed Research Paper that focused on Indigenous or Aboriginal Law and wish to apply that as credit for the Concentration must email Andrew to request approval, and are encouraged to do so prior to course registration on June 18.**

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 579.04 - Residential School Litigation (3 units)
- Law 587 - Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot (3 units)
- Law 693.01 - Law of Modern Treaties (3 units)
- Law 693.05 - Reconciliation and Ethical Lawyering (3 units)
- Law 693.02 - Indigenous Economic Development (3 units)
- Law 693.08 - Negotiating Indigenous Rights (3 units)

With approval, students may complete one of the following two options to fulfill 3 of the 12 units of elective courses. Approval from the Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation is required to receive credit towards the concentration.

- 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 or Indigenous Law**

**Note: Law 639.01 - Law of Modern Treaties occurs in the Spring term, and registration does not open until Winter. An information session will be offered in the Fall for this specific course.*

***Note: 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.*

In summary, there are 3 pathways through which a student could complete the concentration. One stream includes a Directed Research Paper course in combination with units listed above, another includes a major paper course from a non-listed elective course in combination with units from the listed units above, and the other features only course work from the listed units above.

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.