

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES - LAW

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience.

UVic students in the Faculty of Law develop the following program-specific competencies. We worked with the Faculty of Law to develop this document.

LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Acquires a foundation of legal knowledge and skills needed for the practice of law and for the many professional roles in which legal training is invaluable

- + Understands the structure of the Canadian legal system and the legal system in British Columbia
- + Examines the basic framework and functioning of the Canadian constitutional system
- + Develops knowledge of the structure of the courts and the role of the judiciary
- + Appreciates the function of substantive and procedural law
- + Investigates the administrative process, the development of tribunals and agencies, and the interaction of these bodies with the courts
- + Understands the legislative process and the interpretation of legislation
- + Develops an understanding of criminal law, private law, and administrative law
- + Understands the forms and functions of major disputing processes, including mediation, negotiation, and adjudication
- + Acquires knowledge of basic legal research techniques, using various research tools
- + Obtains proficiency in legal writing, using proper citation
- + Demonstrates proficiency in mooting/oral advocacy

CONTEXTUAL KNOWLEDGE

Acquires an understanding of the context (social, economic, historical, philosophical and cultural) in which our legal system has developed and continues to evolve

- + Understands the role of the legal profession and the law in society
- + Develops an understanding of the relationship of law and government
- + Develops an understanding of the role of law in economic and social ordering
- + Demonstrates knowledge of barriers to the legal system and issues around access to justice

SPECIALIZED LEGAL TRAINING AND SKILLS PRACTICE

Explores specialized areas of legal training and gains practical experience

- + Acquires substantive legal knowledge in various practice areas, including, administrative law, civil procedure, evidence, environmental law, corporate law, and, international and comparative law
- + Develops a broader understanding of Indigenous legal issues, recognizing the need in the Canadian legal community for a broader understanding of and academic focus on Aboriginal legal issues
- + Obtains clinical experience, substantive legal knowledge, and legal skills through the Environmental Law Centre, the Business Law Centre, and the Law Centre
- + Demonstrates proficiency with various forms of legal writing, including drafting, memos, and opinion letters
- + Demonstrates skills in advocacy, and skills of the lawyer in interviewing, counseling, negotiating and advocating