Description

The Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability (CELS) provides students with the opportunity to take more courses in environmental law and sustainability, and to use their legal knowledge in the direct service of real clients pursuing a range of interests aimed at environmental protection.

Students who complete the eight required courses and electives will be recognized as having spent a significant portion of their law program immersing themselves in environmental law and sustainability by providing a notation on their transcripts to that effect.

Admission Requirements and Procedures

The CELS is open to all UVic JD and JD/JID students with an average of 65% or better in their previous year of legal studies. This includes students who have transferred from other Canadian law schools who completed first year law at a different institution. BCL/JD students are ineligible for the CELS due to the course and unit requirements they must meet under the terms of that degree program.

Interested students can apply for admission to the CELS by submitting the attached application form to the law school's front office in the Fraser Building. The Associate Dean will review applications to determine whether students qualify for the CELS.

Concentration Requirements

Students accepted into the concentration must fulfill the requirements of the CELS and the JD or JD/JID Program. That is, they must register in at least 14.5 units in each of their second, third (and fourth if JD/JID) years of law, they must achieve standing in each year and they must complete all compulsory courses and fulfil the major paper requirement.

Students must obtain a grade of 65% or higher in the eight required courses and electives that qualify towards the CELS.

Students who successfully complete the CELS and the JD or JD/JID will receive a notation on their transcript. Students are responsible for ensuring they meet the requirements.

NB. Regular guidelines around course registration priorities apply. Students in the CELS will not be given priority to specific courses. The 2019-20 Course Offering Patterns posted on the law registration webpage may assist with course planning for the CELS.
Required Courses

Students must complete all of these four courses with a grade of 65% or higher in each.

- LAW 301 The Administrative Law Process (usually offered every term)
- LAW 309 The Law of Evidence (usually offered every term)
- LAW 329 Environmental Law (usually offered in fall term)
- LAW 353 Environmental Law Clinic (usually offered in fall and spring and occasionally in summer)

Elective Courses

Students must complete at least 4 courses from the following list, with a grade of 65% or higher in each:

- LAW 328 Green Legal Theory (cross-listed with ES 419)
- LAW 331 International Ocean Law
- LAW 340 Indigenous Lands, Rights and Governance
- LAW 354 Forest Law and Policy
- LAW 381 Animals, Culture and the Law
- LAW 383 Municipal Law and Sustainability
- LAW 384 Field Course in Environmental Law and Sustainability (cross-listed with ES 403)
- LAW 386A ELC Intensive: Legal Skills and Sustainability (formerly known as LAW 353A ELC Intensive)
- LAW 386B ELC Intensive: Problem Solving (formerly known as LAW 353A ELC Intensive)
- LAW 392 Water Law (formerly known as LAW 343)
- LAW 393 Contaminated Sites and Environmental Remediation
- LAW 394 Environmental Law and Science
- Other approved electives as noted in the attached appendix on page 3
- Other elective courses approved in writing by the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations, in advance of students enrolling in the course

Other Courses

New courses in environmental law and sustainability may be developed as permitted by available resources. See the Appendix on page 3, of a list of additional approved electives.

The Faculty of Law academic regulation governing credit for courses outside the Faculty applies to the Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability. Students must obtain the permission of the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations to have the course count as an elective towards the CELS and JD or JD/JID before enrolling in the course.

Application Deadline

Students should submit the application form to the law school’s front office by no later than the formal deadline to apply to graduate. The deadlines are December 15 for spring graduation or July 15 for fall graduation. Students must also apply to graduate through the standard University process. Earlier submission of the CELS application to the front office may result in the notation being added to the academic transcript at an earlier date.
Appendix: CELS Additional Approved Electives

The following LAW 343 courses are approved electives for the CELS. See page 2 of this document for the regular list of elective courses.

LAW 343 Natural Resources Law
- Offered Spring 2019, Professor Chris Tollefson
- Offered Spring 2018, Professor Chris Tollefson
- Offered Spring 2017, Professor Chris Tollefson

LAW 343 Energy Law and Regulation
- Offered Fall 2017, Instructor Chris Jones
- Offered Fall 2015, instructor Chris Jones
- Offered Fall 2013, Instructor Chris Jones

LAW 343 Environmental Law and Science (now LAW 394)
- Offered Summer 2014, Professor Mark Haddock
- Offered Summer 2013, Professor Mark Haddock
- Offered Spring 2013, Professor Mark Haddock

LAW 343 Contaminated Sites and Environmental Remediation (now LAW 393)
- Offered Spring 2013, Professor Chris Tollefson

LAW 343 Human Rights and the Environment
- Offered Summer 2013, Instructor David Boyd

LAW 343 Climate Change and Global Economic Governance
- Offered Spring 2014, Instructor Brad Condon

The application form is on the next page.

Updated June 5, 2019
Application Form

Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability

Suggested Application Deadlines:
Anticipated May Graduation: Submit this form by December 15 of previous year or earlier
Anticipate October Graduation: Submit this form by July 15 of the same year or earlier

Please submit your form to the front office staff, Faculty of Law, Fraser Building.

Name: ___________________________ Student Number: V00___________
Email: ___________________________

Please complete the following questions:

1. I am currently in my ________term of ____________ year. (e.g. My first term of third year)

2. Select one:
   - I am a JD student
   - I am a JD/JID student

3. Select one:
   - I am a co-op student
   - I am not a co-op student

4. Below, please map your course plan for the CELS requirements. List the courses and when you plan to take them. This does not guarantee you access to any courses, it is for planning purposes. Courses must be approved by the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations.

Required CELS Courses:

- Law 301 The Administrative Law Process Term: _____________________________
- Law 309 The Law of Evidence Term: ______________________________
- Law 329 Environmental Law Term: ______________________________
- Law 353 Environmental Law Clinic Term: ______________________________

Elective CELS Courses:

- Course: ___________________________ Term: ______________________________
- Course: ___________________________ Term: ______________________________
- Course: ___________________________ Term: ______________________________
- Course: ___________________________ Term: ______________________________

I understand that I am responsible for ensuring that I meet the requirements of the CELS.
Name and Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________

Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability, 2019-20