Graduate Certificate Program Requirements & Admissions

Program Requirements

- **GPA:** Students must maintain a 3.5 or better.
- **Courses:** Students must complete at least three approved graduate courses to earn a graduate certificate. Currently, approved graduate courses include any course taught by an LSJ faculty member and JSIS 599 (Law, Rights & Governance).

Specifically, Graduate Fellows must complete:

1. The LSJ Graduate “core course” (Political Science 561, Law & Politics or LSJ 501);
2. Any other approved graduate course that is offered outside of your home department; and
3. Any other approved graduate course.

A list of approved courses taught each year will be posted as soon as possible. For a list of approved graduate courses taught during the 2020-21 school year, click here. Independent study courses cannot be substituted for these courses.

Note: If students are unable to complete an approved course taught outside their home unit, but have otherwise taken three approved courses, they may for permission to waive the “out of department” requirement. To support such a petition, students should write a letter to the Graduate Program Director that explains: a) Why they were unable to take an approved course outside of their home department; and b) how the in-department courses taken to satisfy the graduate certificate requirements included substantial inter-disciplinary content. A copy of the course syllabi should accompany such petitions.

Alternatively, if Graduate Fellows identify a third course that is not an approved course but has substantial socio-legal or rights-related content, they may petition for approval to count the course toward the three-course requirement. To support such a petition, students should write a letter to the Graduate Program Director that identifies the socio-legal and inter-disciplinary content of the proposed alternative course. A copy of the course syllabus should accompany such petitions.

Please be aware that per Graduate School Memo #43, the overlap of coursework applied towards your Graduate Program Certificate and your Ph.D. must not exceed 6 credits and is limited to elective coursework in each program.

**Analytic Paper:** Students will also satisfy the “capstone” requirement by developing an analytic paper that engages the law and society tradition. This paper must be presented at a relevant national conference (e.g. Law & Society Association) or in an LSJ workshare.

Application Process

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Students usually apply for the program in their first or second year of their PhD program. Apply Here.
Completion Process

**LSJ Graduate Certificate Completion Form**: Upon completion of these requirements, the student must complete and submit the LSJ Graduate Certificate Completion Form here: [https://goo.gl/forms/0PuRiaDuNbSK7KI3](https://goo.gl/forms/0PuRiaDuNbSK7KI3).

Related Files

- [LSJ Graduate Certificate Program Application form](#)
- [LSJ Graduate Certificate Program Completion form](#)

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