

Documents

Reviewed: Dean's Transmittal Letter Introducing Certificate Proposal

Proposal for New Graduate Certificate in Corporate and Commercial Law

Summary of Proposal:

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

The rationale offered by the School of Law defines the certificate as "a gateway for students wishing to work in corporate and commercial law." The claim is to offer baseline education necessary to complete and lead in this area of law. The goals are clearly stated and are achievable.

2. Is the program academically sound?

The content of the certificate is based upon theories that inform corporate law and cover topics that make students better educated in commercial law. Topics of courses included in the certificate details "make students better educated lawyers regardless of their ultimate career trajectory."

The core courses include *Basic Contract Drafting* (LAW 538) *Closely Held Business Organizations* (LAW 645), *Secured Transactions* (Law 618) and *International Business Transactions* (LAW 783) for a total of 11 hours or half the 22 hour certificate requirement. For students without a business-related degree, one additional course is required; *Accounting for Law Students* (LAW 675) for a total of 13 hours listed as "core."

In addition, four upper level courses are required as listed in the proposal for an additional eight to twelve hours bringing the total hours to a range of 19 to 25 depending upon which courses are selected (two or three hours each).

A one or two hour capstone projects is also required.

The course listings and options seem broad in scope including consumer law, antitrust law, labor law plus mergers and acquisitions. The reader presumes that a student would be advised to narrow the upper level course topics to related areas rather than random choice from the offerings listed.

The certificate is academically sound and offers students an excellent option as part of their law degree. The learning objects are clearly stated and achievable.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

Since core courses and upper level courses listed for the certificate already exist, the resources are available without detracting from the School of Law mission. The proposal was designed in order "to create no new teaching demands on the laws faculty or other university resources."

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

This certificate does not overlap offers by other units. It may enhance the JD/MBA experience for those enrolling in the certificate.

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal:

I recommend that the proposal be approved as an excellent addition to the Law School offerings. The only concern would occur if students were not advised carefully in their course selections since so many choices are available in the "upper level" course list. I see this certificate as a focused introduction to corporate and commercial law, not an overview of random areas in the study of law.