



# HEALTH LAW CERTIFICATE

## STUDENT INTRODUCTORY PACKET

(LAST UPDATE: AUGUST 2016)





# Health Law Certificate

## Introduction

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The health law certificate program fosters the knowledge, skills, and values that the contemporary health lawyer needs in rapidly-changing environments. Using the health law field as a lens, you will learn how to apply foundational legal concepts in diverse health settings. Core health law courses, electives, and experiential learning opportunities will enrich your understanding of how law plays a pivotal role in ensuring health and addressing critical issues of access, cost and quality in health care. This program will prepare you for a successful career as well-rounded, problem-solving lawyer who can adapt to 21st-century challenges. While many students participating in the certificate program may have a specific health law career goal in mind, you will find the core competencies developed through the program apply to a wide range of health law settings and topics, as well as to other legal fields.

This brief guide is designed to provide you with an overview of the certificate requirements. For additional information, please visit the certificate website <http://clhs.law.gsu.edu/education/health-law-certificate/> or contact Stacie Kershner, associate director, at [skershner1@gsu.edu](mailto:skershner1@gsu.edu) or 404-413-9088.

**We welcome your participation in the health law certificate program!**

## Core competencies in knowledge, skills and values

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The health law certificate program builds core competencies in three key domains: (1) *knowledge* (including the key concepts, theories, doctrines, laws, policies, systems, and institutions in the health law field); (2) *lawyering skills* (including cognitive, analytical, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication skills); and (3) *professional values and ethics* (including habits of mind and mindsets that promote the responsible, civil, and ethical practice of law). These three domains reflect what competent lawyers should *know*, what they should be able to *do*, and how they should *act* as professionals. The core knowledge, skills, and values competencies are addressed in the certificate requirements.

## Eligibility

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You must be a student in good academic standing, based on the successful completion of the first full year of law study (30 hours), to participate in the certificate program. You must remain in good standing to continue participation in the certificate program.

## Application process

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To apply, submit the declaration-of-interest form (see attached) to the associate director of the Center for Law, Health & Society.

You may apply for the program as early as the spring semester of your first year of the full-time program or spring semester of your second year of the part-time program. You may apply at any time thereafter so long as there remains sufficient time to satisfy all certificate requirements before graduation. If you apply before you have successfully completed the first full year of law study (30 hours), you can get the benefit of faculty advisement (see below), although your formal participation in the program counting toward the requirements for the certificate will not begin until your second full year of law study.

The declaration-of-interest form is not binding. You may change your mind and decline to pursue the certificate at any time.

## Advisement

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After you have formally declared an interest in pursuing a health law certificate, you will automatically be assigned a faculty advisor. Efforts are made to balance advisee assignments among the health law faculty.

You are encouraged to take advantage of faculty advisement to make course selections and discuss potential career paths. The health law faculty are familiar with the course content and individual faculty approaches in the health law courses. They can suggest structured approaches to pursuing offerings in the health law program that maximize the opportunity for integrated learning. They can also tailor their suggestions depending on your particular interests among the health law program's six focus areas and your career goals. You are also welcome to meet with other health law faculty in addition to your assigned advisor – the health law faculty make every effort to have an open-door policy for our students.

## Requirements to earn a certificate in health law

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For the certificate, you must complete 16 - 24 credit hours, depending on the course selections you make and the mix of two-, three-, four- and/or six-credit hour courses as detailed below. You should discuss your course selections and scheduling with your faculty advisor.

### Course work

You must take the following courses to earn a certificate in health law. There is no mandatory sequence for taking the courses, although you are encouraged to take them as early as possible after your first year.

- Law 7010 - Administrative Law (3 credits)
- Law 7101 - Corporations (3 credits)
- Law 7239 - Health Law: Quality and Access (3 credits)
- Law 7240 - Health Law: Finance and Delivery (3 credits)
- One course (your choice) in either the bioethics focus area or in the public health law focus area:

Public health law options:

- Law 7244 - Public Health Law (2-3 credits)
- Law 7243 - HIV/AIDS and the Law (3 credits)
- Law 7341 - Law and Mental Health (3 credits)
- Law 7234 - Food and Drug Law (3 credits)
- Law 7251 - Law and Social Welfare (2-3 credits)
- Law 7331 – Law and Health Equity (2-3 credits)

Bioethics options:

- Law 7099 - Bioethics and the Law (3 credits)
- Law 7098 - Biotechnology Law, Policy and Ethics (3 credits)
- Law 7454 - Forensic Medicine (3 credits)
- Law 7253 - Human Subjects Research Law and Ethics (2-3 credits)
- Law 7249 - Genetics and the Law (3 credits)

Other courses may be added to these lists – discuss a specific course you are considering not listed above with your faculty advisor.

There are important domains in health law knowledge that are not included in the required courses, public health or bioethics options. In-depth coverage of these domains - such as emerging significant developments in the fields of biotechnology law, international and human rights law, constitutional law (civil liberties), and tax law - are offered in elective courses within the health law program and the JD curriculum more generally. You are encouraged to consult with your faculty advisor about these courses and other health law electives related to your areas of interest.

## Lawyering skills

In addition, you must take one lawyering skills course of your choice. To fulfill this requirement, you may choose a clinic experience, an externship in health law, or an experiential-learning course that provides instruction in practical lawyering skills. You are encouraged to take more than one lawyering skills course before graduation. To fulfill the certificate requirement, you may choose from the following courses in the health law program or from the JD curriculum in general:

### Options from the health law curriculum:

- Law 6090 - HeLP Clinic I (4 credits)
- Law 7247/7248 - Health Legislation and Advocacy I & II (6 credits)
- Law 7331 – Law and Health Equity (3 credits)
- Law 7800 – Health Care Transactions (3 credits)
- Externship in health law (3-4 credits)
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Georgia Hospital Association
  - US Dept. of Health and Human Services
  - Atlanta Legal Aid Society
  - Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
  - Fulton County Office of the Child Advocate
  - Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Fulton County State Court
  - Georgia Asylum & Immigration Network
  - GreenLaw (Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest)
  - Lamda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.
  - Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

### Options from the JD curriculum:

- Law 7600 - Low-income Taxpayer Clinic (3 credits)
- Law 7291 - Interviewing/Counseling (2-3 credits)
- Law 7062 - Mediation (3 credits)
- Law 7414 - Negotiation (3 credits)
- Law 7060 - Alternative Dispute Resolution (3 credits)
- Law 7700 - Capstone Series: Wills/Tax (6 credits)
- Law 7094 - Bankruptcy Litigation, Negotiation and Practice (3 credits)

Externships and clinic opportunities may have requirements, applications, and deadlines that differ from the certificate program. If you are interested in an externship or clinic opportunity, please review the details for these programs carefully.

## Writing requirement

You must complete a substantial writing project, which may also be used to satisfy the College of Law's writing requirement. The writing requirement can be satisfied in a variety of ways:

- Any 2-3 credit health law course that qualifies as a legal writing course for the College of Law's writing requirement, generally including:
  - Law 7099 - Bioethics and the Law
  - Law 7253 - Human Subjects Research Law and Ethics
  - Law 7243 - HIV/AIDS and the Law
  - Law 7255 - International and Comparative Health Law
  - Law 7252 - Human Rights and Children
  - Law 7341 - Law and Mental Health
  - Law 7249 - Genetics and the Law
  - Law 7454 - Forensic Medicine
  - Law 7331 – Law and Health Equity

Consult with the professor to confirm that a writing requirement will be offered as this may depend on the semester or who is teaching the course.

- Any 2-3 credit law elective that qualifies as a legal writing course for the College of Law's writing requirement, as long as the paper is on a health law topic
- A 2-credit independent research project on a health law topic under health law faculty supervision (with the associate dean's prior approval)
- A law review note on a health law topic that meets the College of Law writing requirement (because a law review note is normally an ungraded writing project, it must be approved in advance and reviewed by the student's health law advisor, other supervising faculty member, or director of the health law program or his/her designee to ensure that it fulfills the writing requirement, including the minimum grade level required)
- A paper written in conjunction with a clinical experience, practicum, Capstone, or thesis that has prior faculty approval and otherwise meets the College of Law writing requirements
- Written projects for Moot Court or health law writing competitions DO NOT satisfy the certificate writing requirement unless they otherwise meet the College of Law writing requirement

You must get prior approval for your writing project from your faculty advisor and from the faculty member who teaches in the health law program who will supervise your project. For courses and independent research for faculty members outside the health law program, a health law faculty member will be assigned as a second reader. You should coordinate in advance with the assigned health law faculty member reader about the scope and nature of the proposed project in order to ensure that it will meet this writing requirement for the certificate program. You must provide an early outline of the proposed paper content, as well as a draft prior to the final, to the health law faculty member for this purpose. The supervising faculty member retains the authority and discretion in assessing the quality of the final product in such a case and assigning the grade.

### **Extracurricular activities**

Participation in extracurricular activities can promote professional values and ethics such as leadership, community-building, developing professional identity, and commitment to pro bono service. To satisfy the extracurricular requirement of the certificate program, you must participate in either:

- 15 hours of approved extracurricular activities, OR
- 5 approved events

You may begin counting these activities and events starting with your second full year of law study (i.e., after 31 hours of law study).

Events and activities that are pre-approved and will automatically meet this extracurricular activity requirement are:

- Events sponsored by the Center for Law, Health & Society;
- Events sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Corporate Responsibility;
- Events sponsored by the Student Health Law Association (presentations, Bioethics at the Movies, Carver High mentor program, MedShare volunteering, etc.)
- Programs approved for Continuing Legal Education credit in the State Bar of Georgia in the area of health law; and
- Community volunteering activities in health-related or health-promotion activities (e.g., participation in walks/runs and other fundraising activities for health-related conditions, programs, and organizations; blood drives; Habitat for Humanity; March of Dimes, etc.)

Some alternative activities and events will partially satisfy the extracurricular requirement. Because such activities can also further one or more core values, any of the following may be counted as either as 5 hours of approved extracurricular activities or as 2 approved events:

- Participation on a Moot Court team;
- Participation in law review;
- Participation in a legal clinic (if not already counted to meet the curricular requirements of the certificate);
- Leadership in a student legal association/club/society;
- GRA position; or
- Attending a health law conference

If you opt to count one of these alternative activities toward your extracurricular hours or events, the remaining 10 hours or 3 events must come from the activities or events outside of this alternative activities option.

For all other extracurricular activities not listed above, you may seek approval to have them counted toward the extracurricular requirement from your health law faculty advisor on the basis that the activity furthers at least one, and preferably more than one, core values competency. Faculty advisors have discretion to approve an activity, provided that at least one core values competency is furthered.

NOTE: Donating money to a cause or organization may NOT be approved as an extracurricular activity or event.

### **Exceptions**

Any exceptions from or modifications of these certificate requirements in individual cases are within the discretion of the director or associate director of the health law program. Before requesting an exception or modification, consult with your faculty advisor for their approval.

### **Requirements may change**

The health law field has changed dramatically over the past several decades, and it will continue to change over the next decades. As the health law field evolves in the future, the health law program reserves the right to change to meet the needs of becoming a successful lawyer in the health law field in the 21st century. Additional or alternative courses may be offered or required to fulfill the specific components of the certificate program; some courses may be discontinued. Appropriate advance notice will be given to all students enrolled in the program.

## **Grades and honors**

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### **Grades**

You must have a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 in all courses taken in satisfaction of the certificate requirements (the average of all of the grades for all courses taken to fulfill certificate requirements must be a 3.0 or better). If you take more than the minimum number of courses needed to fulfill the certificate requirements, the associate director will use the highest grades in courses that fulfill the certificate requirements when calculating GPA for the certificate.

You must have a minimum grade of 3.0 for the writing requirement in the certificate program (note, in some courses, this grade may be different than the grade given for the course as a whole which may be included above in the GPA calculation). This is an independent requirement and is not calculated in the GPA above, although the course taken may be counted if it is fulfilling another requirement such as public health or bioethics.

Courses that are taken on a pass-fail basis will not be counted toward fulfilling the certificate requirements. If a course includes both a pass/fail and graded component, the graded component will be counted. For example, externships

that are taken on a pass-fail basis can fulfill the lawyering-skills requirement and will not be computed in the GPA requirement; however, the one-hour externship course will be included in the GPA.

Two semester courses where both semesters are required will both be counted in the GPA for required courses (i.e. Health Legislation and Advocacy). For courses where multiple semesters are optional, only one semester will be counted in the GPA (i.e. HeLP Legal Services Clinic).

If you have taken multiple courses that may count for a single requirement, the highest grade fulfilling that requirement will be counted for the GPA calculation.

## Honors

You will be awarded honors in the certificate program if you earn a GPA of 3.6 or higher in **all** courses required toward the certificate **and** any additional elective health law courses taken above and beyond the requirements.

## Verification before graduation

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You must submit a verification form (see attached example) confirming your satisfaction of certificate requirements no later than the drop/add date of your last semester in the JD program before graduation. Your health law faculty advisor must sign your verification form before you submit the verification form to the associate director. The associate director will verify your grades after graduation when available from the registrar's office.

When you submit the verification form to your faculty advisor for approval, you must also submit an extracurricular report (see attached example) to your advisor for approval that you have met the extracurricular requirement. You should report each extracurricular activity or event or alternative activity with sufficient detail to document attendance or participation, including the time, date, location, and people or organization overseeing the event or activity (e.g., speakers, supervisors, club officers, etc.).

All effort should be made to submit these forms in a timely manner. The director or associate director, at their discretion, may choose not to accept late, incomplete or unsigned forms.

## Contact

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For more information and to download forms, please visit our website:

<http://law.gsu.edu/clhs/certificate>

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact:

**Stacie Kershner, JD, Associate Director**  
**Center for Law, Health & Society**  
**Phone: 404-413-9088**  
**Email: [skershner1@gsu.edu](mailto:skershner1@gsu.edu)**



**HEALTH LAW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM  
DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date (Semester/Year): \_\_\_\_\_ Full or Part-Time? \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in pursuing the certificate program in health law at the Georgia State College of Law. I understand that, in summary, the requirements are:

- 1. Course Work:** Administrative Law; Corporations; Health Law: Quality & Access; Health Law: Finance and Delivery; and one qualifying course in either Bioethics or Public Health Law.
- 2. Lawyering Skills:** A qualifying lawyering-skills course, such as a clinic, externship in health law, or other experiential-learning course.
- 3. Writing Requirement:** A substantial writing project on a health law topic, which may also be used to satisfy the College of Law's writing requirement for graduation.
- 4. Extracurricular Activities:** 15 hours of approved extracurricular activities or 5 approved events.
- 5. Grades:** Minimum GPA of 3.0 in the required courses and minimum of 3.0 for the writing project.
- 6. Application deadline:** Submission of an application form and extracurricular activities report to faculty advisor and Associate Director before the drop/add date of your last semester before graduation.

Please describe briefly your reasons for wanting to pursue the certificate program and your career interests:

Please indicate if you have a preference for particular faculty advisor; give reason for preference.

Please indicate if you know which of the six focus areas in health law you are most interested in (select as many as applicable):

- Law, Medicine & Bioethics
- Regulation of Health Care Businesses
- Health & Social Justice
- Public Health Law
- International Health & Human Rights
- Health Sciences & Technology
- I don't know yet

Are you also a dual-degree student? Yes/No      If yes, please specify: JD/\_\_\_\_\_

Please advise us if there is anything else we should know about your goals and interests:

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that I have reviewed the Certificate website and packet for full details and information and that I understand all of the requirements for earning a certificate in health law. I understand that by enrolling in the certificate program, I am not required to complete it; I may change my mind at any time. I will periodically consult with my health law faculty advisor about course selection and my progress toward completing the certificate requirements by the deadlines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Accepted by:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Director, Center for Law, Health & Society

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REPORT**

The health law certificate program requires participation in: (a) 15 hours of approved extracurricular activities, or (b) 5 approved events. Some events may be counted either as 5 hours of approved extracurricular activities or as 2 approved events (see next page for explanation).

Name of approved activity	Date and time	Location	Sponsoring Organization	Number of hours counted toward requirement

Name of approved event	Date and time	Location	Sponsoring Organization	Number of events counted toward requirement

**CERTIFICATION:** I certify that I have participated in the above activities or events to fulfill this requirement, and that such activities and event fulfill this requirement.

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Student Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Date

*Approved by:*

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Health Law Faculty Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Date

Events and activities that are pre-approved and will automatically meet this extracurricular activity requirement are:

- Events sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Corporate Responsibility;
- Events sponsored by the Center for Law, Health & Society;
- Events sponsored by the Student Health Law Association (presentations, bioethics at the movies, Carver High mentor program, etc.);
- Programs approved for Continuing Legal Education credit in the State of Georgia in the area of health law; and
- Community volunteering activities in health-related or health-promotion activities (e.g., participation in walks/runs and other fundraising activities for health-related conditions, programs, and organizations; blood drives; Habitat for Humanity; March of Dimes, etc.).

Some alternative activities and events will partially satisfy the extracurricular requirement. Because such activities can also further one or more core values, any of the following may be counted either as 5 hours of approved extracurricular activities or as 2 approved events:

- Participation on a moot court team;
- Participation in law review;
- Participation in a legal clinic (if not already counted to meet the curricular requirements of the certificate);
- Leadership in a student legal association/club/society;
- GRA position; or
- Attending a health law conference.

If you opt to count one of these alternative activities toward your extracurricular hours or events, the remaining 10 hours or 3 events must come from activities or events outside of this alternative activities option.

For all other extracurricular activities not listed above, you may seek approval to have them counted toward the extracurricular requirement from your health law faculty advisor on the basis that the activity furthers at least one, and preferably more than one, core value. Faculty advisors have discretion to approve an activity, provided that at least one core value is furthered and EXCEPT THAT donating money to a cause or organization may NOT be approved as an extracurricular activity or event.



**VERIFICATION FOR CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH LAW**

**Deadline:** This form must be filled out, with your health law faculty advisor’s approval, and be submitted along with your extracurricular activities report to the associate director of the Center for Law, Health & Society before the drop/add deadline of your last semester before you graduate. Once final grades have been entered and provided by the registrar’s office, the associate director will verify that you have met the requirements.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date (Semester/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Required Courses	Semester/Year	Grade	Professor	Credit hours
Administrative Law				3
Corporations				3
Health Law: Quality and Access				3
Health Law: Finance and Delivery				3
Qualifying Bioethics OR Public Health Law Course:				
Lawyering-Skills Course (Clinic, Externship, or Other Course):				
Writing Requirement (Specify Paper Title and Course/ Law Review/Independent):				

Additional Health Law Electives (beyond required courses above, for honors GPA calculation)	Semester/Year	Grade	Professor	Credit hours
Course:				
Course:				
Course:				

Are you also completing a dual degree? Yes/No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please specify: JD/ \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, please be sure to verify that these dual degree requirements have been met.

For our records and so that we might be able to assist with career goals, do you already have a post-graduation position secured? Yes/No

If yes, please describe where and what type of work you anticipate doing: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If no, please describe the area of law, type(s) of positions, and location in which you are interested: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please specify how you would like your name to appear on the health law certificate:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please specify the address where you would like your certificate mailed:

\_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the above information is true and accurate and that I have completed all of the requirements for the health law certificate. My extracurricular activities report accompanies this verification form.

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

*Approved by:*

\_\_\_\_\_

Health Law Faculty Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**This box for administrative use only.**

Grades verified by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Director, Center for Law, Health & Society  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Graduation Date (Semester/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

GPA for Required Certificate Courses: \_\_\_\_\_ 3.0 or Greater? Yes No

Writing Requirement 3.0 or Greater? Yes No

GPA for all Health Law Courses: \_\_\_\_\_ 3.6 or Greater? Yes No

**Certificate Earned? Yes No Honors Earned? Yes No**

Notes: