

**Environmental and Land Use Law Certificate Program
Florida State University College of Law**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Most of the details of the Certificate Program in Environmental and Land Use Law are described on the Student Registration and Tracking Form available on the Program web page (the Program web page is at http://www.law.fsu.edu/academic_programs/environmental/certificate/). The following additional questions arise frequently for students who are beginning to explore options for their upper level curriculum:

What is the Certificate Program?

The Certificate Program is designed to assist College of Law students with an interest in environmental or land use law in designing a coordinated curriculum and achieving a meaningful level of curriculum emphasis in these fields. This is done through a combination of required courses, selected electives, and a special seminar open only to Certificate Program participants.

Who should consider participating?

Students with an academic or career interest in environmental law or land use law may find the Certificate Program a desirable way of achieving enhanced exposure to the subject matter of those fields. Participating in the Program offers several advantages:

- Individualized curriculum advice from Program faculty.
- Direct mentoring by Program faculty.
- A program of study designed to fulfill your interests and to provide you with an overview of the various aspects of environmental, natural resources, and land use law practice.
- A focused Environmental and Land Use Certificate Seminar designed to allow Program participants to develop skills and exposure to a diverse set of issues through a speaker series.
- A credential/certificate, recorded on your College of Law transcript, which communicates to employers your interest in the field and accomplishments in the curriculum.

When do I enroll in the Program?

Students who wish to participate in the Program should submit a registration and tracking form (available on the Program website) to the Registrar at the end of the fall semester of their second year. The exception is that students planning to graduate from the College of Law one semester early, and students who anticipate being off-campus for a semester in a full-time externship or an exchange program, should submit their registration form at the beginning of the fall semester.

What do I do after I register?

First, meet with the Program Director to discuss curricular options. Four FSU

College of Law faculty help to administer the Certificate Program: Professors Donna Christie, Robin Kundis Craig, David Markell, and J.B. Ruhl. While each of these professors is available to meet with you, each semester one professor serves as Program Director. The Registrar will be able to help you to identify the Program Director for each semester. Also, you must complete the Environmental and Land Use Certificate Seminar, which spans two semesters. You should attend the Seminar beginning in the spring of your second year (unless you wish to graduate early or plan to be off-campus for a semester, in which case you must begin the Seminar sequence in the fall of your second year).

What is the Environmental and Land Use Certificate Seminar?

The Seminar is required for all students seeking the Environmental and Land Use Law Certificate. It involves a series of presentations by COL faculty, other FSU faculty, and outside speakers, as well as by the students in the Seminar. The seminar focuses on developing policy analysis skills and on introducing the students to a wide variety of current environmental and land use issues. The Seminar carries a 3-credit course assignment; however, these 3 credit hours do not count toward the minimum required for your J.D. degree.

How do I enroll in the Seminar?

For the first semester of the Seminar, you attend the Seminar but do not officially enroll in the course through the Registrar. Your attendance is recorded by the Program Director. In the second semester, you should enroll officially through the course registration process, at which time you will pay for the entire 3 credits of the course. All 3 credit hours of the course are awarded at the conclusion of the second semester. Students not completing the Seminar receive no credits on their academic record.

What are the other Program requirements besides the Seminar?

All program requirements are listed on the Program's web site. In brief, to receive the certificate/credential, all Program students must take three required courses in addition to the Environmental and Land Use Certificate Seminar: (1) Environmental Law; (2) Land Use Regulation; and (3) Administrative Law. These requirements serve to give Program participants a necessary overview of the various aspects of environmental law practice.

Program participants must also complete an additional 9 hours of program electives. At least one of the electives must be a course designated as a "Natural Resources" elective (see the Registration and Tracking Form and list of courses). Up to three credit hours of these electives may be satisfied through an approved externship.

What electives count toward the Program?

The College of Law offers an impressive number and variety of elective courses in the Program fields. The Program also has identified courses in other departments of FSU that will be accepted as Program electives. Not all the courses are offered at the College of Law or in other departments each year, however, and in many years new

courses are created that may be accepted into the Program. A list of courses that satisfy the elective requirement is available on the Program website. You should consult course offerings each semester to determine which of the eligible electives are being offered.

What if I do not complete the Program?

There is no penalty for not completing all the Program requirements. Failure to achieve the Certificate is not recorded on your College of Law record.