
BUSINESS LAW MINOR

Business Law

College of Business
Department of Accounting and Business Law
150 Morris Hall • 507-389-2965

Chair: Paul Brennan, Ph.D.

Faculty: Wade Davis JD ; Vicki Luoma JD

Academic Map/Degree Plan at www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All

POLICIES/INFORMATION

A minor in business law provides students with practical knowledge of the complex legal issues that govern the business environment. The minor teaches students the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and manage legal and ethical issues in a wide array of settings including contracts, management, employment and human resources, construction, banking, international business, and intellectual property. It is also excellent preparation for students who plan to attend law school.

Students who are business minors, non-business majors or those who are not seeking a four year degree may take up to 24 credits in the College of Business.

GPA Policy. Students must earn a minimum grade point average of 2.0 ("C") on the total courses taken in the College of Business to meet graduation requirements.

Residency. Transfer students pursuing a minor in the College of Business must complete at least 50% (one-half) of their minor coursework at Minnesota State Mankato.

Assessment Policy. The College of Business believes that the ongoing assessment of its programs makes a vital contribution to the quality of those programs and to student learning. Student participation is an important and expected part of the assessment process.

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Required for Minor

ACCT	200	Financial Accounting (3)
BLAW	200	Legal, Political and Regulatory Environment of Business (3)
BLAW	450	Contracts, Sales and Professional Responsibility (3)
BLAW	452	Employment and Labor Law (3)
IT	101	Introduction to Information Systems (3)

Required Electives (6 credits) (choose two of the following)

BLAW	371	Computer and Technology Law (3)
BLAW	453	International Legal Environment of Business (3)
BLAW	455	Legal Aspects of Banking and Finance (3)
BLAW	474	Environmental Regulation and Land Use (3)
BLAW	476	Construction and Design Law (3)
BLAW	477	Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (3)
BLAW	483	Special Topics (1-3)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BUS 100 (3) Introduction to Business and Business Careers

This course prepares students for success by exposing them to the requirements, expectation, resources and opportunities of the College of Business. Students will have business experiences and will develop professional skills.
Variable

BUS 295 (2) Professional Preparation for Business Careers

This course is required for admission to the College of Business for all business majors. The purpose of the course is to provide students with an overview of the College of Business majors, allow students to create an academic plan for graduation, and develop professional skills needed for future job placement. Topics include cover letter and resume writing, interviewing skills, the process of networking, the internship program, etiquette skills, and requirements for graduation.
Fall, Spring

BUS 397 (3) IBE Practicum

BUS 397 is an applied course that entails developing, launching, managing, and closing a business with the cohort of students enrolled in the class. Students write and present a business plan as they seek financing for their start-up company. The business start-up experience creates a real-world context in which students can practice the concepts introduced in MGMT 330, MRKT 310, and FINA 362. BUS 397 is part of the United Prairie Bank Integrated Business Experience, and students must enroll concurrently in BUS 397 and sections of FINA 362, MGMT 330, and MRKT 310 that are designated for IBE students.

Prerequisite: Must be admitted to a major.

Co-requisite: FINA 362, MGMT 330, MRKT 310
Fall, Spring

BLAW 131 (3) Consumer Law & Ethics

A survey of the law and ethics governing marriage, family, car ownership and insurance; civil rights (fair credit, fair housing, and equal employment opportunity); planning for illness and death; court procedures and alternative dispute resolution methods; jury service; the landlord-tenant relationship; and the rights of victims and people accused of crimes.

Fall, Spring

GE-9

BLAW 200 (3) Legal, Political, and Regulatory Environment of Business

The American court system; alternative dispute resolution; ethics and the social responsibility of business; the relationship between common law, statutory law and regulatory law; constitutional, criminal, tort and contract law; product liability; agency and business associations.

Fall, Spring

BLAW 371 (3) Computer and Technology Law

An examination of major legal issues created by the invention of the personal computer and the internet. Intellectual property (copyrights, trademarks, patents); jurisdiction of courts over nonresident websites and computer users; freedom of speech; obscenity; defamation; privacy; computer crimes; encryption; emerging issues.

Fall

BLAW 398 (0) CPT: Co-Operative Experience

Curricular Practical Training: Co-Operative Experience is a zero-credit full-time practical training experience for one summer and on adjacent fall or spring term. Special rules apply to preserve full-time student status. Please contact an advisor in your program for complete information.

Prerequisite: BLAW 200. At least 60 credits earned; in good standing; instructor permission; co-op contract; other prerequisites may also apply.

Fall, Spring, Summer

BLAW 450 (3) Contracts, Sales, and Professional Responsibility

Fundamentals of contracts; the law of sales under the UCC; the legal liability of accountants to clients and third parties. Formation of contracts; statute of frauds and parol evidence rule; contract performance; remedies for breach of contract; scope of UCC Article Two; sales warranties.

Prerequisite: BLAW 200

Fall, Spring

BLAW 452 (3) Employment and Labor Law

Federal employment discrimination laws; sexual harassment; first amendment rights; employee safety; workers' compensation; privacy; wrongful termination; federal laws governing the right to organize and bargain collectively; emerging issues.

Prerequisite: BLAW 200

Spring

BLAW 453 (3) International Legal Environment of Business

Legal aspects of United States global trade policies, regulation of imports, contracting in the global marketplace, international marketing concerns, structure of various international organizations and treaties. Legal aspects of international licensing and technology, transfers risks of nationalization and expropriation, international dispute resolution, comity, the Act of State, and sovereign immunity doctrines.

Prerequisite: BLAW 200

Variable

BLAW 455 (3) Legal Aspects of Banking and Finance

Legal aspects of checks and promissory notes, forgery and the use of counterfeit currency. Discusses the Federal Reserve check collection process, electronic banking, the purchase and sale of commercial paper, debtor and creditor rights, securities regulation, fundamentals of collateral foreclosure, the federal bankruptcy code and insurance law.

Prerequisite: BLAW 200

Variable

BLAW 474 (3) Environmental Regulation and Land Use

Legal aspects of land use planning, drainage, surface water rights and boundaries, mining and land reclamation, clean air, clean water, waste disposal, noise control and environmental permit processes. Discussion of legal aspects of Historic Landmark Preservation, National Environmental Policy, CERCLA, the Superfund, liability for environmental contamination and emerging environmental issues.

Prerequisite: BLAW 200

Variable

BLAW 476 (3) Construction and Design Law

Legal responsibilities of architects, engineers and contractors in dealing with each other, the project's owner, sureties and subcontractors. Special emphasis on performance problems, forms of business association, legal relationships with independent contractors, the AIA contract documents, mechanics liens, AAA Construction Arbitration Rules, dispute avoidance, claims management and collection strategies.

Prerequisite: BLAW 200

Fall, Spring

BLAW 477 (3) Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Negotiation theory and techniques, mediation theory and techniques, use of neutrals, limits of confidentiality and ethical duties. Rule 114 and laws governing arbitration and management of the arbitration process. Extensive use of cases and role play.

Prerequisite: BLAW 200

Variable

BLAW 483 (1-3) Special Topics

Seminar topics may include women and the law, legal aspects of entrepreneurship, mergers and acquisitions, legal rights in computer software, investigating sexual harassment claims, copyright on the internet, immigration law, steps to become an IPO, privacy rights on computer networks, case studies in deregulation, legal aspects of leveraged buyouts, corporate takeover and ESOP's, complying with NAFTA.

Variable

BLAW 492 (1-3) Study Tour

Study tours are lead by Minnesota State University, Mankato faculty members and provide students the opportunities to visit epicenters of international law to experience the development and implementation of international law and its effect on businesses.

On-Demand: Spring

BLAW 497 (1-8) Internship

Variable

BLAW 498 (1-3) Internship

Variable

BLAW 499 (1-4) Individual Study

Variable