

School of Law

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of Osaka University, the School of Law aims to contribute to the development of individuals with: basic knowledge in law, politics and economics; eagerness to foster an understanding of human lives and societies - including international society - by exploring history, realities and principles from multifaceted viewpoints; logical thinking; high-level communication skills and foreign language proficiency; academic expertise; and the ability to work for the good of humans and society using the competencies mentioned above.

Since the academic year of 2007, the School of Law has been offering its undergraduate program in two departments: the Department of Law and the Department of International Public Policy. Taking advantage of this two-department system, the School of Law offers opportunities to study a wider range of specialized disciplines while promoting small-group education, to guide students to develop their ability to make decisions in an integrated manner and to conceive ideas based on advanced expertise and broad-based perspectives, and to apply such decisions and ideas for practical purposes, so that they will play an active role internationally.

To achieve its educational objectives, the School of Law aims to guide students to develop academic expertise and competencies in the following four areas at its two departments and university-wide educational and research organizations.

Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire advanced specialized knowledge in law, politics, economics and other social sciences, and the ability to make decisions in an integrated manner based on such knowledge.

Broad-based knowledge and critical thinking

Acquire a wide range of knowledge and broad perspectives, and develop the ability to think from multifaceted, comprehensive and objective viewpoints.

International mindset

Develop the ability to foster relationships with people with varied backgrounds while respecting differences in language, society, and culture.

Design prowess

Develop the ability to: identify problems based on academic expertise in law, politics and economics; devise institutional and/or policy approaches to solutions; and work in cooperation with people in various fields to identify and solve problems.

Through its undergraduate program with the above objectives, the School of Law aims to contribute to the development of individuals with the ability to cultivate “good governance” based on broad-based knowledge and critical thinking, design prowess and an international mindset, and play a leading role in various sectors of society, including the legal community, international organizations, national and local governments, private companies, NPOs and NGOs, and academic circles.

Degree Awarding Policy (Diploma Policy)

Under the Diploma Policy of Osaka University, the School of Law confers a Bachelor's Degree in Law on individuals who have: been enrolled in the School of Law for the stipulated period; acquired the expertise and skills in their field of specialty, broad-based knowledge and critical thinking, an international mindset and design prowess specified by the School of Law; passed the examination specified in the Osaka University Undergraduate School Regulations for each subject; and earned the stipulated number of credits.

The School of Law has two degree programs – law and international public policy – with the following learning goals.

Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire specialized advanced knowledge and academic expertise in law, politics and economics.

Develop the ability to use specialized knowledge and academic expertise in law, politics and economics for problem-solving.

Broad-based knowledge and critical thinking

Acquire a broad range of knowledge.

Develop the ability to think from multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoints and make objective judgments.

International mindset

Develop the ability to understand different languages, societies and cultures.

Develop the ability to communicate with people with varied backgrounds, overcoming differences in language, society, and culture.

Design prowess

Develop the ability to identify emerging social and academic problems and devise institutional or policy approaches that provide solutions to such problems based on advanced specialized knowledge and academic expertise in law, politics and economics.

Acquire the ability to work in collaboration with people in various fields to identify and solve social and academic problems.

The School of Law has an early graduation system for students with excellent academic records who wish to go on to law school and other endeavors.

Under the abovementioned policies, the School of Law aims to contribute to the development of individuals with sufficient knowledge and intellect to understand different values present in society, coordinate among such differences, and conceive ideas for building a social order through legal, political and economic systems according to certain values.

Teaching and Learning Policy (Curriculum Policy)

In line with the Curriculum Policy of Osaka University, the School of Law systematically organizes subjects in Liberal Arts education, Academic Major education and Global Literacy education, combining lectures, seminars, and practical training as appropriate to guide students to acquire the knowledge and skills specified in the degree awarding policy.

The curriculum of Academic Major education is designed to meet the purposes of the degree programs of the Department of Law and the Department of International Public Policy. To maximize the effect of its curriculum in contributing to the development of individuals with the competencies stated in the Diploma Policy and to produce mutually-supportive synergies between its two departments, the School of Law allows students to study subjects offered by the other department and thus ensures organic integration of education at its two departments. The School of Law also offers a Legal Professional Course open to students of both departments who want to become legal professionals.

The academic performance of students is strictly evaluated based on term-end written examinations, term papers, quizzes, and learning manner.

Principles of Curriculum Design

To acquire broad-based knowledge and develop multifaceted and comprehensive thinking, students study Liberal Arts education subjects such as “A Door to Academia,” basic Liberal Arts education subjects, advanced Liberal Arts education subjects, informatics education subjects, and Health and Sports education subjects.

Students are required to earn the stipulated number of credits in required subjects, elective required subjects and elective subjects in Academic Major education, and acquire advanced specialized knowledge and academic expertise in law, politics and economics. The degree programs of both the Department of Law and the Department of International Public Policy offer subjects in a manner that guides students from basic to applied studies as the year progresses.

To foster an understanding of different languages, societies and cultures and develop the ability to interact with people with varied backgrounds, students study the first and second foreign languages and multilingual education subjects such as “Global Understanding” offered as Global Literacy education subjects in the earlier years and advanced Global Literacy education subjects in later years.

Students are guided to develop design prowess by studying subjects in Liberal Arts and Academic Major education through small-group seminars.

Contents and Methods of Education

Most of the subjects offered in Academic Major, Liberal Arts and Global Literacy education are lecture-based. Students are guided to develop design prowess through small-group seminars. Some seminars are offered as required subjects. In seminars, students establish a research theme on their own, conduct investigation and research on the theme, make a presentation on the investigation and research, and discuss the results with other students.

Academic Performance Evaluation Method

The academic performance of students is strictly evaluated by examinations. Evaluation is based on the assessment of achievement of learning goals specified in the syllabus.

To evaluate academic performance by examinations, the School of Law combines the scores of term-end written examinations, term papers, quizzes, and learning manner in a form appropriate to the nature of each subject. The evaluation method and points allocation are announced in the syllabus and other announcements at the beginning of the course.

To ensure strict and fair evaluations of term-end written examinations and term papers, the School of Law sets specific evaluation criteria, publicizes reviews and comments on respective examinations and term papers, and allows students to appeal against their evaluations.

The School of Law has a credit cap policy that limits the number of credits students can register for in a year to ensure students have sufficient time to prepare for each class in advance and review what they have learned after the class.

Under the abovementioned policies, the School of Law offers a curriculum that helps students acquire expertise, skills, broad-based knowledge and critical thinking, an international mindset and design prowess, as well as sufficient knowledge and intellect to conceive ideas for cultivating a social order.