

Osaka University Law School

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of the University of Osaka, the Osaka University Law School, as a professional graduate school, bases its education on the principle of nurturing true legal professionals with the ability to lead the new era. To achieve the mission of the Japanese law school system, the Osaka University Law School accepts many students with varied backgrounds and trains them as legal professionals with advanced legal knowledge and skills, a rich sense of humanity and strong professional ethics as well as the ability to contribute to a free and fair society where each citizen assumes a role as an active member of society. Therefore, the education at the Osaka University Law School is geared towards the following mutually relevant objectives.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

As a law school responsible for the initial stage of the process of nurturing legal professionals, the Osaka University Law School guides students to:

- (1) Acquire the basic knowledge and skills required to work as a legal professional in the future; and
- (2) Develop the ability to apply the basic knowledge and skills both for theoretical and practical purposes.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire broad-based knowledge; well-developed personal skills; the ability to critically examine and further enhance existing legal knowledge with creative, multifaceted thinking, profound insight and a keen interest in various issues relating to humans and society; and a rich sense of humanity and strong sense of ethics.

Sophisticated international mindset

Located in the nation's commercial center, Osaka, the education at the Osaka University Law School places special emphasis on business law, and guides students to develop the ability to contribute to the local community and cater to the globalization needs of companies as a legal professional.

Advanced design prowess

Develop the cutting-edge ability to indicate proper approaches to solving various legal problems that face today's society, as a legal professional.

Degree Awarding Policy (Diploma Policy)

Under the Diploma Policy of the University of Osaka, the Osaka University Law School has set its diploma policy as follows.

With the standard period of study of three years (or two years for individuals who have already completed law studies), the Osaka University Law School, as a professional graduate school, confers a degree of Juris Doctor on individuals who have: earned at least 98 credits in specific subjects (or at least 64 credits for individuals who have already completed law studies); acquired sufficient advanced knowledge in law to pass a bar examination; and achieved the following three objectives.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Acquire sufficient knowledge in law and develop the ability to ingeniously express ideas in writing and practical skills that allow one to be fully prepared to receive legal apprenticeship training.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Develop a rich sense of humanity and strong professional ethics by studying subjects in legal ethics and basic law and other related subjects.

Sophisticated international mindset

Develop communication skills that enable one to cope with legal issues arising from social or cultural differences in today's global society.

Advanced design prowess

Develop the ability to understand various social events from multifaceted viewpoints.

Teaching and Learning Policy (Curriculum Policy)

In line with the Curriculum Policy of the University of Osaka, the Osaka University Law School designs its curriculum based on the following four principles to achieve the educational objectives as an organization responsible for the initial stage of the process of nurturing legal professionals.

< Principles of Curriculum Design >

- (1) Offer basic law subjects in a manner that enables small-group, step-by-step learning, focusing on a single theme in each lecture.
- (2) Offer basic subjects in legal practice on a step-by-step basis in close cooperation with legal professionals in designing both the content of learning and an approach to teaching to combine theoretical and practical knowledge.
- (3) Offer sufficient fundamental legal study and related subjects to enable students to develop deep insights and an international mindset based on broad perspectives, a wide range of interests and multifaceted thinking, and make the study of legal ethics mandatory to help students foster a sense of responsibility and ethics required for legal professionals.
- (4) Offer advanced subjects in law to nurture individuals with the ability to meet various legal needs of today's society.

The curriculum of the Osaka University Law School is structured in a manner that guides students to acquire advanced design prowess with which to address various legal issues that face today's society, through: basic law subjects and basic subjects in legal practice to acquire the basic knowledge and skills required to work as a legal professional, and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills both theoretically and practically (cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise); fundamental legal study and related subjects to develop broad perspectives, international understanding and viewpoints (advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, and an international mindset); and advanced subjects in law.

< Contents and Methods of Education >

To be specific, the Osaka University Law School designs its curriculum in a manner that shifts emphasis: (1) from theoretical to practical subjects; and (2) from basic to applied subjects and further to seminar-based or advanced subjects, with the progress of studies. Especially, the basic law subjects are strictly structured to enable students to foster basic knowledge in the first year and then develop applied knowledge to build on the basic knowledge in the second and subsequent years.

While these subjects are taught as lectures, seminars, practical training sessions or in various other forms, depending on their nature, the basic law subjects place special importance on interactive, dialogue-based teaching, which requires students to prepare for each class in advance and review what they have learned after the class.

Also, introductory subjects in law are offered to students who have not previously studied law.

< Academic Performance Evaluation Method >

Students are first assessed in terms of whether they have attained the level required to proceed to the next phase of study, based on absolute standards, and those who are recognized to have attained the level are then graded according to the grade assignment policy of the Osaka University Law School, based on relative standards.