Family Law Certificate Program

The Certificate in Family Law can now be earned through several pathways. Earning a certificate allows student the opportunity to specialize in an area of law. In family law there are so many different paths you can take, so we have created curriculum guide for each of the following pathways for General Family Law, Juvenile Justice, Civil Practice, and Public Interest.

General Requirements to Earn a Certificate in Family Law

Admission
Students must apply and be accepted for admission to the certificate program. Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible in their law school career.

Graduation
Students must meet all graduation requirements of the College of Law.

Concentration Requirement
At least 20 of the credits must be earned in courses designated in the Curriculum Requirements as set out below.

G.P.A. Requirement
Students must achieve an average equivalent of 3.0 in 15 of the 20 credits earned in courses designated. There is no overall grade point average requirement beyond that required of the J.D. degree.

Courses Previously Completed
Courses previously completed (and meeting the grade requirements noted above) by students subsequently admitted into the program will be credited toward satisfaction of the concentration requirements.

Conferences with Program Coordinator
To be eligible for the certificate upon graduation, students must meet prior to each registration period with the Program Coordinator (Ms. Debbie Kelley) to fill out registration priority forms and to ensure that they are on schedule to complete all the requirements.

For more information go to http://www.law.ufl.edu/academics/concentration/family-law
Certificate Curriculum Requirements

The Family Law Certificate has 5 components:

**Core Courses:** Family Law and Child, Parent and State

**Core two:** limited sets of electives (one is required)

**Core three skills:** clinic or externship; clinic and externship strongly recommended, plus one skills course

**Fourth electives:** an extensive range of electives plus graduate courses in other disciplines

**Fifth seminar/senior writing requirement**

For students interested in family law but unsure about a specific practice area, the general certificate provides broad exposure but the flexibility to select courses of interest. Courses are selected each semester with the advisement from the faculty and staff of the Center on Children & Families.

**Practice Pathways (NEW):** These are focused curricula for identified areas of family practice. A student may also create their own pathway in consultation with the Director of CCF (for example, specializing in children and education, or children with disabilities. Finally, a student can combine general certificate or a specific pathway with another related certificate program.

**General Family Law Certificate Course Requirements:** exposure to key areas of family law. The full range of courses that can be used to satisfy the general certificate. See attached General Family Certificate Requirements document for full details.

**Civil Practice:** marriage, divorce, adoption, cohabitation contracts, etc. See attached Civil Practice Pathway document.

**Juvenile Justice:** prosecutor, public defender or criminal defense. See attached Juvenile Justice Practice Pathway document.

**Public Interest/Public Sector:** legal services, children’s rights, nonprofit organizations, legislative staff. See attached Public Interest/Public Sector Practice Pathway document.

**Combined Certificate Programs:** Family Law/Estates and Trusts; Family Law/Criminal Law
FAMILY LAW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
ENROLLMENT FORM

Please fill in (print) the information below. If you are not graduating this semester, please update this form during your final semester.

NAME: ___________________ DATE: ________ STUDENT# ________

LOCAL ADDRESS: __________________________________________

LOCAL PHONE: ____________________________________________

PERMANENT ADDRESS: ______________________________________

PERMANENT PHONE: ________________________________________

E-MAIL: __________________________________________________

DATE STARTED LAW: _______ ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE: ______

UNDERGRADUATE/ GRADUATE DEGREES _________________________

AND MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY: ______________________________

PRINCIPAL INTERESTS IN FAMILY LAW, IF ANY: ___________________

CERTIFICATE PATHWAY: I plan to earn my certificate in Family Law in the
__________________________ Pathway.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED PLAN FORM: Include any courses you have already taken and list the courses all of the courses you plan to take in order to satisfy the certificate requirements.

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Return this form to: Debbie Kelley, Program Coordinator in 368 A Holland Hall and schedule an appointment with the Director. Expect to spend 15-30 minutes with the program coordinator to review certificate requirements and benefits of the certificate program.
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GENERAL FAMILY CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

CORE I
Required Fundamental Courses: Students must successfully complete these two:

Family Law (4 credits)  Child Parent & State (3 credits)

CORE II
Required Advanced Courses: Students must successfully complete at least one of the following:

Adoption  Family Policy
Child Support  Guardianship
Collaborative Law  International Children's Rights
Domestic Violence  Juvenile Justice
Law of Sex & Sexual Orientation  Child Law and Policy

CORE III
Experiential Learning: Students are encouraged to take both, only one is required:

Clinic IPVAC, Gator TeamChild, Mediation Clinic and Family Advocacy Clinic
Externships include 8th Circuit Family Court, Child Welfare, Legal Services and other appropriate approved externships

Plus one of the following courses:

Cross Cultural Counseling  Pre-Trial Practice
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation or ICN3  Trial Practice
Negotiation &/or Mediation  Tools of Awareness

Electives
In addition to the courses listed above, the following electives may be used to complete the required 20 credits or in appropriate cases, substituted for a comparable required course with the Director's approval.

Administrative Law  Federal Courts  Law & Social Science
Affordable Housing  Gender and the Law  International Human Rights
Disability Law  Genetics & the Law  Legal History (Wright: only)
Economics of the Family  Health Law  Poverty Law
Education Law  History of Women in the Law  Race and Race Relations Law
Elder Law  Human Rights Law  Social Justice Lawyering
Estate Planning  Human Side of Lawyering  Statutory Interpretation
Estates and Trusts  Immigration Law

Graduate Courses
Any multidisciplinary course elsewhere in the University deemed by the Director to be appropriate based on the student's overall record and goals may be added to this list. This may include appropriate graduate level courses 5000 and above in other departments or colleges (for example Education, Psychology, Family Youth and Community Sciences).

Seminar and Writing Requirement
Students must successfully complete an advanced writing project or other approved project (such as a family law brief, advocacy family-related public policy et.) seminar, or in another seminar or independent study approved by the Director. Family Policy, Child Support, Child Law and Policy and Law of Sex and Sexual Orientation Seminar.
FAMILY CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS – Civil Practice Pathway

CORE I
Required Fundamental Courses: Students must successfully complete these two:

Family Law (4 credits) Child Parent & State (3 credits)

CORE II
Required Advanced Courses: Students must successfully complete at least one of the following:

Adoption Domestic Violence
Child Support Law of Sex & Sexual Orientation
Collaborative Law Guardianship (to be added)

CORE III
Experiential Learning: Students are encouraged to take both, only one is required:

Clinic: (any of the following) Family Advocacy Clinic; IPVAC; Mediation Clinic
Externships: any family law externship but Eighth Circuit Family Court strongly recommended.

Plus one of the following:

Cross Cultural Counseling Pre-Trial Practice
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation or 1CN3 Trial Practice
Negotiation &/or Mediation

Electives
In addition to the courses listed above, the following electives may be used to complete the required 20 credits or, in appropriate cases, substituted for a comparable required course with the Director's approval.

Administrative Law Estates and Trusts Race and Race Relations Law
Economics of the Family Gender and the Law Statutory Interpretation
Elder Law Immigration Law Unified Family Court (when taught)
Estate Planning Law of Sex and Sexual Orientation

Graduate Courses
Students may also take graduate courses elsewhere in the university that enhance interdisciplinary skills, e.g., in Psychology, Family Youth and Community Sciences deemed by the Director to be appropriate based on the student's overall record and goals may be added to this list. This may include appropriate graduate level courses 5000 and above in other departments or colleges.

Seminar and Writing Requirement
Students must successfully complete an advanced writing project or other approved project (such as a family law brief, advocacy family-related public policy et.) seminar, or in another seminar or independent study approved by the Director. Family Policy, Child Support, and Law of Sex and Sexual Orientation Seminar, family law civil practice paper or other related subject in other seminars, with approval from the Director.
FAMILY CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS - Juvenile Justice Pathway

CORE I
Required Fundamental Courses: Students must successfully complete these two:

Family Law (4 credits)  Child Parent & State (3 credits)  Juvenile Justice (2)

CORE II
Required Advanced Courses: Students must successfully complete at least one of the following:

Criminal Procedure  Law and Social Sciences
Family Policy  Criminal Procedure: Police and Police Practices
International Children’s Rights  Child Law and Policy

CORE III
Experiential Learning: Students are encouraged to take both, only one is required:

Clinic - Gator TeamChild
Externships - 8th Circuit Family Court, Child Welfare, Legal Services, Public Defender’s office and Prosecutor’s office; Criminal Clinics

Plus one of the following:

Cross Cultural Counseling  Pre-Trial Practice
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation or ICN3  Trial Practice
Negotiation

Electives
In addition to the courses listed above, the following electives may be used to complete the required 20 credits or, in appropriate cases, substituted for a comparable required course with the Director’s approval.

Administrative Law  Education Law  Race and Race Relations Law
Domestic Violence  Immigration Law  Social Justice Lawyering
Disability Law  Poverty Law  Statutory Interpretation

Graduate Courses
Any multidisciplinary course elsewhere in the University deemed by the Director to be appropriate based on the student's overall record and goals may be added to this list. This may include appropriate graduate level courses 5000 and above in other departments or colleges (for example Education, Psychology, Family Youth and Community Sciences).

Seminar and Writing Requirement
Students must successfully complete an advanced writing project or other approved project (such as a family law brief, advocacy family-related public policy et.) seminar, or in another seminar or independent study approved by the Director. Family Policy, Child Support, Child Law and Policy and Law of Sex and Sexual Orientation Seminar.
FAMILY CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS – Public Interest/Public Sector Pathway
(legal services, children’s rights, nonprofit organizations, legislative staff)

CORE I
Required Fundamental Courses: Students must successfully complete these two:

Family Law (4 credits)                      Child Parent & State (3 credits)

CORE II
Required Advanced Courses: Students must successfully complete at least one of the following:

Administrative Law                        International Children’s Rights
Child Support                              Law and Social Sciences
Domestic Violence                          Law of Sex and Sexual Orientation
Disability Law                             Poverty Law
Education Law Social                      Social Justice Lawyering
Family Policy                              Child Law and Policy
Federal Courts

CORE III
Experiential Learning: Students are encouraged to take both, only one is required:

Clinic – IPVAC, Gator TeamChild, Family Advocacy Clinic, Advanced Civil Clinic, Mediation Clinic

Externships – externships with nonprofit organizations such as Southern Legal Counsel, Florida Instructional Legal Services, Guardian Ad Litem, or public sector such as Child Welfare, Legal Services, CLS State Attorney.

Plus one of the following:

Advanced Legal Research                  Mediation
Cross Cultural Counseling                 Pre-Trial Practice
Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation or ICN3 Trial Practice
Negotiation                               Tools of Awareness

Electives
In addition to the courses listed above, the following electives may be used to complete the required 20 credits or, in appropriate cases, substituted for a comparable required course with the Director’s approval.

Administrative Law                       Education Law
Domestic Violence                         Immigration Law
Disability Law                            Poverty Law
Race and Race Relations Law
Statutory Interpretation

Graduate Courses
Any multidisciplinary course elsewhere in the University deemed by the Director to be appropriate based on the student’s overall record and goals may be added to this list. This may include appropriate graduate level courses 5000 and above in other departments or colleges (for example Education, Psychology, Family Youth and Community Sciences).

Seminar and Writing Requirement
Students must successfully complete an advanced writing project or other approved project (such as a family law brief, advocacy family-related public policy et.) seminar, or in another seminar or independent study approved by the Director. Family Policy, Child Support, and Law of Sex and Sexual Orientation Seminar.