



# Major in Law

Learning objectives

**A post-graduation pathway that responds to a wide range of social phenomena in the community based on a systematic legal education**

In the Law major, we offer a systematic legal education aimed at developing human resources with legal policy skills, such as policymaking, ordinance and rule making, and legal interpretation abilities that will enable them to respond to issues in the community. To that end, we have put in place a variety of courses corresponding to such fundamental and elementary legal fields as

constitutional law, civil law, commercial law, civil trial law, criminal trial law, and administrative law. In addition, in contrast with the curriculum in a conventional legal education, we offer a large number of unique courses such as municipal law, environmental law, labor law, social security law, economic law, international law, and the sociology of law.

## Points

- We offer a variety of courses in essential legal fields such as constitutional law, civil law, and commercial law, equivalent to the legal education provided by a faculty of law.
- A large number of unique courses such as municipal law and environmental law are in place.
- In order to build a solid foundation for a *legal mind*, ample opportunities for learning are provided, such as the observation of courtroom proceedings, lecture presentations by members of the judiciary, and debates on legislation.



## Ideal student

- A person who aspires to become a legal specialist such as a national or local government official or a judicial or administrative scrivener, or whose aim is advancement to law school or the legal department of a private sector firm

## Pathways after graduation

National government official, local government official, public sector official, private sector business, graduate school, legal specialist, etc.

## Student's Voice

**Debate classes, where you learn what others are thinking, are now the most interesting.**

Watching my grandfather studying law around the time I was in middle school was what inspired me to study law. I can learn about a wide range of fields such as welfare and social security in addition to law, so being able to respond flexibly if the focus of my interests change along the way is appealing. It is typical for lawyers to make use of what they have learned in their employment, but when I observed courtroom proceedings, I was not sure whether this was the right path for me. I don't know whether I will go on to law school after graduation or find a job in the legal department of a company. The classes that are the most interesting to me now are the debate classes, where we are divided into defendants and plaintiffs using precedents (an argument on a specific topic, conducted by dividing yeas and nays into two groups). Students form their own opinions while investigating other precedents, and you discover that everyone has their own approach. Sometimes you gain the upper hand through your own tenacity, but the pressure is on because there are cases where you could still lose despite being absolutely certain that you would win. Aside from law, I find *Cultural History* very interesting. We are looking at old picture scrolls to learn about life in the past, and are studying the culture of the time from classical literature. It is good that I can choose a variety of classes and have the breadth of my interests widened.



Third Year Law Student  
**Marina Watanabe**  
(from Fukushima Prefecture, Aizu High School)

Second Year Second Semester Timetable

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	Civil Law II		English B I	Theory of Political Process II	Cultural History
2	Civil Law II	Criminal Law II	Sociology of Law II	Social Planning Theory	English B II
3	Constitutional Law II				
4	Constitutional Law II			Seminar	
5	International Relations				

### Example introductory course topics in the major

As regards *introductory courses in the major*, introductory content relating to the various majors and the foundations for independent research are studied in a practice and exercise format.

#### Example of the Courses

##### Law Forum

As part of the second year seminar program, we hold the *Law Forum* debate seminar every December. In each seminar, we create an argument relating to one legal issue that is set as a theme. We apply the methodology from the previous semester and the argument is concluded in the seminar. With this course, our students strive for a more persuasive argument through trial and error.



#### Example of the Courses

##### Introduction to Legal Research, Debate

The content of debates is more specialized going into the second year. While students may have become accustomed to classes where the primary tasks required were investigating on their own, reporting and discussing in the general educational practicum, in this practicum they study how to read judicial decisions, methods for extracting judicial precedents (laws), and methods for gathering legal materials that will benefit their study of the law, concurrent with specialist legal courses. In the following semester they apply what they learned in the previous semester, preparing for the *Law Forum*.



#### Example of the Courses

##### Alcohol Laws

For many second-year university students, the most dramatic and widespread change is that they are allowed to drink alcohol. In this course, therefore, we conduct debates on court cases relating to *alcohol* as a topic that is relevant to our students. Along with studying the legal system and the role that law fulfills through this process, we learn the search techniques for cases and literature that are required when taking a specialized practicum in the legal system, resume drafting techniques, fundamental *legal mind* techniques, discussion methods for seminars, and the like.



Photo: A debate in the classroom on the topic, *Is the freedom to produce alcohol guaranteed under the Constitution?*

### Examples of specialized practicum topics

A *specialized practicum* involves specialized study and research under the close guidance of a teacher. Ultimately, a thesis is prepared covering the four years spent at university.

#### Example of the Courses

##### Human Life and Constitutional Rights

We are studying areas of constitutional law, with a particular focus on the field of basic human rights. The purpose of constitutional law is to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the people, and it is the highest law governing public authorities as a means thereto. To answer the question of how people with differing morals and values should go about living together as equals happily and in peace, we conduct a multifaceted search for how things ought to be in the real world in line with the ideals of constitutional law, by interactively speculating and deliberating on abstract theory and concrete theory through a deep understanding of constitutionally related texts.



#### Example of the Courses

##### Go out into the Community with Documents!

No matter how many times you read the *Six Codes*, the true appearance of the law is never seen. *Living law* exists in social reality itself. *Sociology of Law* is the department that studies what kind of role is law within a society actually fulfilling, and how does law grow and develop and then disappear. In seminars, we emphasize *location* and *discussion*. For the last few years, we have been running survey camps throughout the country on the topic of *sustainable regional development and the law* in combination with our domestic fieldwork internship.



#### Example of the Courses

##### Viewing Labor Issues from a Broad Perspective

Having students report on the topics that are set for each seminar to deepen their understanding of the labor and social security laws is the primary aim of this course. As seeking out the causes of a variety of labor and society security related issues and studying their solutions from multiple points of view is also considered to be important, we are extending the time allocated for discussion after reports for all seminars. We also invite guest speakers from a wide range of careers, and arrange visits to labor departments.

