YOUR NEXT THREE YEARS

University of Victoria

THE FIRST YEAR

First year begins with a two-week program called Legal Process where you will be given a framework for your legal studies and begin developing the skills that you will need to be a successful law student. The small-group, team-taught format allows you to get to know both your professors and your fellow students. You will emerge from this course with a clear sense of what law school is about, what you need to do to succeed, what support systems exist to help you, how you can respect and support other students, what you might do with your legal education and insight into critical and challenging aspects of how law operates in society.

Following Legal Process is the first year foundational course curriculum, which includes constitutional, criminal, contract, property and tort law, with other key components focused on statutory interpretation and legal research and writing.

As a first-year student, you can also draw on the experience of your upper-year colleagues through the Law Buddy Program. This program helps you adjust to the rigors of legal study by matching you with second-year and third-year students who provide advice and support.

UPPER YEARS

Our upper-year curriculum continues to build a strong base of legal knowledge while allowing you to shape your own program of study to suit your individual interests and career aspirations.

Lecture courses and advanced seminars provide an opportunity for upper-year students to explore topics in greater detail. Some of these courses and seminars introduce specialized areas of law (business law, family law, taxation, Indigenous law, labour law, advanced human rights law, etc.), while others focus on critical and theoretical explorations of law, interdisciplinary legal studies, or legal history. As an upper-year student, you will also be able to participate in our clinical programs and explore classes that introduce advanced practical skills, such as oral advocacy and dispute resolution.

In addition to a block of foundational courses, you are also encouraged to pursue specialized interests, under the direction of professors, through group projects and independent study.

APPLYING TO UVIC LAW'S JD PROGRAM

At UVic Law, we admit a relatively small first year class to the JD program each fall. To ensure that our student body reflects the diversity found in Canadian society, we offer four admission streams: General, Inclusive, Black, and Indigenous.

The number of applications that we receive each year far exceeds the number of spaces available. All admission streams are incredibly competitive, and offers of admission are given only to the top applicants who meet the criteria for a given admission stream.

WHEN TO APPLY

Online applications open September 1 and close December 1. You are encouraged to submit your application as early as possible, as offers are made on an ongoing basis beginning early in the fall.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the first year program is based primarily on:

- your academic record (GPA) – 50%
- your Law School Admission Test (LSAT) – 50%
- personal statement

All first year applicants must:

- submit an online application form
- pay the application fee
- submit a personal statement (including part A & B) and not exceeding 750 words
- write the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) within the previous five years and written no later than the January test date; and
- submit transcripts
- complete the Law Admissions Equity & Diversity Survey
- Submit TOEFL results (if applicable)

Applicants in the Indigenous admission stream must also submit:

- statement describing your connection to your Indigenous community
- two (2) letters of reference sent to us by your references (one must fully describe your connection(s) to the Indigenous community, and the second must be an academic reference);

Applicants in the Inclusive admission stream must also submit:

- an inclusive admission statement
- supporting documentation (if applicable)
- two (2) Letters of Reference (required, but obligations differ for JD and JD/JID applications: see commentary)

Applicants in the Black admission stream must also submit:

- a Black admission statement