Business Law

College of Business
Department of Accounting and Business Law
150 Morris Hall • 507-389-2965
Chair: Paul Schwinghammer
Penny Herickhoff, Georgia L. Holmes, Dan Levin

BUSINESS LAW MINOR

Required for Minor (Core, 15 credits):
ACCT 200 Financial Accounting (3)
COMS 101 Introduction to Microcomputers (3)
BLAW 200 Legal, Political and Regulatory Environment of Business (3)
BLAW 450 Contracts, Sales and Professional Responsibility (3)
BLAW 452 Employment and Labor Law (3)

Required Electives (6 credits):
Choose two of the following:
BLAW 371 Computer and Technology Law (3)
BLAW 453 The International Legal Environment of Business (3)
BLAW 455 Legal Aspects of Banking and Finance (3)
BLAW 474 Environmental Regulation and Land Use (3)
BLAW 476 Construction and Design Law (3)
BLAW 477 Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (3)
BLAW 483 Special Topics (3)

POLICIES/INFORMATION

Residency: Transfer students pursuing a minor in the College of Business must complete 50% (one half) of their minor coursework through Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Information Technology Initiative

Students enrolled in the Business Law minor are required to lease a notebook computer from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Students who are majoring in other colleges but are required to take BLAW 200, 371, and 476 will be able to enroll in non-notebook classes offered once per year for non-majors/minors. For further information see the College of Business section at the front of this catalog.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

131 (3) Consumer Law and Ethics
A survey of the law and ethics governing marriage, family, car ownership and insurance; civil rights (fair credit, fair housing, and equal employment opportunity); planning for illness and death; court procedures and alternative dispute resolution methods; jury service; the landlord-tenant relationship; and the rights of victims and people accused of crimes.

200 (3) Legal, Political, and Regulatory Environment of Business
The American court system; alternative dispute resolution; ethics and the social responsibility of business; the relationship between common law, statutory law and regulatory law; constitutional, criminal, tort and contract law; product liability, agency and business associations. Pre: ACCT 200, COMS 101 (MIS majors take COMS 102) F, S

371 (3) Computer and Technology Law
Fundamentals of patent, copyright and trademark protection; ownership of employee developed software; lease and purchase of computer systems and software. Discusses warranties, acceptance testing, remedies, software licensing, computer crime and legal liability of computer programmers. F

450 (3) Contracts, Sales and Professional Responsibility
Fundamentals of contracts, the law of sales under the UCC; the legal liability of accountants to clients and third parties. Formation of contracts; statute of frauds and parol evidence rule; contract performance; remedies for breach of contract; scope of UCC Article Two; sales warranties; remedies for breach of contracts. Pre: BLAW 200 F, S

452 (3) Employment and Labor Law
Federal employment discrimination laws; sexual harassment; first amendment rights; employee safety; workers’ compensation; privacy; wrongful termination; federal laws governing the right to organize and bargain collectively; emerging issues. Pre: BLAW 200 S

453 (3) The International Legal Environment of Business
Legal aspects of United States global trade policies, regulation of imports, contracting in the global marketplace, international marketing concerns, structure of various international organizations and treaties. Legal aspects of international licensing and technology transfers risks of nationalization and expropriation, international dispute resolution, comity, the Act of State, and sovereign immunity doctrines. Pre: BLAW 200 V

455 (3) Legal Aspects of Banking and Finance
Legal aspects of checks and promissory notes, forgery and the use of counterfeit currency. Discusses the Federal Reserve check collection process, electronic banking, the purchase and sale of commercial paper, debtor and creditor rights, securities regulation, fundamentals of collateral foreclosure, the federal bankruptcy code and insurance law. Pre: BLAW 200 V

2001-2002 Undergraduate Bulletin
474 (3) Environmental Regulation and Land Use
Legal aspects of land use planning, drainage, surface water rights and boundaries, mining and land reclamation, clean air, clean water, waste disposal, noise control and environmental permit processes. Discussion of legal aspects of Historic Landmark Preservation, National Environmental Policy, CERCLA, the Superfund, liability for environmental contamination and emerging environmental issues.
Pre: BLAW 200 V

476 (3) Construction and Design Law
Legal responsibilities of architects, engineers and contractors in dealing with each other, the project’s owner, sureties and subcontractors. Special emphasis on performance problems, forms of business association, legal relationships with independent contractors, the AIA contract documents, mechanics liens, AAA Construction Arbitration Rules, dispute avoidance, claims management and collection strategies.
Pre: BLAW 200 F, S

477 (3) Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
Negotiation theory and techniques, mediation theory and techniques, use of neutrals, limits of confidentiality and ethical duties. Rule 114 and laws governing arbitration and management of the arbitration process. Extensive use of cases and role play.
Pre: BLAW 200 V

483 (1-3) Special Topics
Seminar topics may include women and the law, legal aspects of entrepreneurship, mergers and acquisitions, legal rights in computer software, investigating sexual harassment claims, copyright on the internet, immigration law, steps to become an IPO, privacy rights on computer networks, case studies in deregulation, legal aspects of leveraged buyouts, corporate takeover and ESOP’s, complying with NAFTA.

497 (1-8) Internship V
498 (1-3) Internship V
499 (1-3) Individual Study V