



2023-2024

ASSOCIATION ÉTUDIANTE DE
COMMON LAW
STUDENT SOCIETY

1L GUIDE

FIRST, CONGRATULATIONS, YOU MADE IT!

Your time as a law student is about to begin. The next few weeks will be an intense transition from whatever world you're coming from - undergraduate studies, graduate school, work, years off - to a rigorous and rewarding learning process.

The AÉCLSS is the official student government of the Faculty of Law (Common Law Section), comprising students from both the English and French Common Law programs. One of our top goals leading up to the start of the year was to make sure that you have the necessary tools to hit the ground running this Fall. This guide includes administrative logistics, academic affairs, student initiatives, and our own tips on navigating the uOttawa campus (food, where to go when you can't study anymore, things to read when case law gets blurry, and so on).

At any time during your first year (and beyond), feel free to contact any of the executive members with questions. Our emails are hyperlinked on page 5 of this guide so you can easily find us electronically. You may also speak with us during our office hours, which we hold every week. We ran our campaigns for you, we were elected for you, and we are volunteering our time for you in order to make your experience the best it can be! The Faculty of Law - and, indeed, the legal profession overall - is a fantastically supportive environment, and your professors and upper-year peers will be a source of support and guidance throughout your time at uOttawa Law.

Pace yourself and enjoy yourself. The next three years will be a challenge, but they will also be incredibly memorable and worthwhile, not only for your future careers, but as leaders in the profession.

We would also like to say a special thank you to our sponsors (found on page 32) who have helped make this year's orientation happen. We are very grateful for their support

Welcome, and we look forward to seeing you all soon,

- The AÉCLSS Executive Team

2023-2024 EXECUTIVE TEAM

We Hear You & We're Here for You. We Are Your Student Government.



Robyn-Lee Hotte
President



Emily Keeping
VP English



Mehak Rana
VP External



Camille Pélet
VP Français



Natasha Gosselin
VP Social



Mitchell Tucker
VP Athletics



Alisha Kara
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VP Equity



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Vacant
VP Clubs

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STUDENTS' CORNER



"Congratulations to embarking on the journey of entering the legal profession! 1L will be a whirlwind of an experience so be sure to lean on your peers and upper years for support. Always remember your worth and what got you to where you are today. Don't let imposter syndrome get in the way of you being awesome!" - **Chauntae De Gannes, JD 2023**



"Your time in law school will be some of the best days of your life. Make sure not to miss out on some of the good experiences that are out there for you just because you're too focused on your future. You can get good grades and still do activities outside of school that make you happy." - **Samantha Moreau, 2L, JD 2025**



"It's true - starting 1L can be pretty daunting. But it doesn't have to be! If you approach each day with an eager and open mind and learn to lean on your peers for support and guidance, you'll get the hang of things pretty quickly. 1L will go by in a flash, enjoy every moment! ." - **Avery Chisholm, 2L, JD 2025**



"The first days are the hardest days. When things get difficult, remind yourself why you're here and focus on your end goal. Remember, at the end of every storm is a rainbow!" - **Evan Young, JD 2023**



"Don't focus on what everyone else is doing, your abilities and dedication have gotten you this far. Remember to take time to enjoy your law school experience, trust me - time flies by." - **Kateryna Borodenko, JD, 2022**



"Don't believe all the movies and tv shows. Law school does not have to be cut throat. I wouldn't have survived my 1L if it wasn't for all the friends I made along the way. Study together, ask each other questions, and push each other to strive for success... that's what friends are for!" - **Isabelle Santerre 3L, JD 2024**



"Making a study plan is the best way to stay on track, but be sure to take breaks. Don't let your studies consume you! Take some time for yourself to relax and self-care."

- **Mira Nemr, JD 2023**



"You are joining a professional network and your reputation in it will follow you for the rest of your life. Treat difficult people with kindness, choose resolution over escalation, spend at least some of your spare time giving back to a community you belong to, and try not to forget that law school is a privilege."

- **Michelle Liu, JD 2023**



"Law school is tough! Don't beat yourself up if you find it hard, it's super normal. Work hard, ask questions, and do your readings -- you'll be okay and you'll get used to the work load."

- **Robyn-Lee Hotte, 3L, 2024**



"Congratulations on your new adventure! Law school is a great opportunity to meet lots of exciting people, learn from experienced professors, and create lasting memories! While the road may be bumpy at first, remember that the first year is the worst and everything falls into place after that. My advice: say "yes" to every opportunity that comes your way."

- **Anne Fontaine, JD (PCLF) 2023**



FINANCIAL

RESOURCES



Financial Aid

The Financial Aid and Awards Service provides students with a variety of financial resources ranging from information about available scholarships and bursaries, how to pay your tuition fees and guidance on student loans. The following link brings you to their main information page: [Financial Aid and Awards Service](#). There are many scholarships and bursaries available to you as a uOttawa student. The following link will direct you to information about scholarships and bursaries that are specifically available to [Common Law students](#): [Common Law Financial Aid and Awards](#). By clicking on the hyperlink labeled "student portal" through the following link, you will be brought to an online page where you can apply for many of the scholarships and bursaries that are available to you: [Common Law Student Portal](#).

However, do not forget to complete the financial questionnaire that is required for most of the scholarships and bursaries which can be found under the Finances and Jobs tabs in uOzone.

Financial Crises

If you feel as though you're sinking into financial despair, or have been the victim of a crime or another incident that is creating financial hardship for you, make an appointment with a Financial Aid and Awards by emailing them at loansandawards@uOttawa.ca or by visiting the office in person at Desmarais Building, Room 3156. They'll evaluate the urgency of your situation and do their best to get you the help you need.

ADMINISTRATIVE LOGISTICS

UOTTAWA STUDENT CARD

Your uOttawa Student Card is your official identification card. It can be used to purchase food on campus as well as textbooks and writing supplies from the bookstore. Most importantly, you must bring your uOttawa card with you when writing your exams.

You can apply for your card both online or in person. Applying online ahead of the start of the year will make the process of receiving your card much simpler. More information about both online and in person applications can be found at the following link:

FINDING YOUR WAY

We know that it can be daunting trying to find your way around campus during the first few weeks. The following link brings you to a virtual interactive campus map:

Many of your classes will likely take place in the Law building, known as Fauteux Hall, which is located at 57 Louis-Pasteur Private. However look closely at your class schedule ahead of each class to make sure you know where you are going, as sometimes classes are held in other uOttawa buildings on campus!



OVERVIEW:

- Ottawa Card
- Finding your way
- Parking on Campus
- Free Things
- Your OC Transpo Pass
- Work Study program
- Getting your Timetable

PARKING ON CAMPUS

To obtain a parking permit for campus, you must apply through Parking Services. There are a few parking garages on campus, however within your tuition the UPass is included, which gives students free and unlimited access to Ottawa's public transportation (including the LRT). For the 2021-2022 academic year this is an opt-in program. Make sure to weigh the costs of a parking permit vs. the UPass before deciding on one. Additionally, parking spots are sold quickly so make sure to apply as fast as you can.


FREE THINGS

Take advantage of free services offered right on campus. Fellow students, the Office of Campus Sustainability, and the UOSU have put services in place to help you when your budget is tight. There are many more initiatives and services available, but here are a few:



The Free Store

The Free Store is located across from Fauteaux Hall at 100 Thomas More Private. It is a one-stop shop open to all members of the uOttawa community that allows you to drop off stuff you don't want anymore and pick-up things you do want for FREE.

Common items include clothing, books, office supplies, and more. 




The UOSU Food Bank

The University of Ottawa's Student Union (UOSU) operates a Food Bank that is located at 85 University Private. It is there to provide uOttawa students and their families with food relief. More information can be found

at: 

WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

The Work-Study Program (WSP) gives you an opportunity to work on campus, with part-time jobs available during the academic year and full-time jobs available during the summer. You also gain valuable work experience that will make you more employable after graduation. Law students often take on work in the form of Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant positions. Some also work at the Common Law Career and Professional Development Centre. These positions will vary in availability, so check the Work-Study Navigator for updated postings. You can access the Navigator by logging into uoZone and clicking on "Finances and Jobs."  [Click here](#) for more information:

To apply for the WSP you must:

- Log in to the Work-Study Navigator (through uoZone);
- Complete the financial questionnaire; and
- Click Admission.

You can usually view your application status in the Work-Study Navigator within 72 hours. Once your application is approved, you can use the Work-Study Navigator to:

- Create your resume;
- Search and apply for Work-Study postings; and
- Sign the employment contract with your new employer.


U-PASS

Every year, part of your tuition goes toward your U-Pass, an all-access pass to public transit in Ottawa and Gatineau. The U-Pass is a mandatory program for all full-time students. The cost of the U-Pass is automatically added to your student account and is paid along with your tuition fees.

You may only opt-out of the U-Pass program if you meet one of the exemption criteria. Details on the exemptions and how to opt-out can be found [here](#).

You must pick up your first U-Pass in person. The fall/winter 2023 U-Pass distribution will take place at Tabaret hall room 112 (opening hours found [here](#)). You must bring your student number and student card or a piece of government-issued photo ID when picking up your U-Pass.

If you already have a U-Pass through previous uOttawa studies, re-charge your U-Pass at one of the recharging stations at the University Centre, ground level in front of the Campus Store.

Find out more about your U-Pass: 



Getting Your Timetable

Your first few days, if not weeks, will be fun. By “fun”, we mean you’ll be scurrying from class to class, trying to figure out if you’re sitting in the right one. We’ve all done it and continue to do it. Don’t worry.

To check your schedule, login to uoZone, click Applications, and then click 'My Class Schedule'. Select your term (Fall 2023 / Winter 2024) -> 'Continue' -> 'Weekly Calendar View', and then choose the week for which you need the schedule. It should look something like this:

Time	Monday Sep 9	Tuesday Sep 10	Wednesday Sep 11	Thursday Sep 12	Friday Sep 13	Saturday Sep 14	Sunday Sep 15
8:00AM		CML 12051 - A00 PUBLIC & CONST. LAW (1/2) Lecture 8:30AM - 9:50AM Fauteux Hall 147 Instructors: Vanessa Ann MacDonnell	CML 11081 - C00 PROPERTY (Part 1 of 2) Lecture 8:30AM - 9:50AM Fauteux Hall 147 Instructors: Tenille Elizabeth Brown				
9:00AM	CML 12071 - F00 TORTS (Part 1 of 2) Lecture 9:00AM - 11:20AM Fauteux Hall 315 Instructors: Bruce Feldthusen						
10:00AM		CML 11021 - D00 CONTRACTS (Part 1 of 2) Lecture 10:00AM - 11:20AM Fauteux Hall 251 Instructors: Katherine A. Szilagyi		CML 11021 - D00 CONTRACTS (Part 1 of 2) Lecture 10:00AM - 11:20AM Fauteux Hall 251 Instructors: Katherine A. Szilagyi			
11:00AM						CML 11081 - C00 PROPERTY (Part 1 of 2) Lecture 11:30AM - 12:50PM Fauteux Hall 147 Instructors: Tenille Elizabeth Brown	
12:00PM							
1:00PM		CML 11031 - B00 CRIMINAL LAW & PROCEDURE (1/2) Lecture 1:00PM - 2:20PM Fauteux Hall 147A Instructors: Graham Mayeda		CML 11031 - B00 CRIMINAL LAW & PROCEDURE (1/2) Lecture 1:00PM - 2:20PM Fauteux Hall 351 Instructors: Graham Mayeda	CML 12051 - A00 PUBLIC & CONST. LAW (1/2) Lecture 1:00PM - 2:20PM Fauteux Hall 147 Instructors: Vanessa Ann MacDonnell		
2:00PM		CML 11011 - A00 LEGAL FOUNDATIONS (1/2) Lecture 2:30PM - 3:50PM Fauteux Hall 302 Instructors: Melanie Mallet	CML 12071 - F00 TORTS (Part 1 of 2) Lecture 2:30PM - 3:50PM Fauteux Hall 232 Instructors: Bruce Feldthusen				
3:00PM							
4:00PM	CML 11081 - C00 PROPERTY (Part 1 of 2) Lecture 4:00PM - 5:50PM Fauteux Hall 147 Instructors: Tenille Elizabeth Brown	CML 11061 - G00 DISPUTE RES & PROF RESP (1/2) Lecture 4:00PM - 5:50PM Fauteux Hall 147A Instructors: Eliot Zweibel, Marina Pavlovic					
5:00PM							
6:00PM							
7:00PM							

Below the schedule, you will be able to add or remove certain features including the room location, name of professor, time periods, etc.

“But how do I remember my schedule?”, you might ask. We’ve seen a few options work for students:

1. Screenshot it, and send/save it to your phone and/or email;
2. Add it to your Outlook calendar or your Calendar app on your phone/computer - or to a specialized app like iStudiezPro (to track your homework, schedule, and grades); or
3. Go old school! Print a copy and keep it in your back pocket, a purse, wallet, etc.

Note that uoZone does not get updated if your Professor cancels or schedules any make-up classes. Your Professor will likely communicate this through email or Brightspace and it's best to keep track of this in your own calendar.

PROGRAM Structure



II SMALL GROUPS



By now you've gathered that students have been organized into three types of "small groups". Criminal Law and Procedure; Public and Constitutional Law; and Torts. Your small group will consist of approximately 20 students. Your large groups, which consists of four small groups banded together, will contain approximately 80 students. For example, if you are enrolled in PubCon B, you will have PubCon with your small group. All of your other classes - Torts, Property, Criminal, Contracts - will be together with three other PubCon small groups.



The small group format is a forum for healthy and intimate discussions with your peers. It will allow you to ask more questions and participate in hands-on learning exercises. Some of your small group time will go toward the Legal Research and Writing workshops held by the Writing Academy.



We can't stress enough that backgrounds in particular fields will not determine your success in your small group course. Professor do not expect you to have any knowledge or experience in the small group area of law you have been placed in. It is merely an opportunity to enjoy a first-year law class in a smaller setting, which will allow you to get to know your colleagues and your Professor well. More than just learning, your Small Group Professor is someone you can turn to if you are struggling or having difficulties. They will know you by name, and be able to support you through the transition into law school.

1L January Term

In the Fall term, you will have four "Dispute Resolution & Professional Responsibility" (DRPR) classes. This may not be reflected in your uoZone class schedule, but you will receive emails with further details on this. You will further take DRPR every day for 3 hours during the January term, which runs from January 4 to 22, 2024. This is the only class you will be taking during the January term. This then concludes your DRPR class for the year, and will not be carried into the Winter term. You will have a brief break following the January term, as the Winter term begins on January 29, 2024.

In your upper years, you can choose which January intensive course you would like to take. It follows the same format, where you take the same course for 3 hours every day. If you are curious about which January intensive courses may be offered in your upper years, you can have a look at the course search engine:

1L Thematic course

During the Fall 2023 term, you will be able to enrol in a thematic course for the Winter 2024 term. The first-year thematic course is mandatory for all students admitted to the English JD program.

The first-year thematic course allows you to select one course from a variety of interesting options designed to broaden your perspectives on the law. You can use the [Course Search Engine](#) to browse the different 1L thematic courses offered for 2023-2024. All first year thematic courses fit with the block timetables.

You will receive information in October about when to enrol in a Winter 2024 thematic course.



Upper Year Courses

In your upper years, you will take 5 courses in the Fall semester, 1 intensive course in January, and 4 courses in the Winter semester. You will have more flexibility to take courses you are interested in based on what is offered for the year. If you are interested in looking ahead to see what sorts of courses you can choose in the future you can consult the Course Search Engine on the faculty website.

Students must complete the following mandatory courses in their upper years before graduating:

1. Constitutional Law II ("Con Law II")
2. Administrative Law ("Admin")
3. Business Organizations ("BusOrg")
4. Civil Procedure ("CivPro")

Con Law II must be completed in 2L; the other three required

courses can be completed in either 2L or 3L. Your course sequence and program requirements are available on the faculty website.

To ensure that you have satisfied all your requirements, you can consult your Academic Advisement report through the uoZone Student Centre.

Major Paper Requirement

At some point in your program, you will also have to complete a Major Paper requirement. Each student must prepare a critical piece of legal research and writing, resulting in a piece similar to a law review article.

This requirement may be completed as part of the coursework for a broad number of upper-year courses (which will be indicated in the course description if so), or may be completed through an independent directed research project supervised by a faculty member. Writing a major paper in a course may also provide you with an opportunity to receive a grade in an upper-year course that may normally be graded as Pass/Fail (e.g. the upper-year Dispute Resolution Practicum).

Oral Advocacy Requirement

Every Common Law student at the University of Ottawa must fulfill the Oral Advocacy requirement. The faculty has a list of approved courses on their website that fulfills this requirement, such as an upper-year negotiation or mediation course, or trial or appellate advocacy. You could further fulfill this requirement by being placed on a moot team, or being selected to work in the Legal Clinic. Course descriptions will inform you if the course can be used to satisfy the oral advocacy requirement.





Options

Students have the choice to complete an Option in a given field and receive recognition of their completion on their transcript. Completing an Option involves taking a certain number of courses from a designated course list for a particular Option. The idea behind the Option is that it provides rigorous training in specific law fields, and allows for those who complete the option to showcase their interest and experience on their transcript. For a list of fields with available Options, and for details on completing an Option, visit [www.law.yale.edu](#)



Clinics

The Faculty of Law is associated with a number of legal clinics which provide free legal services in a specific field. About half-way through the academic year, 1L students can apply for positions with any of the clinics, to either start the following summer or academic year (i.e. Summer 2024 or September 2024). Information sessions are typically held prior to the application date. Information about clinics can be found on the faculty website, or in the Course Search Engine (select Class Type: Clinic). [www.law.yale.edu](#)

Moots

Our moot program, led by Professor Daimsis, is one of the best in the world. Every year our teams rank in top scoring positions, surpassing Ivy-League competitors. Moot court competitions are an excellent method to gain experience with oral advocacy.

A moot competition is not a mock trial, there are no witnesses or evidence and the participants do not object or interrupt one another. Moot competitions work similar to appeals, where lawyers draft arguments based on the law, advocating for their client, and present these arguments to a judge who in turn asks questions.

Every first year student has an opportunity to participate in one of our internal moot court competitions, either the Nelligan O'Brien Payne Moot Court Competition or the Heenan Blaikie Moot Court Competition.

In your upper years, in order to be on a moot team, you must tryout in early September. If placed on a team, the moot can satisfy your oral advocacy requirement. Moots are completed for course credit in law school, and so anyone who makes the team will need to drop a course in the semester as specified by the coach of their specific moot team. Competing in a competitive moot can be one of the most rewarding experiences in law school, and everyone is encouraged to participate in the Nelligan Moot and to tryout for a team in 2L and 3L.



Student Proposed Internships

Experiential learning can be a very valuable supplement to your law studies, especially when it yields exposure to various practice areas and work environments. Student-proposed internships (SPIs) exist as a way for students to receive such real-world experience while earning credits for their time. To initiate an SPI, students must reach out to a legal practitioner, receive their approval to become an intern, and register the internship with the faculty. SPIs can be undertaken with a sole practitioner, any level of government in Canada, within the legal departments of banks or private companies, U.N. agencies, or even Canadian embassies (abroad), and more.

Before you look for an internship, we recommend you take some time to become familiar with the limits and procedures of an SPI. For more information on SPI eligibility and conditions, click:



Course Summaries

As law school exams are open book, students make what is called a course summary. These are condensed versions of your notes on the lectures and readings that you have made throughout the year, organized in a way that is easy to access during a midterm or final.

Many students make a long summary (which includes a large amount of information) and a short summary (which tends to include only ratios/rulings and/or legal tests) and bring both into their exams.

In an ideal world, you would make all of your own summaries. This is because making your own summary is an excellent method of studying as it forces you to go over, synthesize, and ensure you understand, all the course material you have covered throughout the year. What you include in your summary is up to you and depends on your own learning style. Some people opt for flow charts and diagrams, others for paragraphs or bullet points.

Below are some helpful tips for when you are writing summaries:

- Start your summary as soon as possible.
- Include a table of contents so you know how the cases relate to one another. It also makes the information more easily accessible during the exam.
- Consider colour coding, but be mindful of the usefulness and cost of printing in colour if you are bringing in a paper copy of your summary to the exam.
- Include the textbook page numbers of the cases you included in your summary. Having the page number (or range) for the cases is helpful if you need to verify information you have forgotten or left out of your summary.

Due to time constraints, it is not always possible to make your own summary from scratch for every course. A useful aid can be consulting a summary from an upper year student who has taken the course prior.

The AECLSS manages an **online summary database** that English and French common law students can access to obtain course summaries (organized by course, professor, and academic year). Students are encouraged to upload their own summaries once they have completed a course to foster an inclusive and supportive community and help others succeed.

Exams

Law exams are frequently fact patterns which essentially are stories your professor has written, requiring you to "issue spot" (i.e., to spot the legal issues using the course material you have learned over the semester) and answer the questions from the perspective that your professor has asked you to adopt (e.g. as the clients' lawyer, opposing counsel or a judge ruling on the case). Some law exams will also include essays, short answer, long answer, or multiple choice questions.

Some professors may be willing to share an old exam with the class for students to practice and know what to expect. Although quite outdated, there are some old exams posted on the Faculty website as well:

You can locate your personalized exam timetable through uoZone (Applications > My Exam Schedule) or by consulting the Faculty website:



Research & STUDYING



PRINTING ON CAMPUS



DocUcentre

The DocUcentre is your one-stop shop for printing services on campus and for finding and purchasing any course guides as listed by your professor in the syllabus. DocUcentre is useful for printing large files, for example, your summaries, or documents that you'd like to have bound, like your moot factum. Be mindful that the DocUcentre does get busy around exam time, so give yourself enough time to print and become familiar with your materials before any exams. More information can be found at the following link:



Library Printer Installation

The easiest way to print at the library is to print directly from your computer. Click to access the uoPrint portal, which provides step-by-step instructions to complete your printing task. The portal will link you to your chosen printer (likely the Brian Dickson Law Library) and you can load printing money online to your uOttawa Card. You then use your uOttawa Card for the printers to recognize your print request and your print job will be complete! Once you start sending files to the printers, they will hold your files for four (4) hours.



KING EDWARD AVENUE BUILDING

As a law school student, you have access to a building that is only available to you. You can book study rooms or simply use the common space. The building is located at 600 King Edward Avenue, behind Fauteux Hall. To access it, you will need an access card, which you can sign up for once and keep for the duration of your studies.



The Brian Dickson Law Library

The Law Library in Fauteux Hall will probably fulfill all of your research needs when in-person and will also do so as an online library. You'll be able to find research articles and even some online textbooks using your uOttawa log-in.

Physically, the library is located on the 4th and 5th floors of Fauteux Hall; access to the 5th floor is primarily via a staircase inside the library, though accessible doors are available on the 5th floor for those who need elevator access. Tours of the library, which introduce students to the various resources available, are offered at the beginning of the semester; in the French Common Law program, these are also offered as part of your small group.

As a Law student, you have free access to legal databases such as Quicklaw (LexisNexis) and Westlaw, which will help with your research. During the Fall semester, you will receive comprehensive workshops on these services as part of your Legal Foundations class with Professor Mallet. Group study rooms are also available on both floors. You can book these rooms online using the library's website; just select "Use the library" in the navigation bar, and click "Reserve a group study room".



Study Spots outside the Law Faculty

Other Libraries

- You can also choose to study at other libraries scattered across campus and around Ottawa:
- Morisset Library
- Ottawa Public Library
- Carleton University
- Library & Archives Canada Supreme Court of Canada Library
 - Access restricted to those with special permission from the Faculty. Ask law library reference staff members for a letter of introduction.

Other Study Spots Near Campus:

- Equator *Coffee at the National Arts Centre*, 1 Elgin Street 380 Sussex Drive
- Starbucks, 55 Laurier Ave (Desmarais Building) or 62 York St (Byward Market)
- Second Cup, 153 Laurier Avenue E.
- Première Moisson, Faculty of Social Sciences ("FSS")
- Rotunda at the National Gallery, 380 Sussex Drive
- Morning Owl, 139 Bank St or 219 Laurier Ave W
- Happy Goat Company, 317 Wilbrod St or 229 Rideau St
- Freshii, 50 Laurier Avenue E



POLICIES & Procedures







As a law student, there is a higher standard of integrity and professionalism expected of you than during your undergraduate studies. Here you will find links to key policies and procedures that you should familiarize yourself with before beginning your studies.

Law Society of Ontario



- Rules of Professional Conduct 
- Good Character Requirement 

Faculty

- Common Law Home Page 
- uoZone (Infoweb) 
- Academic Regulations 
- Accommodation Procedures (deferrals, extensions, other accommodation) 



University



- University Fees 
- Convocation 
- Harassment/Discrimination Reporting 
- Student Record 

Safe Learning Environment


In compliance with legislation and University policy, maintaining a learning environment that promotes understanding and respect for personal dignity is a priority in the classroom. Acts of discrimination, harassment, and sexual violence will not be tolerated. Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with:

- Policy 67a on the prevention of harassment and discrimination
- Policy 67b on the prevention  of sexual violence 


Wellness & Student Support




The Common Law Student Centre

Looking for information about all things related to the Common Law programs at uOttawa? The Common Law Student Centre is a great place to start! Virtually all you need to know about program requirements, courses, enrolment, exams, equity and academic success, and the international exchange program can be found through the centre. The Common Law Student Centre is located in FTX 237. For online resources, visit the centre at 

Academic Success Program

The Academic Success Program aims to help Common Law students in fostering persistence, academic achievement, student advancement and supporting well-being and a holistic development so that students can meet university's expectations, while following academic regulations. This program consists of a variety of tutorials, workshops and mentoring programs, which are intended to assist students in their transition to Law School. 

Access/Equity Tutorials

Access/Equity tutorials are offered to students who, due to non-academic factors, face an unfair disadvantage relative to their peers. The goal of these sessions is to create an accommodating learning environment and provide extra structured assistance, in order to offset the impacts of various systematic barriers. Students who identify with any of the following criteria may apply for Access/Equity tutorials: (a) A student who has spent significant time away from formal education and feels a need to re-learn academic skills; (b) A student with disabilities who requires structured tutorials as part of accommodations to make law school more accessible; (c) A student who has recently immigrated or is a refugee and needs assistance to adjust to a Canadian university setting and/or English-language institutions; (d) A student who has experienced discrimination or systemic barriers in prior educational settings and may need assistance; (e) A student whose first language is not English and may need assistance; (f) A student who is a parent and may need scheduled study and review time to remain on track with their studies. These tutorials normally operate on a bi-weekly basis. For application procedures visit 

OVERVIEW:

- THE COMMON LAW STUDENT CENTRE
- ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM
- ACCESS/EQUITY TUTORIALS
- DROP-IN TUTORIALS
- THE LEGAL MIND PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
- LEARNING SUPPORT
- ACCOMMODATION
- COUNSELLING & WELLNESS

The Legal Mind Peer Mentorship Program

The Legal Mind Peer Mentorship Program consists of 20 upper-year student volunteers who are dedicated and passionate about helping first-year students integrate and adapt successfully to law school at the University of Ottawa. They are an essential component of ensuring a positive experience and seamless transition for first-year students as well promoting wellness within our law school community. Peer mentors will work hard this year to help first-years adjust to a virtual first semester with a strong focus on community-building and fostering an inclusive and healthy law school culture. This program reflects a growing movement in the legal profession to include wellness and mental health within the law school context. With the goal of ensuring that our student body privileges wellness and self-care, and that mental health is a point of open conversation within our community, Peer Mentors will be trained in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction techniques in partnership with the Ottawa Mindfulness Clinic. Providing students with resources and tools to manage stress and engage in dialogue, will allow for a more enjoyable law school experience where students feel like their best selves. Each Peer Mentor is paired with a first-year small group section. Students will meet their mentor for the first time during orientation week. They will hold wellness and academic events, and be available to meet with students to answer questions and provide support through drop-in hours. Mindfulness techniques will be used to ground the mentor-mentee relationship and Peer Mentors will guide students toward available resources and services. Peer Mentors are not counsellors nor are they mindfulness teachers. Rather, they will use mindfulness techniques when aiding students in their transition to law school, and promote mental health and wellness in legal education. Wellness Mentors encourage a student community which fosters self-care both within law school and into the career of law.

Students in Need of Learning Support

Students who require special accommodations are encouraged to contact SASS - Academic Accommodations to register and make an initial assessment appointment with a Learning Specialist. At the start of every term, the Student Academic Success Service (SASS) also offers orientation sessions, where you will be able to get information about SASS services, faculty services and more.

Drop-In Tutorials

Drop-in tutorials are an opportunity to, on a bi-weekly basis, cover the material in your large group classes with an upper-year TA who did very well in the class in previous years. These tutorials are 1.5 hours and open to all first-year students. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions, complete practice problems, and gain a deeper understanding of the material. At the end of each semester, the TA will dedicate the final tutorial to exam review to help you prepare for law school-style exams.



Students in Need of Accommodation

To request an exam deferral, assignment extension, or other accommodation, please contact the Common Law Student Centre at FTX 237 or clawaccess@uOttawa.ca.

Circumstances that may warrant accommodation include but are not limited to:

- A permanent state of affairs (e.g., a disability, a permanent medical condition);
- An ongoing situation (e.g., a personal crisis, pregnancy);
- Reasons related to equity concerns (e.g., religious obligations, sole parenthood);
- A one-time event or circumstance (e.g., a short illness, a temporary injury, a day surgery);
- Compassionate grounds (e.g., a death in the family, a sick child or dependent).

For complete details regarding accommodation requests, please consult the Common Law's Academic Accommodation webpage.

Headspace App

Headspace has proven helpful in managing your sources of stress. Whether it's starting school in a new city, meeting new people or managing school work, make sure to take full advantage of Headspace to calm your nerves and strengthen your mental health.

Stay tuned for more information on this amazing opportunity



Looking After Yourself: Counselling & Wellness

The Common Law Student Centre offers a number of services intended to support students who are facing a personal challenge or crisis over the course of their studies. The Centre understands that personal factors can impact academics – it is therefore committed to offering support such as counseling, referrals, and academic accommodation.

Equity & Wellness Counselor

The Equity & Wellness Counselor will work with students to help them clarify various personal issues and learn strategies that can help them cope with the challenges that they face in their educational, personal and professional lives in order to have a successful experience in law school. The Equity & Wellness Counselor can make specialized referrals to an appropriate service. Common referrals include those to psychologists/counselors in private practice and to various community resources. Please contact Jessica Simon for additional information: jsimon@uOttawa.ca.

Member Assistance Program

As law students, you are invited to use the free and confidential support and counseling services provided by your Member Assistance Program (MAP). This is a free and confidential service funded by, but fully independent of, the Law Society of Ontario, available 24/7 at 1-855-403-8922 (TTY: 1-866-433-3305).

SASS - Counseling and Coaching Service

The University of Ottawa's Counselling & Coaching Service also provides free and confidential counseling support to Common Law students. For a consultation, please call 613-562-5200. The Counseling & Coaching Service is located at 100 Marie-Curie (Health Services building), 4th floor.

Scholastic Services



BRIGHTSPACE

Brightspace is the online interface where professors will typically make all course content available (including syllabi, lecture recordings, and other important resources), where most assignments are posted and submitted, and where grades are published. Each of your courses should appear automatically in your Brightspace dashboard, though a course may not appear if it is inactive or if you are newly enrolled. If you are having issues accessing course content through Brightspace, contact the uOttawa Virtual Campus Support Helpdesk.

OVERVIEW:

- BRIGHTSPACE
- THE BOOKSTORE
- INFOSERVICE

THE BOOKSTORE

For the 2023-2024 academic year, course materials (textbooks and resources) will be accessible through the library website, or from purchase from the publisher. The Bookstore is an excellent resource in future years to purchase new editions of books, or to purchase books you need quickly. If delivery times are not a barrier, Amazon is also an excellent option for purchasing course materials. In addition to this, many upper years post their used books online for purchase. Professors tend to use the same books each year, and so to cut costs attempt to find used books from other students. However, be cautious of the edition required. Some materials (e.g. the McGill Guide) will change dramatically with each update and therefore the most recent one will be essential. Other materials, however, previous editions will be fine. Check with your Professor if you are unsure, they understand the costs associated with law school and will be able to tell you if the previous edition are acceptable for the class (due to how many advancements in the law have been made between editions).

INFOSERVICE

Most of your administrative needs are handled through InfoService. InfoService provides registrar services, student card services, and provides info on tuition fees. Also, you may need official documents, such as proof of enrolment or an official transcript, for employers or for other reasons. InfoService is the place to obtain these documents. Please note that an unofficial transcript may be sufficient in some circumstances; these can be obtained free of charge through your UOZone account, under "Applications" > "Enrollment Verification - Unofficial".



CAREER Services



CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Law school can be demanding academically, and trying to plan ahead for one's career simultaneously can be overwhelming. That's why the Career and Professional Development Centre (CPDC) is here to help. Whether you need to tighten up your resume or prepare for an upcoming interview, or if you have questions about possible career paths, structured recruitment processes, summer jobs or internships, the CPDC is a great place to find support. Upper-year students and professional development counsellors are available to provide career advice and cover letter or resume assistance, prepare you for interviews or recruitment, and help you with your search for summer employment. To speak with a CPDC counsellor year-round, book an appointment through The Source.

CAREER DAY

Every March, 1L students are allowed to attend Career Day, which brings students together with representatives from all areas of practice. Those in attendance will spend the day interacting with potential employers, learning about new and interesting career paths through panel events and round table discussions, and attending mock interviews with representatives of real firms and agencies. Typically held in-person at a conference centre in Ottawa, however, the format may be subject to change.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

Keep your eyes peeled for updates, usually in Dictum or The Source, about the Professional Development workshops and information sessions that are hosted throughout the year. These sessions will cover a range of topics, including the recruitment process for summer employment and articling positions, stress management, interviewing skills, internships and fellowships, and much more! As a 1L student, additional programming - the "Becoming a Legal Professional Series" - has been integrated into the 1L curriculum through your Dispute Resolution and Professional Responsibility class.

OVERVIEW:

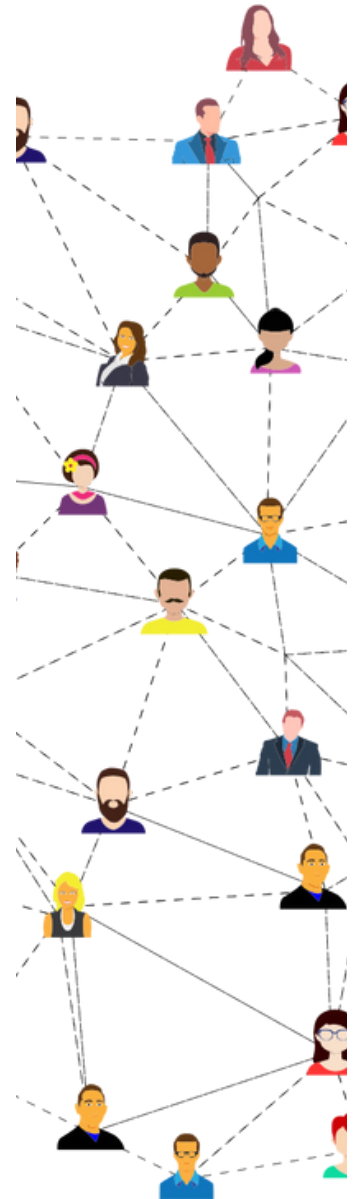
- CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- CAREER DAY
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING
- THE SOURCE
- RECRUITMENT EVENTS

THE SOURCE

The Source is a web-based tool that every law student will get to know well because it allows you to book appointments with the CPDC, view job postings, and register for events and information sessions. As a first-year student you will be issued a temporary password through your uOttawa e-mail account in September of your first year. A complete guide to navigating The Source and an instructional video on booking appointments are both available online, but here is a snapshot of a few key things. To view and/or register for events, click on the "Events" tab. Events hosted by employers, such as open houses, are advertised under the "Employer Events" tab; Faculty events, such as CPDC sessions, and other student-focused information will appear under the "Information Sessions" tab. To view job postings, click on the "Jobs & Internships" tab and search by keyword, geographic location, or position type. You can even use the "Employers" tab to identify employers of interest to you and to create your own employment opportunities, including paid internships, student-proposed internships (for credit), or volunteer opportunities. You can use the "Document Library" to find helpful information about preparing your resume and cover letter for law applications, navigating the recruitment process, and more. It can be easy to be overwhelmed by the amount of information, but you will learn which documents will be most useful to you in 1L, through your orientation session with the CPDC during the first week of law school. Make sure to bookmark this page in your browser, as it is a key webpage you'll be using throughout your three years at uOttawa.

RECRUITMENT EVENTS

The CPDC facilitates several recruitment events such as On-Campus Interviews (OCIs) for Toronto and Ottawa employers who hire 2L summer students. The CPDC also facilitates 2L student participation in Vancouver and Calgary OCIs, as well as East Coast Interviews, which take place annually in Toronto for all Ontario students. The Intellectual Property (IP) recruitment process may interest 1L & 2L students with an engineering or hard sciences background. It happens early in the fall and information is available in The Source document library. Be on the lookout for any number of events hosted by the CPDC, the Common Law Student Society (AÉCLSS), and various AÉCLSS Clubs to introduce you to the job search and legal job market. There will be several information sessions leading up to OCIs and applications so pay attention to The Source so you are aware of deadlines and expectations.



Extra**CURRICULARS**



Getting Involved: Clubs

Looking to get involved and meet fellow law students with common interests? The Faculty of Law is proud to offer more than 40 AECLSS-recognized student clubs, which span a diverse range of interests and subjects. With so many clubs to choose from, everyone is bound to find something worth being a part of! To explore the many options visit the AÉCLSS website for a list of all of the currently recognized clubs. 🌐

Also keep an eye out for information about the Fall Clubs Fair, which is typically held in September. You can expect clubs to host a range of events including trivia nights, networking socials where you can meet with professionals in different legal industries, or expert panels covering a range of legal topics.

OVERVIEW:

- **GETTING INVOLVED:**
 - CLUBS
 - AECLSS
 - UOSU
 - ATHLETICS ON CAMPUS

Association étudiante de Common Law Student Society (AÉCLSS)

The Common Law Student Society (CLSS) is the governing body, composed of elected students from the Faculty of Law, which represents the interests of law students. CLSS functions include organizing social events, renting lockers, selling merchandise, and advocating for the Faculty of Law on various committees. If you are interested in student government and advocating on behalf of your peers, you might consider running for an elected CLSS Executive position; elections are typically held in the winter. CLSS Executives are happy to hear from the students they represent, so if you have concerns or questions in a given area of student life, feel free to contact the appropriate Executive member. Executive office hours are posted on the CLSS website, and Executives' email addresses are listed on the front pages of this guide.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA STUDENTS' UNION

UOSU

The University of Ottawa Students' Union is the central undergraduate student government at the University of Ottawa, representing students across dozens of programs (including Common Law). They host their own clubs, student newspapers (The Fulcrum and La Rotonde), FM Radio (CHUO 89.1), as well as businesses and services like the International House, Pride Centre, Peer Help Centre, Foot Patrol, and more.

The UOSU also works with the University and all levels of government to defend student interests, whether that's parking in Sandy Hill, tuition hikes, or cuts to student services. Law students are represented at the UOSU in three ways.

1) Common Law has a Director on the UOSU's Board of Directors, who is responsible for representing the interests of all Common Law students at the UOSU. You can contact them at: common-law.ca-bod@uosu-seuo.com.

2) All the Recognized Student Governments (including the AÉCLSS) have speaking rights at the UOSU Board and Board Committees. If you have any questions or concerns which for some reason you do not wish to bring to the UOSU Board representative, you can reach out to the AÉCLSS for assistance.

3) The highest authority of the UOSU is its General Assembly. While UOSU Board meetings are open to all students, students at large do not have speaking rights; this is not the case at the General Assembly, where the student voice is paramount. Attend and make yourself heard!

Athletics on Campus

The University of Ottawa Sports Services offers two excellent athletics facilities: Montpetit Hall (located across from Fauteux Hall) and the Health and Lifestyle Centre (located in the Minto Sports Complex at 801 King Edward). Membership for students is covered in your mandatory student fees, but additional user fees may apply for various activities.

Technical SERVICES

As a student, you will be given a uOttawa email address (@uottawa.ca). Your uOttawa email password will be emailed to your personal email account within 48 hours of registering for your first course. You can change your email password by visiting [\(link\)](#). Your email address is required to log in to campus computers - simply enter the portion of your email address that comes before '@' as your username, and enter your uoZone password as your password. If you would like to change your email address (i.e. if you would like to change the auto-generated alias into your first and last name), you may submit a request to IT Services. Such changes are formally reserved for employees and grad students, but may often be granted to law students.

Wi-Fi Access on Campus

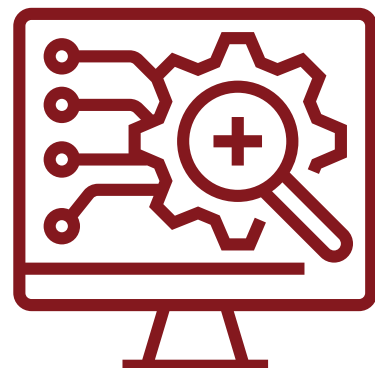
Students can access free WiFi at all campus locations! Eduroam is the name of a wireless network available to university students internationally, which means you can also access the network at other universities. To access eduroam, enter your full uOttawa email as your login, and your uoZone password as the password. Eg. Login: jsmit012@uottawa.ca; Password: uoZone password.

Technical Questions

If you encounter technical issues with your accesses, please contact the IT Service Desk at 613-562-5800, extension 6555.

Microsoft Office & Other Software

You can download free software for the upcoming year, including Microsoft Office and anti-virus software.






Health & Medical SERVICES

UOSU Services


The UOSU offers a variety of services to students, including the Sexual Health & Wellness Centre, Foot Patrol (a safe-walk program), the International House, the Peer Help Centre and more. These services open in September. Contact us for more information.

UOSU Health and Dental Plan

If you have not opted out of the UOSU Health and Dental Plan, you will receive affordable health insurance through the Studentcare network. This website provides a useful resource to get information about your plan and to download your health plan card and claim forms. You can find more info and details of your Studentcare coverage on the UOSO website. 

If you want to register online and have the ability to file claims outside of the coverage network, you can access the GreenShield registration page. After following the steps listed on the website and completing your registration you can download the GreenShield app on your device and track claims, deposits, and look for local specialists.

HEALTH SERVICES

The University of Ottawa Health Services (UOHS) provides drop-in services and appointments with registered family doctors. Students who are not Ottawa residents can register as a patient with a UOHS family doctor, which grants them access to the many services offered by the Family Health Team (FHT). However, please keep in mind that registering UOHS as your primary healthcare provider will cause your existing family doctor to be taken off your "roster". The UOHS is a member of the Ontario Family Health Network (FHN). To learn more about the services being facilitated virtually, visit the GreenShield website. 



STUDENT SOCIAL LIFE

Social media can be a wonderful tool for law students and legal professionals; it can also prove to be risky and damaging to your career and reputation if used improperly. A significant aspect of a legal career, particularly in its early stages, is the cultivation of a strong network of peers and colleagues, and of a personal "brand". Social media allows you to stay connected with your peers, stay up-to-date with the legal community, and be notified of upcoming opportunities and events. It can even serve as a platform for you to build a strong personal reputation and "brand". However, the standards of professionalism for legal practice extend to your online interactions. Any improper conduct online will be both highly visible and likely permanent. Consider that most content that you publish in an online context may likely be reviewed by prospective employers, and can come back to haunt you if parts of your online history paint you in an unflattering light. Our advice: if you are unsure whether a post or comment is acceptable, err on the side of caution, and imagine that every post or tweet you make is being sent directly to your future employers - this is not far from the truth, after all.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aeclssuottawa

Twitter: [@AECLSS](https://twitter.com/AECLSS)

Instagram: [@aeclss](https://www.instagram.com/aeclss)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/aeclss](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aeclss)

Other accounts to follow :

The Law Society of Ontario: [@LawSocietyLSO](https://twitter.com/LawSocietyLSO)

Departmental Accounts: [@uocommonlaw](https://twitter.com/uocommonlaw) [@uOttawaTechLaw](https://twitter.com/uOttawaTechLaw) [@OttawaHealthLaw](https://twitter.com/OttawaHealthLaw)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Government & Court Official Websites

- Federal Court of Canada
- Government of Canada Primary Internet Site
- Justice Canada
- Ontario Courts Online
- Supreme Court of Canada
- Tax Court of Canada



Information & Study Resources

- Canadian Legal Information Institute
- LegisInfo (on all federal legislation)
- Ontario Legislation Online
- Online Legal Dictionary



On-Campus Support

- Counselling and Coaching (SASS) 613-562-5200
- Financial Aid and Awards (3156 Desmarais Hall) Financial Resources (021 Tabaret Hall) 613-562-5734
- Health Services 613-562-5786
- Housing Office (residence@uOttawa.ca) 613-564-3950
- Human Rights Office 613-562-5885
- InfoService (129 Tabaret Hall) 613-562-5222
- Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Services 613-562-5700
- Protection Services 613-562-5800, ext. 4001
- Sport Services: 613-562-5499
 - Minto Sports Complex 613-562-5789
 - Montpetit Hall 613-562-5800, ext. 4327

Community Support

- HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health Info-Line 1-800-267-7432
- Housing Help 613-563-4532
- Interval House of Ottawa (Women's Shelter) 613-234-5181
- Landlord and Tenant Board (for complaints against landlords) 1-888-332-3234
- National Student Loans Service Centre 1-888-815-4514
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) 1-877-672-7411
- Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa 613-234-2266
- Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre 613-562-2334

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programs at gowlingwlg.com/students



Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP is a member of Gowling WLG, an international law firm which consists of independent and autonomous entities providing services around the world. Our structure is explained in more detail at gowlingwlg.com/legal

It's the **first week** of law
school and you're already
three weeks behind.



Relax.
You'll do fine.



For more information on our
Student Program, please contact:

Ari Blicker

Director,
Student & Associate Programs
ablicker@airdberlis.com
416.865.4149

Megan Percy

Senior Manager,
Student & Associate Programs
mpercy@airdberlis.com
647.426.2844



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Class of 2026:

**First Steps,
Bright Futures**

Here's to the first steps of a journey filled with promise

- Committed to guiding our summer students' growth
- Speaking 10+ languages, one mission: legal excellence
- Over 35 years legal service

