

June 25, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Graduate Certificate in Insurance Law

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the Graduate Certificate in Insurance Law in The Graduate School.

BACKGROUND:

The insurance industry is a key area of the Connecticut workforce, with Hartford having the title of “Insurance Capital of the World.” The industry has around 60,200 skilled employees, with more than 2,860 insurance-related businesses in the state. Necessary skills in the industry related to legal issues are projected to rapidly grow by over 27% in the next two years. Given the importance of this sector to the state economy, the University of Connecticut School of Law currently offers the only LLM degree (Master of Laws) in Insurance Law in the United States.

The LLM program was developed in the 1990s, during a time when insurance companies tended to sell multiple “lines” of insurance (e.g., property, casualty, life, and health insurance). Since then, insurance companies—and, by extension, insurance lawyers—have increasingly specialized. Most insurance lawyers now focus on one line of insurance, or one type of legal activity, such as insurance regulation, litigation, or dealmaking. This has reduced student demand for the generalist LLM. However, market research suggests sizeable demand among domestic insurance lawyers for a version of LLM in Insurance Law that is faster and more focused. The Graduate Certificate in Insurance Law will meet this demand, allowing students to select from bundles of subject-specific courses to create more focused plans of study to support their career development needs.

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Insurance Law is intended as a stand-alone program for qualified lawyers who hold a JD degree and who are seeking a specialist post-JD education in a tailored area of insurance law. This is a graduate certificate, offered through The Graduate School, with all courses taught in the School of Law. The program will require 12 credits, consisting of a 3-credit Principles of Insurance Law course and 9 or more elective credits in specialist areas of insurance law.

Projected enrollment is seven students in the first year, increasing to 10-12 net new students per year by the third year of operation. All required courses are already offered online for the existing LLM and JD programs, with available capacity for the additional Graduate Certificate students. The program is expected to generate revenue, which will increase as enrollment increases.

# Insurance Law

## Graduate Certificate

### New Program Proposal, June 2025

#### School of Law / Graduate School

CIP Code: 22.0221 (Insurance Law)

Planned effective term: Fall 2025

## Introduction

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Insurance Law is intended as a stand-alone program for qualified lawyers who hold a JD degree and who are seeking a specialist post-JD education in a tailored area of insurance law. This is a graduate certificate, offered through The Graduate School, with all courses taught in the School of Law. The program will require 12 credits, consisting of a 3-credit Principles of Insurance Law course and 9 or more elective credits in specialist areas of insurance law.

The insurance industry is a key area of the Connecticut workforce, with Hartford having the title of “Insurance Capital of the World.” The industry has around 60,200 skilled employees, with more than 2,860 insurance-related businesses in the state.<sup>1</sup> Necessary skills in the industry related to legal issues are projected to rapidly grow by over 27% in the next two years.<sup>2</sup> As appropriate given the importance of this sector to the State economy, the University of Connecticut School of Law currently offers the only LLM degree (Master of Laws) in Insurance Law in the United States.

The LLM in Insurance Law attracts domestic students who largely enroll as part-time distance education learners, as well as international students who are required to enroll as full-time in-person learners. Full-time students complete the degree in approximately one year, whereas dedicated part-time students take about four years. The LLM program requires 24 credits to graduate and provides a broad and deep education in many different subject areas of insurance law (e.g., insurance regulation, health insurance, life insurance, employee benefits, property insurance, liability insurance). The LLM program was developed in the 1990s, during a time when insurance companies tended to sell multiple “lines” of insurance (e.g., property, casualty, life, and health insurance). Since then, insurance companies—and, by extension, insurance lawyers—have increasingly specialized. Most insurance lawyers now focus on one line of insurance, or one type of legal activity, such as insurance regulation, litigation, or dealmaking. This has reduced student demand for the generalist LLM. However, market research conducted by the School

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<sup>1</sup> AdvanceCT: Key Industries. <https://www.advancect.org/key-industries/insurance> Accessed June 2, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Lightcast occupation overview, insurance-related employment, June 2025.

of Law suggests that there is a sizeable demand among domestic insurance lawyers for a version of LLM in Insurance Law that is faster and more focused.

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Insurance Law will allow students to select from bundles of subject-specific courses to create more focused plans of study to support their career development needs. This program is designed to appeal to the following groups of prospective students:

- Lawyers who have little prior experience with insurance law, but who have recently been hired to do insurance work. Research indicates that insurance companies, law firms, and state insurance regulators are willing to pay for these newly hired lawyers to get basic training in a sub-specialty of insurance law.
- Attorneys at insurance companies aiming to make a lateral move or be promoted.
- Attorneys interested in “dipping their toe” into the full LLM who are not ready for the time commitment required for the LLM program.

There are no other graduate certificates that focus on insurance law. The University of Connecticut has a Certificate in Corporate and Regulatory Compliance, jointly offered by the School of Law and the Business Law and Ethics group within the Marketing Department in the School of Business. Some other US law schools offer certificates in areas such as Business Law, Privacy Law, or Cybersecurity, but no other school offers a certificate in insurance law.

The graduate certificate will require 12 credits, selected from courses currently offered for the LLM in Insurance Law. To meet specialist interests, the insurance law courses will be bundled into concentrations, including Property and Casualty Insurance, Life and Health Insurance, Insurance Regulation, and Insurance Innovation. Those bundles will be subject to revision, based on analysis of student demand over time. Students will not be required to select only courses from within one bundle. As with the LLM and the JD Certificate in Insurance Law,<sup>3</sup> all graduate students will be required to complete the introductory 3-credit “Principles of Insurance Law” class. However, under defined set of circumstances, the Director of the Certificate would have the power to waive this requirement.

The proposed new Graduate Certificate in Insurance Law will be targeted primarily at domestic lawyers who meet the same admissions requirements as the existing Insurance Law LLM program. Most graduate certificate students are expected to be part-time distance learners.

The Bylaws of the University of Connecticut specify that The Graduate School reviews all post-baccalaureate educational programs and curricula, with a narrow range of exceptions, including those in Law. The JD, SJD, and LLM programs are under the governance of the School of Law and are awarded by the School of Law. As this credential is a graduate certificate, it has been approved through The Graduate School, the certificate will be awarded by The Graduate School, and prospective students will apply to the program through The Graduate School.

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<sup>3</sup> JD certificates are graduate certificates offered within the School of Law as a concentration within the JD degree.

## Program Information

### Location(s)/Modalities

School of Law (Hartford)

Online and in-person

Students may also pursue the Certificate through a combination of online and in-person classes based on course availability and student preference. The program modality for a student who begins the certificate in-person would shift to online once the student takes more than six credits (more than 50% of the required credits) online.

### Professional Licensure/Certification

This program does not lead to professional licensure or certification.

### Catalog Description

This certificate is designed for lawyers interested in a foundational understanding of legal and regulatory issues relevant to the insurance industry and the opportunity to specialize in a sub-field of insurance law. Students must complete 12 credits.

### Plan of Study

Required Course (3 credits):

- LAW 7675 Principles of Insurance

Select 9 credits from the following:

- LAW 7324: Law, Regulation and Financing of Insurance Technology (InsurTech) Start-Ups
- LAW 7325: Mass Torts and Insurance
- LAW 7340: Cyber Insurance
- LAW 7354: Insurance, Current Issues In
- LAW 7357: Insurance and Discrimination
- LAW 7382: Captive Insurance Law
- LAW 7563: Life Insurance
- LAW 7673: Alternative Risk Management
- LAW 7686: Liability Insurance
- LAW 7691: Health Care Financing
- LAW 7711: Healthcare Liability Insurance
- LAW 7717: Insurance Regulation
- LAW 7771: Islamic Finance Investment Law
- LAW 7774: Surety Law

- LAW 7781: Insurance Litigation
- LAW 7786: Law of Marine Insurance
- LAW 7787: Principles of Reinsurance
- LAW 7790: Property Insurance
- LAW 7799: Insurance Solvency
- LAW 7928: Employee Benefits/ERISA

## Program Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Explain the legal and regulatory issues relevant to the insurance industry, including the interpretation of insurance contracts, the regulation of insurance coverage, the special rules governing litigation of insurance disputes, special tax and insolvency issues relevant to insurance companies, and special legal problems posed by particular types of insurance.
2. Identify, analyze, and develop legal recommendations based on the substantive law and legal/regulatory theories central to insurance.
3. Demonstrate a significantly deepened knowledge in a few specific sub-fields, chosen by the student.

## Curricular Map

Course Number	Name	Instructor(s)	Instructor Status	Credits	Frequency	Learning Objectives Furthered by this Course
7673	Alternative Risk Management	Simpson,Douglas K.	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7382	Captive Insurance Law	England,Phillip C.	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7340	Cyber Insurance	Foggan,Laura A.; Zeilman,Timothy	Adjunct	2	Every year	2,3
7691	Health Care Financing	Cogan,John	Full-Time	3	Every year	2,3
7711	Healthcare Liability Insurance	Stein,Joshua O.	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7357	Insurance and Discrimination	Yass,Robert	Adjunct	2/3	Every year	2,3
7781	Insurance Litigation	Dwyer Jr,Gerald P.	Adjunct	2/3	Every year	2,3
7717	Insurance Regulation	Kochenburger,Peter R.; Salve,Patrick J.; Dzurec,Kathryn	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7799	Insurance Solvency	Goddard,William D.	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3

7354	Insurance, Current Issues In	Siegelman,Peter; Pantin,Travis L.	Full-Time	1	Every semester	2
7771	Islamic Finance Investment Law	Moghl,Umar F.	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7786	Law of Marine Insurance	Eisele,Michael J.; Harris,Terence	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7324	Law, Regulation and Financing of Insurance Technology (InsurTech) Start-Ups	Goddard,William D.	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7686	Liability Insurance	Foggan,Laura A.; Masters,Lorelie Sue	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7563	Life Insurance, Long-Term Care Insurance, and Annuities	Welsh,Walter C.	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7325	Mass Torts and Insurance	John Rogers	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7675	Principles of Insurance	Pantin,Travis L.; Anderson, Jill; Robinson, David	Full-Time; Full-Time; Adjunct	3	Every semester	1,2
7787	Principles of Reinsurance	Fischer,Scott	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7790	Property Insurance	Goldman,Stephen	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7774	Surety Law	Horowitz,Matthew	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3
7928	Employee Benefits/ERISA	Haffner,Ali	Adjunct	3	Every year	2,3

## Assessment Plan

The American Bar Association (ABA) does not accredit non-JD degrees, such as the LLM. As a result, this program requires evaluation and assessment outside of the full accreditation cycle of the ABA. However, the individual courses within the certificate are also part of the JD degree and are assessed in the same way that the Law School assesses all courses: periodic class visits, annual instructor trainings, instructor self-assessment, and student experience of teaching surveys. These courses, as part of the JD degree, are assessed by the ABA as part of the Law School's accreditation cycle.

As a non-JD program in law at UConn, the program itself will be assessed jointly by the School's Learning Assessment Committee, the Graduate and International Programs Committee, and the Insurance Law Center. The Learning Assessment Committee assesses all institution- and program-level learning objectives on a ten-year cycle. This committee is planning a comprehensive assessment of all non-JD programs for the coming year, with follow-up assessments every five years. This Certificate Program will be evaluated on course enrollment, student success within the program, and student outcomes. The Graduate and International Committee coordinates all non-JD programs at UConn School of Law, and each program has a faculty director responsible for academic oversight and the review and approve

curricular requests. This Committee engages in regular evaluation of the success of students in UConn's non-JD programs. The Law School's Insurance Law Center will be responsible for the academic development of the program, subject to directions from the faculty as a whole and the Dean. The Insurance Law Center surveys students completing its insurance law programs indicating their opinion of the program, any changes in employment due to the program, and teaching and programmatic evaluations.

## Graduate Outcomes

Post-graduation, students are likely to seek jobs at law firms that practice insurance law, insurance companies, insurance brokers/agents, and insurance regulatory bodies (e.g., the Connecticut Insurance Department). For students who are already employed in such areas, we expect that the Certificate will increase their success in seeking promotions or lateral moves.

SOC codes:

- 23-1011 (Lawyers)

NAICS codes:

- 541110 – Law Firm (private practice)
- 524113 – Direct Life Insurance Carriers
- 524114 – Direct Health & Medical Insurance Carriers
- 524126 – Direct Property & Casualty Insurance Carriers
- 524130 – Reinsurance Carriers
- 926150 – Insurance Regulatory Agency
- 524210 – Insurance Agencies and Brokerages

## Projected Enrollment, Resources, and Evaluation

### Staffing

The Director of the Insurance Law Center, Professor Travis Pantin, will direct the program and serve as the advisor for students enrolled in the program. Classes will be taught by full-time faculty (Professors Travis Pantin, Jill Anderson, John Cogan, Peter Siegelman) as well as high-quality nationally recognized experts in insurance law teaching as adjunct instructors.

The Graduate School will receive applications and will submit applications meeting UConn School of Law minimum requirements to the Director of Graduate Programs and Admissions, Yan Hong. Ms. Hong and the Director of the Insurance Law Center, Professor Travis Pantin, will be responsible for admissions decisions. Professor Pantin will be responsible for advising students and providing oversight and direction for the program. Professor Pantin would initiate programmatic changes together with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Such changes would be reviewed and approved by the Graduate and International Programs Committee and the Law Faculty before being submitted to the Graduate School.

## Students

Projected enrollment is seven students in the first year, increasing that admission number each year by two students. Students are expected to take four semesters to complete the certificate, with the first students graduating in Spring 2027. Initial graduation numbers may be in the 3-5 student range but will increase to 10-12 students per year.

	AY2025/26	AY2026/27	AY2027/28	AY2028/29	AY2029/30	AY2030/31
New students enrolled this year	7	9	11	12	12	12
Total students enrolled	7	16	24	28	30	32
Anticipated completions	0	0	3	8	10	10

Applicants must possess either: (1) a law degree, whether a JD from an accredited U.S. law school or a law degree from a school outside the United States, or (2) an advanced degree in a related field with demonstrated significant relevant professional achievement. International applicants must also meet the English proficiency requirements. Students who have already received the JD Certificate in Insurance Law; the Insurance Law LLM degree; or the Insurance Law LLM Concentration in Insurance are not eligible to apply for the Graduate Certificate. Students with JD degrees from UConn Law who did not receive the JD Certificate in Insurance Law, and students with a non-insurance LLM from UConn Law who did not get the LLM Concentration in Insurance Law, will be eligible for advanced standing in the program.

Students will be admitted on a rolling basis.

## Budget Projections

The courses that will be offered through this proposed Graduate Certificate are already offered to support the LLM and JD programs. All of these courses are simultaneously offered in-person and in a fully online format (i.e., all of the courses are open to distance learners). There are seats available in all of these courses, so the certificate will therefore not place any additional burden on the teaching resources of the law school. There is also relatively little risk of overcrowding in the courses that would qualify for the Graduate Certificate.

The general administrative infrastructure is already in place to support the Graduate Certificate program. Initial additional costs for the program (marketing, administrative support, etc.) will be funded from the Insurance Law LLM and the graduate and international programs L4 revenues. In year three, after the program begins generating revenue sufficient to support additional adjunct fees, we anticipate adding two classes taught by adjunct instructors. These courses, like all UConn insurance law courses, will be taught both online and in-person simultaneously; no additional fees for course development would be required.

The budget projection for the program is based on the number of additional new students the graduate certificate will recruit over and above those who would be recruited for the LLM. Budgeting for the program



to cover a portion of the program director salary, part-time administrative support, advertising, and other administrative costs, the program is projected to generate revenue for the School of Law within the first year. After central cost recovery, the program would generate modest revenue within the first year of operation. By year four, if the program meets recruitment targets of 12 net new students each year, two additional adjuncts will be hired to expand course offerings, and the program will generate significant revenue, which would be used to support other costs within the School of Law.

### **International Students**

The program will not be able to support international students wishing to study in the US on a student visa. Online participation by international students is dependent on regulatory requirements within the country in which the student resides.

### **Library resources**

This program will use resources already provided in support of the LLM in Insurance Law. UConn Law School has arguably the best insurance law library materials in the U.S., and among the best in the world. The library will continue to be a resource for incoming students in the program and faculty researching in this area. Currently, Law School L4 income supports the library's continuing commitment to its insurance law collection.

### **Program Evaluation**

The Law School's Insurance Law Center will be responsible for the academic development of the program, subject to directions from the faculty as a whole and the Dean. The Graduate and International Programs Committee will play an important advising and coordinating role, as it does for all non-JD programs. This Certificate Program will be evaluated on course enrollment, student success in the program, and student outcomes.

Students completing the program will be asked to complete a survey indicating their opinion of the program, any changes in employment due to the program, and teaching and programmatic evaluations. Like all students at UConn School of Law, enrolled students will have the ability to complete course surveys at the end of each course.

This certificate program will also be evaluated by the Graduate and International Programs Committee, which coordinates all non-JD programs at UConn School of Law. Each program has a faculty director responsible for academic oversight and the review and approve curricular requests. Members of the International and Graduate Programs Office manage the program on a day-to-day level, including admissions, student services, and employment.

Should total enrollments fall below 3 students two years in a row, the school will conduct a low-completion program evaluation.