

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: JD Certificate in Health Law

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the JD Certificate in Health Law in the School of Law.

BACKGROUND:

Health law is a rapidly growing field that involves a variety of diverse practice areas including insurance law, corporate healthcare, public health, administrative law, medical malpractice, and personal injury. Given this growth, highly trained healthcare lawyers are increasingly in demand. The Covid-19 pandemic illustrated the importance of health law, along with the need for skilled health lawyers within each of these practice areas. The complex and ever-changing nature of health law requires aspiring health lawyers to develop the tools necessary to take on the health law issues currently facing our world. Toward this goal, the School of Law proposes creating a JD graduate certificate in health law. Enabling student success in the field of health law is essential to powering a thriving Connecticut and promoting holistic student success, two central University priorities.

Within the School of Law, graduate certificates are used to structure formal specializations within the JD program. JD certificates are reported as graduate certificate completions, but as they are offered only to JD students, they are approved and awarded through the School of Law. The proposed certificate will be completed together with the JD and will not generate any additional revenue, nor incur any additional costs. The program will be offered in-person at the School of Law campus in Hartford.

The health law certificate program will provide JD students with the educational opportunities necessary to develop substantive knowledge in health law, as well as the tools necessary to thrive in diverse health law environments and practice areas. Creating a certificate at the School of Law would ensure UConn graduates are competitive when seeking employment in related fields. Outcomes and enrollment in the health law certificate will be evaluated to build out a more comprehensive program in this specialism, in the longer term leading to an online LLM in Health Law.

# JD Certificate in Health Law

## Graduate Certificate

### New Program Proposal, May 2025

#### School of Law

CIP Code: 22.0208 (Health Law)

Planned effective term: Fall 2025

## Introduction

Health law is a rapidly growing field that involves a variety of diverse practice areas including insurance law, corporate healthcare, public health, administrative law, and medical malpractice/personal injury. Given this growth, highly trained healthcare lawyers are increasingly in demand. The Covid-19 pandemic illustrated the importance of health law, along with the need for skilled health lawyers within each of these practice areas. The complex and ever-changing nature of health law requires aspiring health lawyers to develop the tools necessary to take on the health law issues currently facing our world. Toward this goal, the School of Law proposes creating a JD graduate certificate in health law. Enabling student success in the field of health law is essential to powering a thriving Connecticut and promoting holistic student success, two central University priorities.

Within the School of Law graduate certificates are used to structure formal specializations within the JD program. JD certificates are reported as graduate certificate completions, but as they are offered only to JD students, they are approved and awarded through the School of Law. This contrasts with graduate certificates that offered as standalone programs in the School of Law, which are approved and awarded by The Graduate School. The Certificate in Health Law will add to the School of Law's robust JD certificate offerings that include eight areas of specialization, including Corporate & Regulatory Compliance, Human Rights, and Energy and Environmental Law.

The health law certificate program will provide JD students with the educational opportunities necessary to develop substantive knowledge in health law, as well as the tools necessary to thrive in diverse health law environments and practice areas. The certificate will allow our students to more effectively market themselves as holding specialized knowledge and training in the field and will equip them with the skills necessary to serve employers and clients. The courses required for this certificate are already available in the JD curriculum. Completing the certificate will enable students to more effectively specialize in this area and communicate that expertise to external constituencies.

Several law schools in the northeast region offer JD students the ability to pursue a health law certificate or concentration: Northeastern University School of Law; Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law; Seton Hall Law School; University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Albany Law; Temple University Beasley School of Law; Cornell Law; BU Law School; Drexel Law School; Penn State Law; Suffolk University Law School. Creating a certificate at the Law School would ensure UConn graduates are competitive when seeking employment in related fields. Outcomes and enrollment in the health law certificate will be evaluated to build out a more comprehensive program in this specialization, in the longer term leading to an online LL.M. in Health Law.

## Program Information

### Location(s)/Modalities

School of Law (Hartford), in-person

### Catalog Description

The Certificate in Health Law offers JD students an opportunity to develop specialized expertise in the rapidly evolving field of health law. Through a combination of foundational coursework and advanced electives, students gain a deep understanding of the legal frameworks governing health care delivery, public health, bioethics, and health policy. The program prepares students for careers in government, health care institutions, private practice, advocacy, and regulatory compliance.

The Certificate in Health Law requires successful completion of at least twelve credits of approved health law courses. It is recommended that students take the core course before or concurrently with the electives. Students will create an individualized curriculum of course work related to health law composed of one required course, 6-7 credits of health law electives, and 2-3 credits from health law adjacent fields.

### Plan of Study

#### **Required Course (3 Credits)**

- LAW7865: Health Law

#### **Health Law Courses (6 Credits)**

- LAW7307: Clinic: Health Equity
- LAW7314: Healthcare Legal Operations
- LAW7315: Disparities to Access in Health Care
- LAW7344: Bioethics and the Law
- LAW7587: Ethics of Public Health
- LAW7592: Health and Human Rights

- LAW7600: Administrative Law
- LAW7691: Health Care Financing
- LAW7711: Healthcare Liability Insurance
- LAW7763: Mental Health Law
- LAW7804: Reproductive Technologies and the Law

***Courses in Adjacent Fields (2-3 Credits)***

- LAW7338: Role of In-House Counsel
- LAW7366: White Collar Crime
- LAW7406: Clinic: Disability Rights
- LAW7554: Compliance: The Legal Perspective
- LAW7556: Clinic: Elder Law
- LAW7605: Business Organizations
- LAW7675: Principles of Insurance
- LAW7739: Antitrust and Trade Regulation
- LAW7773: Employment Law
- LAW7901: Elder Law
- LAW7909: Legislative Process

Health law courses may be added to or removed from this list with the approval of the School of Law Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or her/his designee.

## **Program Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the JD Certificate in Health Law, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge of the core legal principles, ethical issues, and policy considerations governing the practice of health law and the regulatory environment in which healthcare providers and institutions operate.
2. Evaluate how health law shapes and responds to social, economic, and ethical challenges within the healthcare system, with an emphasis on disparities in access, human rights, mental health, reproductive technologies, and public health.
3. Analyze and apply legal principles governing healthcare financing, liability, and operations in healthcare business and insurance systems.
4. Communicate effectively about complex legal problems involving emerging issues in health law and policy.
5. Integrate concepts from adjacent legal fields to inform their understanding of health law and apply interdisciplinary approaches to analyze and resolve complex health law problems.

## Curricular Map

Course	Instructor	Instructor Status	Credits	Frequency	Learning Objectives
LAW7865: Health Law	Cogan	FT	3	Every year	1, 2, 3, 4
LAW7307: Clinic: Health Equity	Sicklick	FT	4	Every year	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LAW7314: Healthcare Legal Operations	Vargas	Adjunct	3	Every year	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LAW7315: Disparities to Access in Health Care	Cogan	FT	3	Every 2 years	1, 2, 3, 4
LAW7344: Bioethics and the Law	Zubrzycki	FT	3	Every year	1, 2, 4
LAW7587: Ethics of Public Health	Chapman	FT	3	Every 2 years	1, 2, 4
LAW7592: Health and Human Rights	Chapman	FT	3	Every 2 years	1, 2, 4
LAW7600: Administrative Law	Zubrzycki, Lindseth	FT	3	Every year	3, 5
LAW7711: Healthcare Liability Insurance	Stein	Adjunct	3	Every year	1, 2, 3, 4
LAW7763: Mental Health Law	Schmeiser	FT	3	Every 2 years	1, 2, 3, 4
LAW7804: Reproductive Technologies and the Law	Schmeiser	FT	02/03	Every 2 years	1, 2, 4, 5
LAW7338: Role of In-House Counsel	Hsieh/Stamm	Adjunct	2	Every year	3, 5
LAW7366: White Collar Crime	Melocowsky	Adjunct	3	Every year	3, 5
LAW7406: Clinic: Disability Rights	Considine	Adjunct	4	Every year	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LAW7554: Compliance: The Legal Perspective	Lindseth	FT	3	Every year	2, 3, 4, 5
LAW7556: Clinic: Elder Law	Keogh	Adjunct	3	Every year	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LAW7605: Business Organizations	Myers, Oquendo, Dhir, Hsieh	FT & Adjunct	3	Every year	3, 5
LAW7675: Principles of Insurance	Pantin, Kochenburger	FT & Adjunct	3	Every year	3, 5
LAW7739: Antitrust and Trade Regulation	Langer	Adjunct	3	Every year	3, 5
LAW7773: Employment Law	Siegelman	FT	3	Every year	3, 5
LAW7901: Elder Law	Sherlock-White	Adjunct	3	Every year	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LAW7909: Legislative Process	O'Leary/Schiesl	Adjunct	2	Every year	4, 5

## Programmatic Accreditation & Assessment

The American Bar Association is the accrediting body for the School of Law, and the certificate will be assessed through that accreditation process. We assess all programmatic learning objectives in a ten-year year cycle. The program will draw on courses that are already assessed as part of our curriculum and will not have any impact on our accreditation. The program will be immediately offered as part of our JD program, and there are no other steps we need to take for the program to be covered by our accreditor.

The School of Law will assess the proposed certificate within the framework used to assess programs for its accreditation with the American Bar Association. The School of Law's Learning Assessment Committee regularly assess the impact of JD programs with respect to student engagement and participation, career placement in health-related legal fields, and feedback from alumni and employers.

## Graduate Outcomes

JD students who complete the Health Law Certificate are well prepared for roles such as compliance officers, healthcare regulatory attorneys, in-house counsel for hospitals and healthcare systems, policy advisors, and legal advocates in government agencies or nonprofit health organizations.

## Projected Enrollment, Resources, and Evaluation

The proposed certificate will have no impact on staffing or resources, since the courses needed for the certificate are already taught regularly at the School of Law. Students will be advised by the Certificate Director, John Cogan.

## Students

We anticipate enrollment in the certificate will follow trends of similar certificates, such as our Human Rights Certificate. Between 10 and 15 students graduate with the Human Rights Certificate each year. Only matriculated JD students will be eligible for the certificate. International students will not enroll.

## Budget Projections

The proposed certificate will be completed together with the JD and will not generate any additional revenue, nor incur any additional costs.

## Evaluation

Metrics for program evaluation will include number of graduating students, course enrollment, student success, and student outcomes. Students enrolled in courses comprising the certificate will also complete Student Experience of Teaching surveys at the completion of each course.