

Trial Advocacy (Graduate Certificate)

LWTAGRCT

Are you interested in representing clients in court and in other dispute-resolution processes? Fusing traditional law and practice-oriented courses that draw upon the experience of distinguished trial lawyers and judges who serve as adjunct faculty, this program prepares you to litigate effectively.

Program description

Degree awarded: Certificate Trial Advocacy (Certificate)

The graduate certificate program in [trial advocacy](#) provides students interested in pursuing a career in criminal prosecution, criminal defense or civil litigation with a prescribed course of study to help prepare them for practice.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#)

Degree requirements

Required Core (6 credit hours)

LAW 602 Civil Procedure II (3) or LAW 604 Criminal Procedure (3)

LAW 605 Evidence (3)

Alternative Dispute Resolution Requirement (2 credit hours)

Litigation Requirement (3 credit hours)

Electives (4 credit hours)

Other requirements

practical experience in client representation

Additional Curriculum Information

To earn the certificate, a student must take classes in courtroom practice and procedure as well as alternative dispute resolution, participate in experiential learning either through simulation-based instruction in litigation and courtroom advocacy or by representing clients in a clinical setting, and gain additional practical experience through pro bono service, participation in a moot court competition or enrollment in a Rule 38 externship.

Students must complete four credit hours of electives from a selection of over 40 classes.

For the Alternative Dispute Resolution requirement, students must complete a minimum of two credit hours from the Alternative Dispute Resolution requirement course list.

For the Litigation requirements, students must complete a minimum of three credit hours from the Litigation requirement course list.

Students must gain practical experience in client representation by completing one of the following while maintaining continuous enrollment:

- completion of a Rule 38 externship, or
- pro bono service --- minimum of 50 hours working with an approved legal services organization, or
- representation of the College of Law in a regional, national or international moot court competition

Additional information on what specific courses can be used to fulfill the certificate requirements can be found on the College of Law trial advocacy page.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Applicants must be existing JD program students who are currently enrolled in coursework and in good academic standing with the ASU College of Law. Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A";) in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. trial advocacy certificate application

2. graduate application through Law Interactive*
3. proof of English proficiency

*Students should refer to the [ASU Law website](#).

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

International students who need an F1 or J1 visa first need to apply to and be accepted into a graduate degree program prior to being considered for the certificate program. International students residing in the United States on other types of visas must adhere to all Graduate College policies and procedures regarding admission to be considered for admission to this certificate program.

Further specific requirements for admission to the certificate program can be found on the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law website.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Career opportunities

The trial advocacy graduate certificate serves as a credential representing to future employers and clients that a JD student has a demonstrated interest in trial advocacy and a solid foundation in the knowledge and the skills needed to succeed in the field.

Contact information

[College of Law Dean's Office](#) | BCLS 456
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