Department of Law

Mission Statement

Through an innovative, conceptually rigorous, and pragmatically dynamic curriculum, the mission of the Department of Law is to produce graduates who have the capacity to think, write, speak, and act as professional lawyers.

About the Department

The Department of Law was established in Spring 2013 and serves as an academic and intellectual hub for students from across Afghanistan and faculty from across the world. Students in the program will embark on a challenging yet rewarding journey where they will learn to think critically about law in society, professional responsibility, and legal reform. Students will benefit from interactions with law professors from various countries with a wide variety of expertise. The program provides exposure to all major areas of law, including civil law, Islamic law, criminal law, corporate law, private law and international law. Importantly, students will gain a critical understanding of the operation of law in Afghanistan. Graduates will be qualified to enter the court system, private legal practice, government office, and business. Alternately, graduates may choose to pursue higher studies internationally or enter academia.

The Bachelor of Arts and Laws Degree

The Bachelor of Arts and Laws degree (B.A.-LL.B.) is a 150-credit program offered by the Department of Law of AUAF. The degree provides students 60 credits of general liberal arts courses followed by 90 credits of courses in law. The coursework in liberal arts is geared toward developing strong critical thinking skills while also providing students broad exposure to humanities, history, science, and mathematics. This liberal arts training ensures that students develop the requisite reading and writing skills to be successful in law coursework.

The 90 credits of coursework in law provides students the necessary training to think, write, speak and act as duly trained legal professionals. The core of the law program consists of courses in constitutional law, criminal law, Islamic law, property law, civil
obligations, legal writing, and professional responsibility, which provide students a solid foundation in legal thinking. A number of local practice courses provide students with instruction in criminal and civil procedure, as well as family law, ensuring practical legal training relevant to Afghanistan’s legal system. The principle language of instruction throughout the program is English; however, some courses may have Dari requirements.¹

As part of learning and pedagogy, students will be strongly encouraged to participate in some of the extra-curricular activities of the Department, which will complement their legal education. Students are encouraged to attend guest lectures, get involved with the Law Students Association, and participate in moot competitions and mock-trials.

DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE DESCRIPTIONS

The Department of Law provides students with the following degree and certificate options:

• Bachelor of Arts and Laws (B.A.-LL.B.)
• Certificate in Legal Studies (not available to students who commenced their studies after Fall 2012 – contact the Department for more information)

BACHELOR OF ARTS AND LAWS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

• 150 total credits of coursework
• 60 credits of general education courses
• 90 credits of law courses
  o 6 credits of Legal Foundation
  o 39 credits of Legal Core
  o 18 credits of Local Practice
  o 27 credits of Legal Electives

Application Process

¹ Accommodations may be made for students who are unable to read and write in Dari at an advanced level or who do not intend to practice law in Afghanistan.
Unlike other degree programs at AUAF, students are required to apply and be admitted to the B.A.-LL.B. program. Applicants should be aware that program requires a high level of proficiency in English reading and writing.

Applications for the B.A.-LL.B. program will be accepted on a rolling basis. Students may submit an application at any point throughout the year. However, students are suggested to submit their applications in a timely manner so that they may get proper advising on which courses to register for in order to complete the degree requirements in a timely manner. The recommended date for submitting an application for fall enrollment is by the 1st of April, and for spring enrollment is the 1st of November.

A completed application package consists of:
- B.A.-LL.B. Application Form
- Statement of Purpose Form
- B.A.-LL.B. Honor Pledge Form
- Statement of Disciplinary Record Form
- Current AUAF Transcript (unofficial transcripts accepted)
- Transcript/s of Any Transfer Credits Accepted by AUAF
- Completed Degree Plan Worksheet – students should have at least 23 credits applicable to the B.A.-LL.B. degree completed by the end of the semester prior to intended enrollment in the law program to be eligible for admittance.
- Resume (optional, but preferred)

The application is available at the Department of Law offices on the 3rd floor of the Bayat Building.

Before being admitted to the program, applicants will be individually interviewed by members of the Department. The interview is an opportunity for the faculty and student to get to know one another better and for the applicant to express in his or her own words the reasons for pursuing law studies at AUAF.

For Further Information

For more information, interested students may stop by the Department of Law, 3rd floor of the Bayat Building in room 1. You may also contact the Department with any questions at law@auaf.edu.af