

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Ralph, Anne](#); [Winters, Kelsey](#)
Cc: [Williams, Valarie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Griffiths, Rob](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Miriti, Maria](#); [Bittner, Brandi](#); [Lemon, Jason](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Simmons, Ric](#); [Barnett, Kent](#)
Subject: Proposal to establish an online certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:04:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Anne and Kelsey:

The proposal from the Moritz College of Law to establish an online certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on September 2, 2026. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

No additional level of internal review/approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next Annual Activities Report to the University Senate (July 2027).

The Office of the University Registrar will work with you on any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Val Williams (.1415), or me.

I wish you success with this important program development.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

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TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs

FROM: Graduate School Curriculum Services

DATE: June 4, 2026

RE: Proposal to establish a certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law in the Moritz College of Law

The Moritz College of Law is proposing to establish a certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law.

The proposal was received by the Graduate School on May 4, 2026. The combined GS/CAA subcommittee first reviewed the proposal on June 1, 2026, and support its review by the Council on Academic Affairs.



May 4, 2026

Graduate School-CAA Committee
250 University Hall | 230 N. Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Committee Members:

The College of Law seeks approval for a new stackable Certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law, presented in conjunction with applications for a certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution. Students may combine any two of our certificates towards earning the College of Law's Master in the Study of Law (MSL) degree.

The development of the certificate began in the Summer of 2024, and stems from a strategic review aimed at broadening the range of educational offerings at the College of Law. The design of the certificate is based on a pre-existing concentration in the MSL program, and the integration of existing MSL degree courses into the certificate program ensures a clear educational path with minimal additional resource requirements.

The proposed certificate, with its completely online, asynchronous format, is a response to a market demand for more adaptable, professional-focused education, as evidenced by a market study from Ohio State Online. This study encouraged the College to adapt its offerings to fill existing skills gaps and to concentrate on high-demand fields involving intellectual property and technology law, including licensing, software, technology transfer, and compliance. The certificate aims to address these needs by providing a program that supports workforce development for individuals in law-adjacent roles. The certificate offers specialized knowledge through courses focused on intellectual property, data privacy and cybersecurity law and regulation, intellectual property law, and information and AI law, preparing professionals to manage legal challenges in business, policy formulation, and compliance roles effectively.

The certificate was reviewed and approved by the Moritz College of Law's Graduate Studies Committee on April 23, 2026. We appreciate the committee's time and attention in reviewing this proposal, and welcome the opportunity to answer questions or provide additional information that would be helpful to the committee.

Very truly yours,

Anne Ralph
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Strategic Initiatives
Morgan E. Shipman Professor in Law
The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
ralph.52@osu.edu / 614-247-4797

Proposal for a 3a Stackable Certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law

Submitted by the Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University

I. Introduction

The College of Law requests a 3a stackable Certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law. The request is being submitted concurrently with the request for a 3a certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution. These two new certificates are the final certificate proposals for the desired total of five certificates that can be used towards the completion of the College of Law's Master in the Study of Law (MSL). The other three certificates that were approved in 2025 include the Business Law Certificate, the Compliance Certificate, and the Health Law Certificate. Any two of these certificates could be stacked and used towards completion of the MSL (subject to completing additional requirements).

The College of Law developed the certificates as a key component of the strategic planning process that focused on expanding the range of educational offerings provided. Because the curriculum for all proposed and existing certificate programs uses courses already in development for the College of Law's MSL degree program, the certificates will provide a tailored, focused course of study for students with only minimal additional teaching and administrative impacts.

II. Background and Rationale for the Certificate

As the MSL degree program has grown over the last five years, the College of Law has shifted its MSL program to an entirely online, asynchronous program with courses that fit more easily into the schedules of working professionals in law-adjacent careers. This change to an online program happened in early 2025, with the approval of the first three online certificate programs happening in mid-2025. Market analysis by Ohio State Online continues to support the need for working professional programs that optimize flexibility and create additional pathways for student learning. Continued analysis also recommends that the College fill skills gaps in the current workforce and prioritize program concentrations to meet market demand. This certificate directly answers this need, providing a flexible workforce development program tailored to professionals working in law-adjacent fields.

A stackable certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law can be a valuable asset for working professionals across various industries. This specialized credential equips students with the comprehensive understanding of the legal intricacies that surround intellectual property and technology. As the legal landscape of intellectual property and technology continues to evolve rapidly, professionals in the field need a nuanced understanding of the legal frameworks that shape their work. By acquiring expertise in areas such as intellectual property law, contract law, data privacy law, cybersecurity regulation and compliance, and information and AI law, professionals can effectively navigate legal challenges and makes informed decisions within their organizations. A certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law empowers working professionals to develop a unique and highly sought-after skillset, fostering career advancement and professional value.

III. Certificate Objectives

The College of Law intends the certificate program to provide a flexible, practical suite of courses designed for working professionals whose careers interface with the law on a regular basis, for individuals who are interested in transitioning into a career involving intellectual property or technology regulation, compliance, or licensing, or professionals seeking to broaden their understanding of the laws and regulations applicable to intellectual property and technology licensing and compliance. Professionals completing the certificate will develop their understanding in the following areas:

1. Basic Understanding of the Legal System Relating to Intellectual Property and Technology:

- Understand the regulatory bodies, agencies, and laws governing intellectual property and technology.

2. Legal Doctrine and Substantive Knowledge in Intellectual Property and Technology Law:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the key laws and regulations governing intellectual property and technology, to ensure compliance and ethical practices. Analyze legal precedents and case studies in health law.

3. Use of Law-Related Materials and Process:

- Effectively utilize legal research methods, including statutes, regulations, and legal databases. Develop an understanding of legal processes such as litigation, licensing, compliance, and regulatory procedures in the technology sector.

4. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:

- Apply critical thinking skills to identify complex legal issues in intellectual property and technology. Develop problem-solving strategies to mitigate risk and resolve challenges.

5. Communication:

- Communicate complex legal concepts clearly and concisely to diverse audiences. Collaborate with professionals, legal experts, and stakeholders to convey information effectively.

IV. Curriculum

The certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law is entirely online, and requires that students successfully complete 4 courses (12 credits) as outlined below:

Core Course: Students **must** take the following core course.

Course	Semester	Modality	Credits	Required
LAW 7815: Introduction to Intellectual Property	Fall	Online	3	YES

Elective Courses: Students may complete the remaining credits from among the elective courses below to meet the minimum 12-credit requirement in IP and Technology Law coursework.

Course	Semester	Modality	Credits
LAW 6121: Contracts	Fall	Online	3
LAW 7804: Law of Cyberspace	Summer	Online	3
LAW 7805: Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Regulation and Compliance	Spring	Online	3
LAW 8535: Introduction to Tech & IP Transactions	Summer	Online	3
LAW 8889: Information Law and AI	Fall	Online	3

The curriculum allows students to complete this program in a fully online format over the course of up to a year. After completing the certificate, the student could then apply to the MSL degree program and use the credits from the certificate to satisfy 12 of the required 30 credits for the MSL degree. It is important to note that the courses in the certificate program are the same courses that a student would take if they were enrolled in the MSL program. Certificate students will be enrolled alongside MSL program students. This would allow for a fluid transition to the MSL degree program and accelerate the completing of the MSL degree for these students.

Additionally, because there is no requirement for a capstone or thesis in the MSL degree program, there is no requirement for a capstone experience or thesis in the certificate program.

V. Stackable Certificate Option

This certificate was designed so that it can be stackable towards the MSL degree program when paired with either the Health Law Certificate, the Business Law Certificate, the Compliance Certificate, or the Alternative Dispute Resolution Certificate. Students will be advised at time of certificate application, as well as again at time of MSL degree program application, that for two certificates to successfully stack towards the MSL program, no one course can count twice. The flexibility of this certificate's curriculum gives room for elective course choice to ensure that students are selecting their coursework so that their 12 credits are unique to this certificate and the coursework for the other chosen certificate is unique to that program.

If a student chooses to stack two certificates towards the MSL degree, then after successfully applying to the MSL program, their certificate credits (24 or 27 credits depending on which certificates they chose) would count toward the required 30 credits for the MSL degree. In addition to those certificate credits, students would then need to complete the two MSL foundational courses (6 credits): Legal Research and Writing and Introduction to US Legal Systems.

VI. Market Assessment

The creation of this and the other certificate programs for the College of Law is the result of a growing MSL program that has more than doubled its enrollment in three years and shown there is a need for law programs for the non-lawyer. With this growth came the desire to specialize in area-specific topics through targeted certificate programs, beginning with the first certificates approved in 2025 - Health Law, Business Law, and Compliance. Continued interest in area-specific credentialing necessitates this proposal in Intellectual Property and Technology Law.

To assess the viability of the proposed certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law, a market assessment was conducted by Ohio State Online. Their findings indicate a strong growth in the national and local labor market for jobs with a certificate in Intellectual Property.

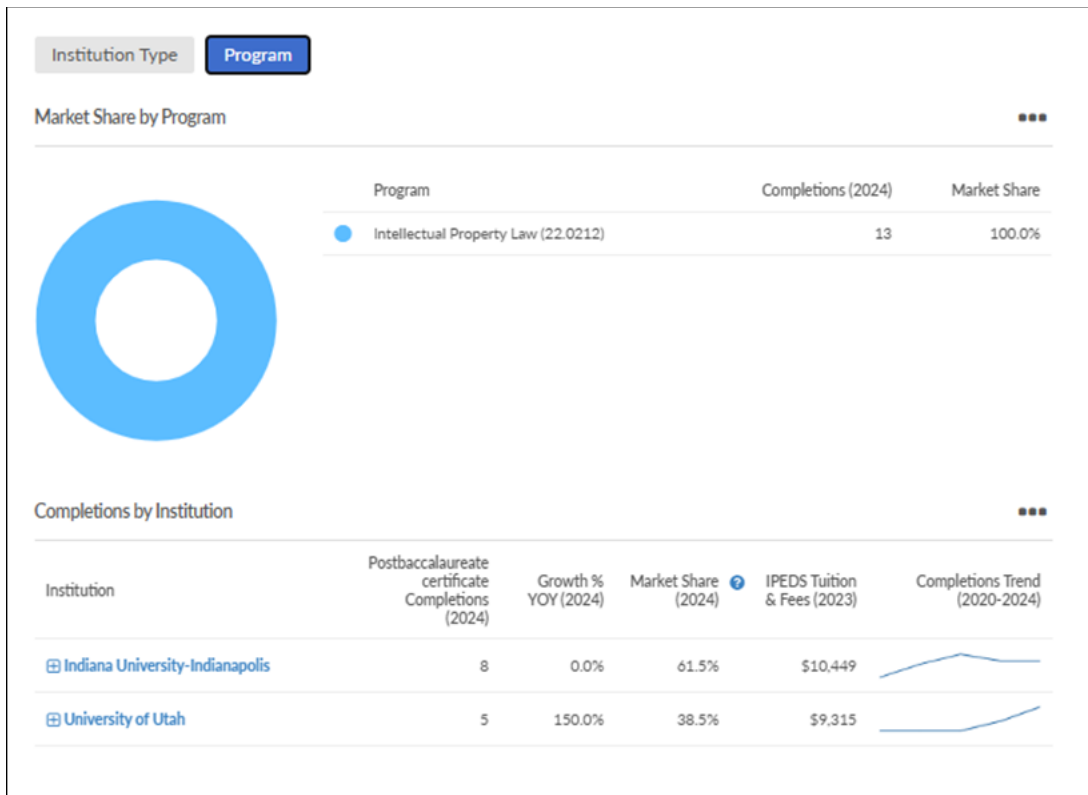
National Occupational Trends



Ohio Occupational Trends



Additionally, when assessing market supply, Ohio State Online has noted that there are no other law schools in the state of Ohio that offer an online certificate program in Intellectual Property and Technology Law. Nationally, the number of universities that offer similar certificates is growing but remains small. Direct competitor schools that offer certificates in Intellectual Property Law are Indiana University and University of Utah. This gives Moritz College of Law an advantage in this area-specific certificate space.



Lastly, based on the interest and performance of the three current certificates, it is anticipated that this certificate will perform equally well. With the official launch of the three certificates in January 2026, we already have one student who will complete their program at the end of the summer 2026 semester, a combined lead total of close to 100 perspective individuals for the fall semester 2026, and multiple new admits for the fall 2026 semester.

VII. Program Eligibility

Admission to, performance in, and exit standards for the certificate are consistent with the Graduate School's standards for admission and progression. Admission requirements include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale or equivalent) for the last bachelor's or advanced degree earned. Personal statements require articulation of how the certificate is consistent with the applicant's professional and career goals. Students from international undergraduate institutions are recommended to score at least a 100 in the TOEFL iBT. Resumes and transcripts are required of all applicants.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required to receive the certificate.

VIII. Assessment

Students who graduate with a certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law must demonstrate proficiency in the following learning objectives:

- Basic Understanding of the Legal System Relating to Intellectual Property and Technology.
- Legal Doctrine and Substantive Knowledge in Intellectual Property and Technology Law.
- Use of Law-Related Materials and Process.
- Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving.
- Communication.

A. Direct assessment

Students in the certificate program will be assessed through examinations, course projects, and other course exercises. The learning outcomes for each class will be mapped onto the certificate learning objectives, and instructors will assess whether students exceed/meet/do not meet the objectives. A review of the achievement of the learning objectives will be performed at least once a year, and based on these results, the College's Graduate Studies Committee will determine whether to make changes to individual courses or to the program as a whole.

B. Indirect assessment

The College examines student feedback from the Survey of Student Learning Experience (SSLE) instrument used by the law school. Each year College staff will also solicit individual feedback from students in order to improve the programming and counseling provided to students, and College staff will also track the careers of certificate alumni and will conduct post-graduate surveys to investigate areas for improvement in the curriculum. The learning outcomes from the certificate mirror the outcomes from the MSL program, except that they are more narrowly focused on legal knowledge and understanding of intellectual property and technology law. The courses for the certificate are the same courses offered through the MSL program, and certificate students would be taking the course alongside MSL students. The certificate

coursework, when combined with other coursework offered through a full MSL program (including the two required in US Legal Systems and Legal Writing and Analysis), will enable students to satisfy the learning objectives of the MSL program.

IX. Administration of the Proposed Program

A. Marketing

Ohio State Online assists the College of Law in marketing the certificate as part of its MSL program marketing arrangement. Ohio State Online will help develop a strategic marketing plan, and additional marketing efforts will be conducted by the College of Law's Office of Communications and Public Relations. Ohio State Online has already provided the marketing plan and materials for the other three certificate programs offered by the College of Law.

B. Recruitment and Admissions

Ohio State Online will provide recruitment services for the certificate as part of its arrangement with the College. Ohio State Online already provides recruitment services for the MSL degree program and other three certificate programs.

Additionally, the Director of MSL and Undergraduate Programs at the College of Law reviews all application materials and provides admission decisions for the certificate to Ohio State's Graduate and Professional Admissions Office.

C. Advising and Student Support

Advising and student support for the certificate is primarily provided by the Director of MSL and Undergraduate Programs at the College of Law. However, Ohio State Online also provides student support post matriculation through regular student communications and individual meetings.

D. Career Advising

The Director of MSL and Undergraduate Programs at the College of Law is the primary resource for specific career guidance for certificate students. Certificate students may also utilize the professional development resources offered through Ohio State's Graduate School.

E. Tuition and Student Fees

Tuition and student fees were determined based on the assumption that the certificate could be a stackable certificate within the MSL program. Consistent with the 30-credit/\$30,000 tuition structure of the MSL program (\$1,000 per credit hour), the

standalone cost of the 12-credit hour certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law will be \$12,000.