

Pre-Law I

Primary Career Cluster:	Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security
Consultant:	Sloan Hudson, (615) 532-2839, Sloan.Hudson@tn.gov
Course Code(s):	6195
Prerequisite(s):	<i>None</i>
Credit:	1
Grade Level:	9
Graduation Requirements:	This course satisfies one of three credits required for an elective focus when taken in conjunction with other Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security courses.
Programs of Study and Sequence:	This is the first course in the Pre-Law program of study.
Aligned Student Organization(s):	SkillsUSA: https://www.skillsusatn.org/ Tracy Whitehead, (615) 532-2804, Tracy.Whitehead@tn.gov
Coordinating Work-Based Learning:	Teachers are encouraged to use embedded WBL activities such as informational interviewing, job shadowing, and career mentoring. For information, visit https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/work-based-learning.html
Available Student Industry Certifications:	None
Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Opportunities:	There are no statewide dual credit/dual enrollment opportunities for this course. If interested in establishing a local opportunity, reach out to your local postsecondary institution.
Teacher Endorsement(s):	590, 750
Required Teacher Certifications/Training:	
Teacher Resources:	https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/career-clusters/cte-cluster-law-public-safety.html

Course Description

Pre-Law I is the first course designed to prepare students to pursue careers in the field of law. Upon completion of this course, a proficient student will be able to describe career planning and compliance, foundations of the legal system, organization of the law and public safety system, basic constitutional protections, and types of law. In addition, students will model the professional, moral, and ethical standards required of professionals in the field of law.



Program of Study Application

This is the first course in the *Pre-Law program* of study. For more information on the benefits and requirements of implementing these programs in full, please visit the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security website at <https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/career-clusters/cte-cluster-law-public-safety.html>.

Course Standards

Career Planning and Compliance

- 1) Investigate occupations that make up legal services. Demonstrate an understanding of each occupation by accurately articulating the following:
 - a. job description,
 - b. roles and responsibilities of the position,
 - c. essential knowledge and skills needed for the career,
 - d. comparison of similar careers available in state, federal, and military legal systems,
 - e. educational, training, and certification requirements, and
 - f. licensure and credentialing requirements.

Foundations of the Legal System

- 2) Articulate important historical events and milestones (such as European influences) impacting the evolution of the current legal system in the United States. Include a description of the evolution of the modern legal system to address terrorism, cybercrimes, and hate crimes. Use a timeline or other graphic to illustrate the major developments from the colonial period to today, citing specific textual evidence from research.
- 3) Compare and contrast requirements and duties for the executive and legislative branches, and examine the function of the judicial system as it relates to both branches. Include an explanation of the function of the system of checks and balances.
- 4) Create an artifact illustrating the role of the courts at the local, county, state, and federal levels including an explanation of procedural law at each level.
- 5) Create a graphic organizer to illustrate the structure of the relationships among key players in the legal system (including law enforcement organizations, legal service providers, corrections agencies, and security agencies) in the handling of crimes and of those who commit them.



- 6) Summarize the six types of laws (criminal, civil, administrative, statutory, common, constitutional), and discuss the purpose of each. Develop a graphic organizer to draw connections among sample laws for each type, relevant legal concepts such as burden of proof, and applicable defenses and punishments.

Basic Constitutional Protections

- 7) Explore the history of the first amendment and the five basic freedoms it covers: religion, speech, press, assembly, and petitions. Research current issues related to each freedom and the protections guaranteed to citizens. Create a scenario or campaign that applies the protections to students in a school setting for one of the freedoms. Review case law that applies to the scenario or campaign and write a case brief summarizing the issues, the rule of law, the action, and the holding.
- 8) Interpret the Bill of Rights as it applies to the defendant. Create an artifact that summarizes each amendment and gives an example of its application. Choose one amendment and compose a short article that explains how the amendment ensures a fair trial.
- 9) Outline the individual protections provided by the Fourth Amendment and illustrate in an informative narrative what can be considered a "reasonable expectation of privacy." Explore landmark cases such as *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* and *Katz v. U.S.*, and discuss in groups the expectations by students of privacy on school property with respect to search and seizure.
- 10) Summarize the Exclusionary Rule and explain in an oral argument or written narrative how it applies to the Fourth Amendment (*Mapp v. Ohio*) and the Fifth Amendment (*Miranda v. Arizona*). Describe the relationship of the fruit of the poisonous tree doctrine to the exclusionary rule (*Silverthorne Lumber Co. v. United States*).

Ethics

- 11) Collect codes of ethics from professional organizations in legal services including Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct, Tennessee Code of Judicial Conduct, and Federal Code of Conduct and examine areas of commonality. Synthesize principles from the codes of ethics to create a personal code of ethics.



- 12) Examine real-world situations that involve ethical dilemmas and the application of correct professional conduct as highlighted in recent news articles. Craft an argumentative essay making a claim about the importance of ethics and professional standards for persons working in legal services, citing examples from case studies to argue for the relevance of professional codes of conduct.
- 13) Analyze how the influence of diverse cultures and customs impacts the field of legal services. Describe the importance of cultural differences when making decisions within the context of criminal, civil, and immigration law.

Organization and Operations of Law and Public Safety Agencies

- 14) Differentiate between the various agencies in the Law and Public Safety sector at the local, state, and national levels by describing their jurisdiction, roles and responsibilities, and governing bodies. Identify conflicts in jurisdiction that may arise when multiple agencies work together, citing examples from case studies, interviews, or news articles.
- 15) Distinguish between the two major sources of crime statistics: the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Program (known as UCR/NIBRS) and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Explain how modern criminal justice agencies are utilizing statistics from both sources, comparing and contrasting the characteristics of the data sets in an informative artifact.

Criminal Law and Criminology

- 16) Define criminal law and criminology. Research the major behavioral science theories describing criminal behavior. Identify theorists and elaborate on their major contributions to the field; include emerging theories sourced from contemporary scholarship. Apply a specific theory to explain a notable crime.
- 17) Examine the differences and similarities between the concepts of crime, victimization, and criminal behavior. Define each term in relation to the others and identify examples of the concepts in case studies.

Civil and Tort Law

- 18) Compare and contrast civil and criminal law. Research and create an outline of the specific areas of civil law including a short description of each area along with an example of a typical case. Explain the purpose of tort law including a discussion of intentional tort, negligence, and strict liability. Survey cases then categorize them according to type of tort.



- 19) Using the cases surveyed in standard 21, create a chart that illustrates the application of Tennessee Rules of Evidence and Federal Rules of Evidence. Choose one case and create a case brief to summarize the issues, the rule of law, the action, and the holding. Provide a legal memo with a student opinion of the case.

Immigration Law

- 20) Analyze the history of immigration law including the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1953 and the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Research and explain the doctrine of preemption as it relates to state immigration laws, and debate the constitutionality of Tennessee immigration laws as they relate to federal immigration laws.
- 21) Research immigration law and describe three main categories: family-based immigration, employment-based immigration, and humanitarian immigration. Explain the relationship of federal and state immigration law.
- 22) Survey and explain the relationship of immigration court to the other court systems; include a discussion of the immigration court system's unique characteristics. Create a public awareness campaign to help immigrants understand information about employment based petitions, family based petitions, visas, adjustment of status, asylum, and removal/deportation. Include information about specific cases that result in immigration court proceedings.

The following artifacts will reside in the student's portfolio:

- graphic organizer of key players,
- artifact illustrating role of courts,
- basic freedoms case brief,
- personal code of ethics, and
- legal memo with student opinion.

Standards Alignment Notes

*References to other standards include:

- P21: Partnership for 21st Century Skills [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#)
 - Note: While not all standards are specifically aligned, teachers will find the framework helpful for setting expectations for student behavior in their classroom and practicing specific career readiness skills.

**Informative artifacts include, but are not limited to, graphic organizers, brochures, posters, fact sheets, narratives, essays, and presentations. Graphic illustrations include, but are not limited, to charts, tables, graphs, rubrics, drawings, and models.