



Policy Title
Certificate Policy

Policy Number
SULC-1-039

Responsible Unit: Office of Academic Affairs	Effective Date: July 23, 2026
Responsible Official: Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs	Last Reviewed Date: July 23, 2026
Policy Classification: Academic Affairs	Last Revised Date: July 23, 2026
	Origination Date: Before 2015

I. POLICY STATEMENT AND RATIONALE

This policy details the requirements that must be met for a student to earn a certificate while enrolled at Southern University Law Center (SULC).

II. POLICY SCOPE AND AUDIENCE

This policy applies to students and the Administration of SULC.

III. POLICY COMPLIANCE

No student will be awarded a certificate in a designated area of law unless the requirements designated under this policy are met.

IV. POLICY DEFINITIONS

- A. CERTIFICATE is an additional academic award that can be earned by a student while enrolled at SULC by completing requirements as outlined in this policy.
- B. AREA OF CONCENTRATION refers to a specific list of courses that a student can earn course credit related to an identified Certificate.

V. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE

- A. The policy was created by the SULC faculty to designate the circumstances under which a

student may earn a certificate in its program of legal education. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is charged with implementing and enforcing this policy.

B. Based upon the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee, the faculty will designate certificates for particular areas of law and identify a specific set of courses (deemed an area of concentration) in which a student must successfully earn academic credit.

C. The faculty will update the areas of concentration as warranted.

D. In order to be awarded a certificate, a student must:

1. Earn the required coursework hours to complete the program of legal education, inclusive of intervention courses that a student may be required to take as a result of the institutional course-level assessments performed at SULC;

2. Successfully complete at least four courses in the area of concentration for a particular certificate;

3. Earn a minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) in the courses contained within the area of concentration; and

4. Complete any additional requirements, if any, of a particular certificate.

E. The faculty will endeavor to ensure that a course is not placed in the area of concentration for multiple certificates so as to ensure the rigor for each certificate is maintained.

F. The approved certificates and their requirements will be detailed in the attached addendum, which the Curriculum Committee will update as new certificates are developed or existing certificates are modified.

VI. POLICY RELATED INFORMATION

No laws, regulations, or board policies impact this policy.

VII. POLICY HISTORY AND REVIEW CYCLE

This policy existed prior to 2019 when the Law Center adopted the uniform policy format. On July 22, 2022, this policy was codified and placed in the uniform policy format. On July 23, 2026, the policy was updated to conform to the most recent version of the SUS Policy Template, to add Section VI(E), to remove the list of approved certificates from the text of the policy and place them in an addendum, and to remove the general requirement that a student must submit an application for the certificate. The policy is subject to a five-year policy review cycle and shall be reviewed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Any changes will be submitted to the faculty for consideration.

VIII. POLICY URL

The policy is published on the SULC website at <https://www.sulc.edu/page/sulc-policies>.

IX. POLICY APPROVAL

This policy was approved by the faculty on July 23, 2026.


Alvin Washington, Chancellor

July 23, 2026
Effective Date

ADDENDUM TO CERTIFICATE POLICY (SULC-1-039)

Approved Certificate programs:

Public Law Certificate

- Successful completion of the 82 (or more – if student is required to take intervention courses) required course hours needed for graduation;
- Successful completion of at least four of the courses in the Public Law area of concentration; and
- Earn a minimum of 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the courses in the area of concentration.

Public Law Courses

- Administrative Law
- Legislative Drafting I
- Legislative Drafting II
- Legislative Practicum
- Local Government Law
- Voting Rights
- Civil Rights
- Externship (with Federal, state, or local legislative or municipal body)
- Additional Clinical course

Tax Law Certificate

- Successful completion of the 82 (or more – if student is required to take intervention courses) required course hours needed for graduation;
- Successful completion of at least four of the courses in the Tax Law area of concentration;
- Earn a minimum of 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the courses in the area of concentration; and
- With respect to the general clinic course requirement of a student at SULC, a student seeking the Tax Law Certificate would be required to take the Tax Clinic course.

Tax Law Courses

- Estate Planning
- Income Tax
- International Tax Law
- Tax Procedure and Litigation
- Taxation of Flow-Through Entities

Transactional Law Certificate

- Successful completion of the 82 (or more – if student is required to take intervention courses) required course hours needed for graduation;

- Successful completion of at least four of the courses in the Transactional Law area of concentration;
- Earn a minimum 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the courses in the area of concentration; and
- With respect to the general clinic course requirement of a student at SULC, a student seeking the Transactional Law Certificate would be required to take the Technology and Entrepreneurial Clinic I course.

Transactional Law Courses

- Securities Regulation
- Corporate Finance
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Special Problems in Commercial Law
- Special Problems in Business Law
- Real Estate Transactions I

Intellectual Property Law Certificate

- Successful completion of the 82 (or more – if student is required to take intervention courses) required course hours needed for graduation;
- Successful completion of Technology and Entrepreneurship I, which focuses on fundamental IP rights and provides intensive training on general concepts necessary for work in the IP field;
- Successful completion of Technology and Entrepreneurship II, which emphasizes advanced IP issues, including IP prosecution, advocacy before the USPTO, licensing, and related topics or an externship in a law firm, an in-house department of an organization with a primary focus, or a government agency such as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the U.S. Copyright Office, or other IP-focused units;
- Successful completion of at least two courses from the Intellectual Property Law area of concentration, which includes these courses:
 - Copyright Law
 - Trademark Law
 - Patent Law
 - Intellectual Property
 - Patent Prosecution
 - Law & Technology; and
- Earn a minimum 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the courses in the area of concentration.

Civil Rights, Human Rights, and Social Justice Certificate

To obtain the certificate, a student must:

- Apply by submitting a brief statement of interest (not to exceed 1000 words) and a resume to the director of the certificate program;
- Interview with the director of the certificate program if selected for such;
- Submit a timely designation (following notice of acceptance into the certificate program);
- Complete a minimum of four classes from the approved certificate course list;
- Complete a minimum of one semester or one summer session of legal work relative to the certificate at an approved public interest organization, firm or government agency that performs work relative to the certificate OR Complete a combined total of 300 hours of legal work relative to the certificate at an approved public interest organization, firm or government agency that performs work relative to the certificate and do so within three consecutive semesters/sessions OR Complete a civil rights, social justice and/or human rights project approved and supervised by the director of the certificate program.
This requirement can be satisfied through paid or unpaid experiential opportunities. This requirement may also qualify for externship credit.
- Earn a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the certificate courses
- Successfully complete of the 82 (or more – if student is required to take intervention courses) required course hours needed for graduation

Civil Rights, Human Rights, and Social Justice Courses

- Administrative Law
- Administration of Criminal Justice
- African Law
- Capital Punishment Seminar: History, Law and Policy
- Civil Rights
- Civil Rights Litigation
- Comparative Law
- Human Rights
- Employment Discrimination
- Environmental Justice
- Immigration Law
- Law & Minorities
- Injustice & Inequities (formerly Law & Racism)
- Law and Poverty
- Social Legislation
- Urban Legal Problems
- Voting Rights