

3+3 B.A. + J.D.
Accelerated Law Degree Partnership
EIU & Northern Illinois University College of Law

How it works

- Complete your Political Science major and General Education requirements at Eastern in 3 years (90 credits); receive your B.A. from Eastern after successful completion of first year of law school at NIU. Save a year's worth of time and law school tuition; normally, these two degrees take 7 years to complete.

Eligibility Requirements for Admission to NIU Law

- Complete all general education and major requirements at Eastern. Applicants must complete at least three-fourths of the credit hours required to complete their undergraduate degree and must have no more than 30 credit hours remaining to be earned for their undergraduate degree.
- Possess a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.25 or higher as of the time of application.
- Take the LSAT and score at or above the 50th percentile of the previous year's matriculating class at NIU Law.
- Apply for admission to NIU Law by April 30 of their third year of undergraduate study at Eastern.
 - Application requirements include an electronic application form, a personal statement, an LSAT score reported through the Law School Admissions Council's Credit Assembly Service, a transcript, at least one letter of recommendation, and a letter from Eastern stating that the applicant has complied with the general education and major requirements. Applicants are also encouraged, though not required, to submit a résumé.
- Both current Eastern undergraduate students and transfer students to Eastern are eligible to participate in the program.
- Participants in the program will be allowed to matriculate at NIU Law only if, in addition to the above requirements, they are admitted.
- Notify your academic advisor at Eastern as soon as possible, and keep up with them regularly for assistance in tracking your progress
- Students who matriculate at NIU Law as part of this program will pay tuition and fees for each year of study at NIU Law to Northern Illinois University. Merit-based scholarships and financial aid from NIU Law are always available for competitive applicants, including those in the Accelerated Law Degree Program.

Sample 4-Year Study Plan EIU/NIU BA/JD in Political Science

<p>Year 1, Fall (16 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLS 1153 (or 1193G), 3 hrs.² • PLS 1003 or 2703 or 2253/2293G, 3 hrs. • ENG 1001/1091G, 3 hrs. • CMN 1310/1390G, 3 hrs. • Foreign Language, 4 hrs.³ 	<p>Year 1, Spring (14 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLS 2253G (or 2293G) or PLS 2103, 3 hrs.² • ENG 1002/1092G, 3 hrs. • General Ed. BIO or Physical Science, 3 hrs. • Foreign Language, 4 hrs.³ • PLS 2513/Moot Court, 1 hr.⁴
<p>Year 2, Fall (16 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLS 2033, 3 hrs. • PLS 1003 or 2703 or 2253G/2293G, 3 hrs. • PHI 1900G, 3 hrs.² • General Ed. BIO or Physical Sci. with Lab, 4 hrs. • General Ed. Fine Arts, 3 hrs. 	<p>Year 2, Spring (15 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLS Field Req't./American/Policy/PA, 3 hrs. • PLS Field Elective #1, 3 hrs. • General Ed. Humanities or Fine Arts, 3 hrs. • General Ed. Math, 3 hrs. • General Ed. Social/Behavioral Sci./Non-PLS, 3 hrs.
<p>Year 3, Fall (15 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLS Field Req't./Public Law/Political Theory, 3 hrs. • PLS 4600/Capstone, 3 hrs. • PLS Field Elective #2, 3 hrs. • Elective, 3 hrs. • General Ed. Social/Behavioral Sci., 3 hrs.² 	<p>Year 3, Spring (15 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLS Field Req't./Comparative/IR, 3 hrs. • PLS Field Elective #3, 3 hrs. • PLS Applied Learning Requirement, 3 hrs. • Elective, 3 hrs. • Elective, 3 hrs.
<p>Year 4, Fall @ NIU (16 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts I, 3 hrs. • Civil Procedure I, 3 hrs. • Torts, 4 hrs. • Criminal Law, 3 hrs. • Legal Methods, 2 hrs. • Basic Legal Research I, 1 hr. • Intro. to the Legal Profession I, 0 hrs. 	<p>Year 4, Spring @NIU (17 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Writing & Advocacy I, 2 hrs. • Basic Legal Research II, 2 hrs. • Contracts II, 3 hrs. • Civil Procedure II, 3 hrs. • Property, 4 hrs. • Constitutional Law I, 2 hrs. • Introduction to the Legal Profession II, 1 hr.

Students need 38 hours in residence at EIU; this waiver of the 42 hour requirement accommodates transfer students. The 12 hour senior residency requirement and senior seminar are waived.

¹ PHI 1900G counts for a Humanities General Education requirement.

² PLS 1153G and 2253G count for the Social Behavioral Science General Education requirements. All majors must take PLS 1153G. If you take PLS 2253G as well, you can substitute an elective for this requirement.

³ Students who completed the foreign language requirement in high school have room for more electives.

⁴ There are many paths to completing the applied learning requirement—talk to your academic advisor.