



**PRE-LAW**  
**RECOMMENDED**  
COGNATES

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
TOPPEL CAREER CENTER

# Recommended Law-Related Cognates

A cognate is a group of at least three courses, for at least nine credit hours, that share a theme or focus determined by the faculty. Below is a list of cognates that will provide an overview of the law discipline. The [Cognate Search Engine](#) can help you shape a program of learning that is broad, coherent, exciting, substantive, and uniquely your own.

## Political Science: Courts and Laws in the United States

How do we govern ourselves? This cognate examines how American society makes and enforces the law, with particular emphasis on electoral law and the laws that govern the those who govern us. For more details [click here](#).

## Pre-Law: Social Foundations of the Legal System

This cognate provides students in the pre-law track and others interested in the legal system with an understanding of the social foundations and context of the legal system. For more details [click here](#).

## Law and ethics in news, public relations, advertising, and related media

This cognate examines the development of the U.S system of freedom of expression and the impact of law, professional practice and ethics across media, especially the news, entertainment, advertising and public relations functions. For more details [click here](#).

## Political Economy

The interplay between economics, law, and politics, and how institutions develop in different social and economic systems, such as capitalism, socialism, and communism. For more details [click here](#).

## Critical Thinking and Writing Skills Paper Writing

Critical thinking and writing are required in academic departments, the law, government, and other fields. There will be discussion of analytic techniques and close mentoring of paper writing using critical thinking and writing skills. For more details [click here](#).

# Recommended Law-Related Cognates

## Legal topics in Classics

The ancient Greco-Roman world from the perspective of the law. Each course focuses on the legal practices - which were in these cultures intertwined with religion, politics, and literature - of the people of ancient Greece and Rome. For more details [click here](#).

## Criminology

A comprehensive survey of the problems of crime and the criminal justice system. Criminology is the study of the making, breaking, and enforcement of criminal laws. This coursework also includes a comprehensive treatment of the criminal justice system. The cognate stresses both theory and research; encourages scientific inquiry, abstract logical thinking, critical analysis, and historical consciousness. For more details [click here](#).

## Political Science: Elections and Voting in the United States

How do we choose our leaders? Students will gain an understanding of how elections are conducted in the United States. Particular attention will be paid to the laws governing elections, voter turnout, and how public opinion influences elections and the actions of officials once they are in office. For more details [click here](#).

## Public Administration

An introduction to the theory and practice of public administration. For more details [click here](#).

## Introduction to Literature

The portrayal of human life as we experience it, in all its immediacy, is the goal of literature. This cognate will introduce you to ways of seeing and understanding how literature achieves this goal. The cognate will build upon your earlier encounters with literary works from childhood on, but by using a college-level approach it will in fact become a fresh and expansive introduction to literature. The cognate will also help you sharpen the analytic and writing skills you will need in your professional life. For more details [click here](#).

## The International Relations Subfield of Political Science

International Relations from the disciplinary perspective of Political Science. It includes an introductory overview to the study of international relations and then students may explore any two upper division political science courses of their choice that focus on international relations. For more details [click here](#).