

Lawyer: 6 years
Attorney: 4 ½ years
Bachelor of Law: 4 years

Objectives

The main objective of this course of studies is that graduates:

(1) understand their political, legal, social and ethical responsibilities concerning their performance as operators that should make it possible for citizens to access justice, as a way of solving conflicts of a democratic state, whether they work as client representatives, judges or civil servants in court, as civil servants in public administration, as mediators, negotiators, conflict arbiters, consultants in governmental or non-governmental organisms, companies or unions, as teachers or researchers.

(2) obtain a theoretical and philosophical background that fosters:

-the understanding of the theory, philosophy and the various areas of law and its institutions.

-the techniques of legal analysis, conflict solving and negotiation, and of oral and written communication, as well as other fundamental skills which are necessary to work efficiently in the legal profession.

- the critical understanding and analysis of the basic principles of public and private law .

- the acquisition of knowledge and skills inherent to social sciences, as an integrative framework in the training for the practice of various activities involved in the profession.

(3) understand law as a profession that implies:

- duties concerning the translation of collective or individual social or demands into legal complaints

- the inclusion of people who do not have access to the legal system through the practice of legal services for free, be it through informing, promoting or defending their rights.

(4) promote the generation and communication of knowledge socially significant in the disciplinary and interdisciplinary area, and foster the constant training for the understanding of future scientific advances, in an environment of freedom, justice and equal opportunities among all inhabitants.

Contents

The plan is organized around three cycles: The Common Basic Cycle (Ciclo Básico Común) that has subjects which promote the general training of students as well as their induction to the disciplinary area of the course of studies; the Common Professional Cycle (Ciclo Profesional Común) which is made up of 14 subjects and the Oriented Professional Cycle (Ciclo profesional Orientado) which offers 7 orientations organized around 5 compulsory subjects for all orientations and courses that vary according to a score system.

The Common professional Cycle includes “basic” subjects that provide certain principles and basic concepts for each area and allow the discussion of their application to certain problems as a way of exemplifying and training to be analysed in depth in the following cycle (OPC). In this cycle students acquire conceptual knowledge that allow them to establish a systematic and coherent background of information and, at the same time, develop abilities, skills and competences that involve the procedures to be used in connection to legal material. The training is not only about preparing graduates but also about considering the social responsibility that practising law implies.

The Oriented Professional Cycle trains students for professional practice. For each orientation, there are core and derivate courses that include dealing with rights of new generations and the changing realities in social and economic matters.

Students need to pass three levels of reading comprehension of legal texts in a foreign language.

Also, students are involved in practice training through an extra curricular system which includes internships and trial simulations.

The three cycles are successive. Once the Common Professional Cycle is approved, students obtain a degree in “Bachelor of Law”. By taking 3 more subjects and two term courses determined by the plan of studies, they graduate as Attorneys. At the end of the Oriented Professional Cycle, the degree of Lawyer is given to graduates.

Job Opportunities

The “bachelor of law” is an intermediate degree that allows carrying out activities connected to those done by customs officers, auctioneers, and consortium administrators, among others. Graduates are in a condition of contributing, through their basic and systematic legal knowledge, to the improvement of the work quality of the activities mentioned before.

Attorneys can represent defendants and plaintiffs in Court and carry out all the necessary procedures that a legal proxy is allowed to be in charge of.

Lawyers are in charge of trials, establish criteria for the interpretation of the current legislation and produce legal material of different nature that contributes to their development. This profession can be practised in private sectors (as prosecutor, counsellor, mediator); public sectors (in centralized and decentralized public administration: as legal representative, as counsellor in the legislature and the judiciary, as a judge, as a clerk in court; in universities: as university teacher or scientific researcher; in the Public Ministry: as District Attorney, Defence Lawyer, Attorney General, Counsellor) ; in the public International area as councillor, legal representative in organizations such as UN, among others; and in non-governmental organizations.