In addition to the option of pursuing a joint degree and/or participating in one of over 20 cross-disciplinary student groups, Penn Law students can earn a certificate of study in one of several disciplines as part of their three-year JD degree. Typically, these programs require three or four courses in the granting department and one or two courses from a relevant topic area at the Law School. There are no admissions requirements; all students who successfully complete the requirements are granted the certificate.

We believe that the next generation of lawyers will be those who are not just superbly trained in law, but also have training in related fields – such as business, communications, health, technology, international studies, social work, education - that complement and contribute to their legal expertise.

Penn Law allows students to take up to four (4) pre-approved classes (12 credits) at an sister school at Penn. Many students use this arrangement to complete or nearly complete a certificate while they matriculate.

*While Penn Law subsidizes the cost of the certificate with significant payments to sister schools for up to four outside courses, the certificate candidate is responsible for an administrative fee that is set annually with tuition.
“A good cross-disciplinary education distinguishes a graduate of Penn Law School in the job market. It makes you different from graduates of other law schools. It gives you an unique appeal because of the breath of the educational experience; because of the exposure you’ve had to fields beyond law that are going to make you better at serving clients.”

— Jim Sandman L’76
President, Legal Services Corporation

JD Certificates of Study are offered with the following schools/programs at the University of Pennsylvania:

The Wharton School
Certificate in Management
Certificate in Business Economics and Public Policy

Annenberg School for Communication
Certificate of Study in Communication and Media Policy

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Certificate in Engineering Entrepreneurship

School of Social Policy & Practice
Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership

Center for Neuroscience and Society
SCAN Neuroscience Certificate

PennDesign – Kleinman School of Energy Policy
Certificate in Energy Management and Policy

Institute for Environmental Studies
Certificate of Study in Environmental Policy
Certificate of Study in Environmental Science

Women’s Studies Program at the School of Arts & Sciences
Graduate Certificate in Gender & Sexuality Studies

Fels Institute of Government
Certificate in Nonprofit Administration
Certificate in Politics
Certificate in Public Finance
Certificate in Economic Development & Growth (new for 2017-18)

International Studies at the School of Arts & Sciences
Graduate Certificate in Global Human Rights
Certificate of Study in Middle East and Islamic Studies
Certificate of Study in East Asian Studies
Certificate of Study in Latin American and Latino Studies

For more information on certificates or other cross-disciplinary opportunities, please contact Amanda S. Aronoff, Director of Cross-Disciplinary Programs and Academic Options at aramanda@law.upenn.edu.