

Intellectual Property, Privacy, and Technology Law Course Selection Guide

Welcome to the Program on Intellectual Property, Privacy, and Technology Law at Boston University School of Law. The Program covers a broad range of topics including industries from artificial intelligence to pharmaceuticals, specific areas of law like patents, copyright, trademark, privacy, venture capital, cybersecurity, and entertainment, as well as more general areas of law like compliance, contracts, litigation, and legislation. BU offers dozens of classes across these areas, and there is no one right curricular path. We offer this guide to help students think about how to select and organize their class choices.

This guide begins with (i) overview classes that survey the field, followed by (ii) experiential offerings, and (iii) curricular offerings that provide a deeper focus on narrower areas of law.

Students who complete a series of classes are eligible for the [Intellectual Property & Information Law Concentration](#) and related concentrations in [Health Law](#), [Risk Management & Compliance](#), or [Transactional Practice](#).

In addition to the courses below, students interested in IP, privacy, and technology law should also consider participating in the [Journal of Science & Technology](#) or [American Journal of Law & Medicine](#). Students may also be interested in student-run organizations including the [Intellectual Property Law Society](#), the [Communication, Entertainment, and Sports Law Association](#), or [Lawyers in Technology](#). LLM students can enroll in the [Intellectual Property & Information Law LLM](#) or a concentration and take courses specifically for LLM students.

Students can also reach out to faculty in this area: Chris Conley, Stacey Dogan, Vivan Etter, Janet Freilich, Woodrow Hartzog, Keith Hylton, Ari Lipsitz, Michael Meurer, Kevin Outterson, Tom Patten, Andrew Sellars, Jessica Silbey, and Victoria Tang.

The [BU Course Descriptions](#) website has more information about the below courses, as well as restrictions/prerequisites for the courses. We recommend that students consider an introductory, overview course first. These classes provide a survey of the field and help students refine their interests and guide future course selection. Students planning a career in IP, privacy, and technology law or who want to take a series of courses in the field should aim to take an overview course in the fall of their 2L year. These overview classes are also valuable for students in either their 2L or 3L years who have specific career goals in a narrower field but want to get a broader sense of adjacent areas of law as well as for students who will practice in areas that involve some elements of IP, privacy, and technology law and want an orientation to the field.

We also recommend that students take advantage of the opportunity for experiential learning at the [BU/MIT Student Innovations Law Clinic](#), the first clinic of its kind designed to represent students enrolled at MIT and BU. Over the year-long clinic, law students engage in

legal representation on a variety of issues across three practice groups (Intellectual Property and Media; Privacy, Security, and Health; Venture and Finance) and supplement their fieldwork with a two-credit seminar each semester.

(i) Overview classes. BU offers two overview classes in the Program:

Information Privacy Law: The collection, use, storage, and sharing of personal data has become increasingly important throughout society, from commerce to government and from health care to finance. For good reason, we call this the Information Age. Recall the countless high- profile privacy and data security controversies you have heard about in the last year: location tracking; inaccurate credit reports causing lost jobs; data breaches, hacking and identity theft; and government surveillance. Law has responded with a dizzying array of new rules -- and a rapidly growing area of professional specialization for attorneys. This course serves as an introduction to the emerging law of data privacy. By the end, you will be well grounded in many challenges facing any enterprise, public or private, that collects, processes, uses, and stores personal information.

Intellectual Property Law: In our modern information economy, the law of intellectual property has taken on enormous importance to both creators and users. This course introduces students to the principles of trade secret, patent, copyright, and trademark law, and explores the ways in which those principles are shifting and adapting in response to new technology. The course is open to all upper level students, without prerequisite. No scientific or technical background is required.

(ii) Experiential courses. We recommend that students take advantage of the opportunity for experiential learning through the Program.

[BU / MIT Student Innovations Law Clinic.](#)

[Corporate Counsel Externship.](#)

(iii) Advanced JD courses. Students can also take a wide variety of advanced courses. Note that the overview courses listed above are not prerequisites for most of these classes. Students who already know that they want to focus in a specific area often take both the overview class and an advanced class in the first semester of their 2L year; other students who want specialized instruction in an area take only the advanced course without the overview course. Not all classes are offered each year.

Privacy/Information Security:

- (1) Advanced Privacy Law
- (2) Digital Civil Liberties
- (3) Privacy, Security, and Technology
- (4) Cybersecurity
- (5) Law and Regulation of Online Platforms

Intellectual Property:

- (1) Economics of Intellectual Property
- (2) Intellectual Property and the Life Sciences
- (3) Intellectual Property Workshop
- (4) Patent Law
- (5) Patent Trial Advocacy
- (6) Copyright
- (7) Trademark and Unfair Competition
- (8) Intellectual Property Law Research

Other Related Classes:

- (1) Artificial Intelligence Law
- (2) Digital Evidence: Use in Law Enforcement
- (3) Digital Money & Property
- (4) Entertainment Law
- (5) First Amendment
- (6) Food, Drug & Cosmetic Law
- (7) Information Risk Management
- (8) Innovation, Technology & Law
- (9) International Trade Regulation
- (10) Law & Algorithms
- (11) Law & Economics Workshop
- (12) Law & Sports
- (13) Life Sciences General Counsel
- (14) Transactional Simulation: Forming & Financing a Start Up
- (15) Transactional Simulation: Pharma/Biotech Collaboration for Drug Development
- (16) Compliance and Risk Management in Global Commerce
- (17) Trade Secrets and Restrictive Covenants

Updated January 2025