



Office of the Provost and  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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**TO:** Richard Koubek, President

**FROM:** Andrew Storer, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**DATE:** November 18, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Senate Proposal 22-25

Attached is an amended version of Senate proposal 22-25, "Minor in Public Policy & Law," which address the modifications suggested by the administration in their memo dated June 13, 2025. I have reviewed this amended proposal and recommend approving the amended proposal.

I concur   X   do not concur            with the provost's recommendation as stated in this memo.

Richard Koubek, President

11/19/25

Date



DATE: November 13, 2025  
TO: Richard Koubek, President  
FROM: Robert Hutchinson, University Senate President  
SUBJECT: Proposal 22-25  
COPIES: Andrew Storer, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

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At its meeting on April 3, 2025, the University Senate approved Proposal 22-25, "Minor in Public Policy & Law." The proposal has been amended based on the administrative response dated June 13, 2025. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

# The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

## Proposal 22-25

### “Minor in Public Policy & Law”

#### Basic Program Information

**Primary Contact:** Don Lafreniere, Department of Social Sciences

**Program/Degree type:** Minor

**Program Title:** Minor in Public Policy and Law

**Planned Implementation Date:** Fall 2025

**Program location/modality:** on-campus

**Target student population:** current students

**Restrictions:** Not open to students enrolled in BS Social Sciences- Policy & Law Concentration, BS Policy and Community Development

#### General description and characteristics of the program

The Department of Social Sciences is proposing a new minor program in Public Policy and Law for use in the Essential Education program. This minor is designed to introduce students to the laws and public policy processes that govern the world in which we live. This minor is 18-19 credits, is designed to meet the requirements of the Essential Education program, and is being submitted with approval from the Essential Ed Implementation Team.

This new minor will be administered by the Department of Social Sciences and advising support may be provided by advising staff in the department as needed. Future changes to the minor requirements will be reviewed and approved by the Essential Education Steering Committee.

#### Rationale

This minor theme was selected as a priority area by campus working groups and aligns with Michigan Tech’s current initiatives. This minor will provide students with an introduction to the fields of law and policy which are often sought out by students as cognate skills to accompany their major field of study. Many MTU students, across all disciplines, pursue legal post-baccalaureate studies (ie- Law School). Further, most students across engineering, natural and social sciences must work within legal and policy frameworks related to the environment, human resources, energy, and in general business.

## Related programs: within MTU and at other institutions

Related programs at Michigan Tech include a concentration in the Social Sciences titled “Policy Law and Society” and a new major in “Policy and Community Development”. In addition MTU students can currently complete a minor in “Law and Society”. MTU Department of Social Science also hosts an Environmental and Energy Policy MS and PhD program which is focussed on these issues in the environmental/energy sphere.

Many other top Universities have related majors and minors with similar names to the proposed program. For example, in Michigan MSU hosts a [Law, Justice and Public Policy](#) minor, University of Michigan hosts a [Law Justice and Social Change Minor](#), CMU, GVSU, and Ferris State all have a “Legal Studies” minor which is called a “Law Minor” at Wayne State.

## Projected Enrollment

Essential Education minors are projected to enroll at least 50 students once the new Essential Education curriculum is fully in place. As a new minor proposal, enrollment in the Law and Public Policy EE minor is uncertain, but the curriculum is designed to support at least 50 students per year. Within the minor, each course list includes multiple options to ensure that students have choices within each category and to ensure capacity is available across courses and sections. Many courses included in the Law and Public Policy EE minor are currently included in the General Education program as HASS courses. As the campus transitions from General Education to Essential Education, these courses and the proposed minor will continue to serve students across campus and likely attract new students based on anticipated demand for EE minors.

## Specialized Accreditation Requirements

None required.

## Professional Licensure Requirements

None required.

## Curriculum Details

### Learning Goals

Aligned Essential Ed Goals (Optional)	Program Learning Outcomes
<b>Contribute/Transform And Adapt</b>	Students will apply knowledge of political, legal, and economic institutions to address the development of effective action strategies in pursuit of a just, secure, and sustainable society.

Aligned Essential Ed Goals (Optional)	Program Learning Outcomes
<b>Communicate</b>	Students are able to communicate effectively in writing, orally and in new media to a wide variety of audiences

## Assessment Plan

This minor will be assessed through the ePortfolio submissions. Students will be specifically asked to reflect on the learning goal(s) for the minor.

## Curriculum Design

**Total Credits:** 18-19

Course	Credits	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
<b>1. Communicating for Law and Policy [Communication Intensive]: 3 cr</b>			
<i>HU2810 Research Writing in Communications</i>	3	Spring Odd	UN 1015(C)
<i>HU2830 Public Speaking &amp; Media</i>	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	None
<i>HU3120 Technical and Professional Communications</i>	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>HU3130 Rhetoric of Science and Technology</i>	3	Fall	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>HU3693 Science Writing</i>	3	Spring even	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>HU3694 Grant Writing</i>	3	Fall even	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)

Course	Credits	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
<i>HU3825 Environmental Communication</i>	3	Fall	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)e
<i>HU3832 Advanced Digital Presentation</i>	3	On Demand	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>HU3845 Human-Machine Communication</i>	3	Fall	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>HU4625 Risk Communication</i>	3	On Demand	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<b>2. Justice and Law and Policy [Intercultural Competency]: 3 cr</b>			
<i>SS3612 International Relations</i>	3	Spring, even	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>SS3640 Selected Topics in Cyber-Law</i>	3	Spring, odd	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>SS3660 Constitutional Law</i>	3	Fall, odd	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>SS3661 Civil Rights &amp; Civil Liberties</i>	3	Spring, even	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>SS3665 Crime, Incarceration, and Policy</i>	3	Fall, even	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>SS3750 Social Inequality</i>	3	Fall, odd	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>SS3805 Environmental Justice</i>	3	Spring, odd	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>SS3811 Energy Security and Justice</i>	3	Fall, odd	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)

Course	Credits	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
<b>3. Law and Policy Core 1 [SHAPE Courses]: 3 cr -</b>			
<i>SS2610 Intro to Law &amp; Society</i>	3	Fall	None
<i>SS2600 American Government &amp; Politics</i>	3	Fall, Spring	None
<i>SS2620 Introduction to Public Policy</i>	3	Fall	None
<i>SS2625 Intro to American Foreign Policy</i>	3	Spring	None
<i>SS2635 Comparative Politics</i>	3	Variable	None
<b>4. Law and Policy Core 2 [SHAPE Courses]: 3 cr -</b>			
<i>BUS2200 Business Law</i>	3	Fall, Spring	None
<i>EC3002 Microeconomic Theory</i>	3	Spring	EC 2001 and (MA 1135 or MA 1160 or MA 1161 or MA 1121) and UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>EC3003 Macroeconomic Theory</i>	3	Fall	EC 2001 and (MA 1135 or MA 1160 or MA 1121 or MA 1161) and UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>EC3100 International Economics</i>	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	EC 2001 and UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>EC3300 Industrial Organization</i>	3	Fall	EC 2001 and UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>EC3400 Economic Decision Analysis</i>	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	
<i>EC4050 Game Theory/Strategic Behavior</i>	3	Spring	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)

Course	Credits	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
<b>5. Law and Policy in Depth [Unrestricted Courses]: 3 cr -</b>			
<i>CS3000 Ethical and Social Aspects of Computing</i>	3	Fall, Spring	CS 3141
<i>CS4001 National Cybersecurity Policy and Law</i>	3	Fall	Senior Status
<i>FW 3110 Natural Resource Policy</i>	3	Spring and Summer	None
<i>KIP4610 Legal Issues in Sports and Fitness Management</i>	3	Fall even	None
<i>SS3625 Policy Analysis</i>	3	Spring	SS 2620(C) and SS 2001(C) and (PSY 2720(C) or MA 2720(C) or SS 2720(C)
<i>SS3800 Energy Policy and Technology</i>	3	Spring, summer	None
<i>Or any course listed in one of the bins above except Communicating for Law and Policy (lists 2-4)</i>	3		Variable
<b>6. Experiences in Law &amp; Policy</b>			
<b>6A. Essential Ed Experience: 3 cr</b>			
<i>SS3090 UPERSS (EE Experience)</i>	3	On demand	Instructor Permission
<i>SS4700 Communities and Research (EE Experience)</i>	3	Fall	Not Freshman or Sophomore
<i>SS4915 Social Action (EE Experience)</i>	3	Spring, even	Not Freshman
<i>SS4922 Washington Experience (EE Experience)</i>	3	On demand	Department Permission
<b>OR 6B</b>			
<b>Portfolio Submission (1 cr) <u>AND</u> Upper Division SHAPE Courses (3 cr)</b>			



Course	Credits	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
UN 3023- Advanced Portfolio for Essential Ed	1	all	No Freshmen
<b>AND choose 1 below</b>			
<i>SS3621 Non-Profit Management</i>	3	On demand	None
<i>SS3630 Environmental Policy and Politics</i>	3	Spring	None
<i>SS3650/MGT3650 Intellectual Property Management</i>	3	Spring, even	None
<i>SS4040 Civic Communications</i>	3	Spring, summer	SS2001
<i>EC 3400 Economic Decision Analysis</i>	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>EC4710 Labor/Human Resource Economics</i>	3	Spring, Even Years	EC 2001 and UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>EC4620 Energy Economics</i>	3	On Demand	EC 2001 and UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>EC4640 Natural Resource Economics</i>	3	Fall	EC2001 or EC 3002 or FW 4080 and UN 1015 and (UN 1025 or Modern Language - 3000 level or higher)
<i>EC4650 Market Failure and the Environment</i>	3	Spring, odd	EC2001 or EC3002

## New Course Descriptions

No new courses are required to launch this minor.

## Model Schedule

The model schedule below shows an idealized sequence where the minor courses are completed in years 2 and 3, which is a recommended practice.

Semester	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Fall		HU 3120 (Tech & Prof Comm) Comm. Int.]	HU 3710 (Eng Ethics), SS 3750 (Social Inequality) or SS 3665 (Crime), Intercultural Comp.]	
		SS 2610 (Law & Society) or Ss 2620 (Intro to Public Policy) t SHAPE]	SS 2625 Intro to Foreign Policy or SS 4700 Communities and Research SHAPE]	
Spring		EC 2001 Principles of Econ or EC 2200 Business Law or SS 3661 Civil Rights & Liberties  unrestricted minor course]	SS 4040 Civic Communications or SS 3630 Env. Policy & Politics or SS 3635 Policy Analysis or SS 3612 (Intl Relations) [ E3 / Upper-level SHAPE]	
Totals		9 credits	9 credits	

## Faculty Qualifications

Courses will be taught by faculty determined to be qualified by their respective home units. Faculty qualifications will be available upon request.

## Library and other learning resources needed

No new library resources are needed to support this minor.

## Suitability of existing space, facilities, and equipment

Current spaces and facilities are sufficient.

## Program Costs

No additional costs are anticipated to start this minor. Depending on enrollment, additional teaching and advising capacity may be needed.