Aboriginal Law Program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law
The Aboriginal Law Program at the Faculty of Law offers Aboriginal students a world class law degree in a supportive environment.

The University of Toronto Faculty of Law is a vibrant, intellectual community of extraordinarily talented faculty members and academically gifted students. Established in 1887, the Faculty of Law is a vital Canadian academic institution and one of the world’s finest law schools.

The Faculty of Law has a strong tradition of working to enhance the Aboriginal voice in our community and within the legal profession more broadly. We proactively recruit Aboriginal students for both our JD and graduate programs, provide specialized support to Aboriginal students, offer innovative courses in Aboriginal law, and host outreach and recruitment events specifically aimed at Aboriginal students. The Faculty has one of the highest graduation rates for students of Aboriginal heritage in the country. Our Aboriginal students have gone on to leading positions at the bar, in the public service, and in the judiciary.

The Aboriginal Law Program at the Faculty of Law offers a wide variety of classroom and experiential learning opportunities to students who are interested in Aboriginal issues.
A Rich Academic Experience

Take upper-year Aboriginal law courses with expert practitioners.

Join the student-run Indigenous Law Journal - the first and only Indigenous legal journal in North America.

Negotiate in the Kawaskimhon Aboriginal Moot on Aboriginal legal issues with law students across Canada.

Work full time in the summer with a June Callwood Fellowship or the Walter and Mary Tuohy Internship in Aboriginal Governance.

Earn a JD/Certificate in Aboriginal Legal Studies and learn about the intersections between law and Aboriginal history, politics, and thought.

Observe Gladue Court and major appellate court proceedings dealing with Aboriginal legal issues for credit with the Aboriginal Practicum Program.

Work at Aboriginal Legal Services Toronto for credit with the clinic’s Gladue or Victim Advocacy Programs.

Complete the Osgoode Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources and Governments.

Exceptional Student Support

Students are supported by Aboriginal Faculty Advisor, Professor Douglas Sanderson of the Opaskwayak Cree nation (pictured above, left); Aboriginal Law Program Coordinator, Promise Holmes Skinner, Anishinaabe, from Ontario (pictured above, right); and Elder-in-Residence, Cat Criger (pictured far left on previous page). Professor Sanderson and Promise assist students on academic, personal and professional matters; and Elder Cat is available to provide direct spiritual and cultural support.

Enjoy the Visiting Elder Series, where Elders in Ontario attend at the law school to provide teachings on various topics.

Join the Aboriginal Law Students’ Association, an active, supportive student group that fosters a sense of community, and the Aboriginal Law Club, which promotes awareness of legal, social and political issues as they relate to Aboriginal peoples.

Connect with an Aboriginal alumni Mentor through the Aboriginal Alumni Mentoring Program.

Access the Academic Success Program with one-on-one academic coaching.
How to Apply

Aboriginal applicants can apply to the JD Program through either the general or Aboriginal applicant categories. For a detailed description of our admissions policies, procedures and requirements, visit the JD Admissions page of the Faculty of Law web site at www.law.utoronto.ca

Program of Legal Studies for Native People

The Faculty of Law strongly supports the Program of Legal Studies for Native People (PLSNP) at the University of Saskatchewan’s Native Law Centre (http://www.usask.ca/plsnp/). In appropriate cases, admission may be conditional on successful performance in the PLSNP. Aboriginal applicants who are given a non-conditional offer of admission are also eligible and encouraged to attend the PLSNP.

The PLSNP’s Property law course satisfies the Faculty of Law’s first year Property law requirement; students who have successfully completed the PLSNP will not take Property Law in their first year at the Faculty. The Faculty of Law will reimburse all admitted Aboriginal students who complete the PLSNP accordingly: $2,700.00 PLSNP tuition, and up to $1,000.00 in housing and food costs (original receipts required). Total maximum reimbursement is $3,700.00 per student.