

# Business Law

**Levels:** Grades 10-12  
**Units of Credit:** 0.50  
**CIP Code:** 52-0441  
**Core Code:** 32-02-00-00-130  
**Prerequisite:** None  
**Skill Test:** # 240

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will gain an understanding of the law as it relates to them currently and the implications of the law in their future lives as well as the lives of their family and friends. They will also work to gain an understanding of basic legal vocabulary.

The course will include an understanding of the court system at the local, state, and national level. Students will gain an understanding of contract law, their rights and responsibilities as citizens, utilization of financial transactions, employment and agency relationships, and the understanding of the regulations governing different types of business organizations. As a culminating project students will participate in one or more mock trials.

## CORE STANDARDS, OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS

### STANDARD 1

**Analyze the relationship between ethics and the law.**

**Objective 1:** Discuss a person's responsibility to obey the law.

**Objective 2:** Identify ethical character traits (e.g., honesty, integrity, compassion, justice).

**Objective 3:** Describe the role of values in constructing an ethical code and a legal system.

**Objective 4:** Identify consequences of unethical and illegal conduct.

**Objective 5:** Compare various ethical theories and explain the way social forces may sometimes conflict, such as the golden rule, the greatest good principle, duty based ethics, etc.

### STANDARD 2

**Explain the origin of today's law.**

**Objective 1:** Identify sources of today's law: constitutions (state and federal), common law, statutory law, court decisions, and state administrative law.

**Objective 2:** Discuss the Constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights and additional amendments.

**Objective 3:** Determine how courts make law and explain the role of precedent in the legal system.

### STANDARD 3

**Explain the role and function of the court system on the local, state and national levels.**

**Objective 1:** Explain the structure and function of the federal and state court systems.

**Objective 2:** Identify the types of cases heard in each of the federal and state courts and the differences between original and appellate jurisdiction.

**Objective 3:** Compare and contrast the juvenile and adult court systems.

**Objective 4:** Analyze court decisions relating to current social and legal issues.

#### **STANDARD 4**

##### **Discuss the process of Procedural Law.**

**Objective 1:** Explain the advantages and disadvantages of negotiation, arbitration, mediation, and conciliation.

**Objective 2:** Identify the various people involved in a court trial: judge, attorneys, plaintiff/prosecutor, defendant, jury, paralegals, etc.

**Objective 3:** List and explain the steps in criminal and civil trials.

**Objective 4:** Compare and contrast the steps in a civil law suit with the steps in a criminal prosecution.

**Objective 5:** Define the Statute of Limitations (Repose).

#### **STANDARD 5**

##### **Demonstrate an understanding of Criminal Law.**

**Objective 1:** Differentiate among categories of criminal law: such as felonies, misdemeanors and infractions.

**Objective 2:** Define different types of business crimes, such as forgery, fraud, embezzlement and perjury.

**Objective 3:** Determine defenses to criminal acts, such as insanity defense and self-defense.

**Objective 4:** Describe the penalties available for criminal law.

#### **STANDARD 6**

##### **Demonstrate an understanding of Tort Law.**

**Objective 1:** Differentiate between and give examples of negligence, intentional and strict liability torts.

**Objective 2:** Explain the concepts of the reasonable person test and proximate cause.

**Objective 3:** Identify and explain the elements of negligence torts.

**Objective 4:** Describe the remedies available in tort law.

#### **STANDARD 7**

##### **Demonstrate an understanding of contract law.**

**Objective 1:** Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of the contractual relationship and list the elements required to create a contract (e.g., offer, acceptance, genuine agreement, consideration, capacity and legality).

**Objective 2:** Identify the classifications of contracts: valid, void, voidable, unenforceable, express, implied, bilateral, unilateral, oral and written.

**Objective 3:** Define consideration as it applies to contract law and list examples of valid consideration for both benefit and detriment.

**Objective 4:** Differentiate among the ways that a contract can be disrupted, such as fraud, non-disclosure, misrepresentation, mistake, duress, and undue influence.

**Objective 5:** Define breach of contract and name legal remedies available for resolution.

**Objective 6:** Define the conditions which allow contract rights to be assigned/delegated.

**Objective 7:** Name the ways a contract may be terminated or discharged.

**Objective 8:** Explain a minor's right to avoid a contract or ratify a contract. Identify others who lack contractual capacity.

**Objective 9:** List which contracts should be in writing under the Statute of Frauds.

## **STANDARD 8**

### **Compare and contrast sales and consumer laws.**

**Objective 1:** Describe the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC).

**Objective 2:** Differentiate among goods, services, and real property contracts.

**Objective 3:** Explain when title and risk of loss pass in a sale of goods.

**Objective 4:** Explain the two types of warranties for sale of goods: expressed and implied.

**Objective 5:** Identify various Administrative Agencies which regulate consumer credit.

**Objective 6:** List and explain consumer protection laws.

**Objective 7:** Define common, unfair and deceptive practices such as: bait and switch, usury, identity theft, unlawful door-to-door sales, deceptive service estimates, fraudulent misrepresentations, etc.

**Objective 8:** Describe current laws regarding electronic transactions affecting consumers such as: the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA), the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, etc.

## **STANDARD 9**

### **Analyze the role and importance of agency law and employment law as they relate to the conduct of business.**

**Objective 1:** Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of an agency relationship and list the ways agency relationships may be created.

**Objective 2:** Explain duties agents and principals owe each other as well as liabilities to third parties.

**Objective 3:** List and explain the methods by which an agency can be terminated by acts of the parties and by operation of law.

**Objective 4:** Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of the employer-employee relationship, including independent contractors.

**Objective 5:** Explain the difference between justified and unjustified discrimination.

**Objective 6:** Demonstrate an understanding of employee rights (e.g., employment interview, testing, laws affecting minors and collective bargaining).

**Objective 7:** Identify legislation that regulates employment rights, conditions and worker benefits (e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act, Occupational Safety and Health Act, Fair Labor Standards Acts, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and unemployment insurance).

**STANDARD 10****Describe the major types of business organizations.**

**Objective 1:** Identify and discuss the characteristics of business organizations: sole proprietorship, partnership, limited partnership, corporation (profit and non-profit), franchise and limited liability company.

**Objective 2:** Discuss privately and publicly held corporations and the role they play in the stock market.

**Objective 3:** Describe the various aspects of bankruptcy (e.g., Chapter 7—Liquidation, Chapter 11—Reorganization, and Chapter 13—Reorganization of Debts).

**STANDARD 11****Explain how advances in computer technology impact such areas as contract law, tort and criminal law.**

**Objective 1:** Demonstrate an understanding of computer law such as: computer hacking, software piracy, source code, software license, copyright law, Internet and e-mail.