Street Law in Community Colleges

Street Law, Inc.’s community college course is an innovative law-based civic learning program for community colleges. It prepares students for democratic practice and develops the skills necessary for workforce and civic success through a unique combination of classroom and community-based learning.

This community college program is ideal for faculty interested in legal issues, innovative teaching methods, and integrating community learning. It fits well into criminal justice, sociology, legal studies/paralegal training, business, and political science programs.

During the 2011–2012 academic year, seven community colleges across the country piloted the program. In the upcoming year, Street Law is partnering with the Law School Admission Council’s (LSAC) DiscoverLaw.org to enhance the curriculum and guide students to consider a career in law.

Street Law, Inc. has developed teaching materials, Faculty Development Seminars, and a growing network of partners to help bring this program to community colleges across the country.

Teaching Materials

Street Law: Understanding Law and Legal Issues is an informative law-based, civic learning text for use in the community college program. The text promotes civic involvement by providing practical information about areas of the law that affect the daily lives of all U.S. residents and activities that develop analytic and advocacy skills.

The text introduces students to fundamental civil, criminal, and constitutional law principles, and provides a platform for guided discussion of important public policy issues concerning crime, discrimination, health care, and immigration.


McGraw-Hill Education offers the option of a customized text which includes only the chapters selected by the instructor.

For more information on the text, please visit: www.streetlaw.org/communitycollege.

For more information on how to start a Street Law in Community Colleges program on your campus. contact Xinia Bermudez (xbermudez@streetlaw.org or call 240-821-1318).
Faculty Development Seminars
Street Law staff conducts seminars for professors interested in starting a Street Law course at their community colleges. The seminars expose participants to the program elements, curricular materials, and recommended teaching strategies. Participants develop an understanding of course outcomes and how the course aligns with individual community college priorities.

Seminar participants get exclusive access to additional program resources, student recruitment materials, and an online network connecting Street Law-trained faculty.

*Faculty Development Seminars are scheduled for fall 2012 in Chicago and San Francisco.*

Help Starting a Program
Street Law offers practical assistance to community college professors who wish to start a Street Law program. Assistance includes course syllabi, proposals for academic credit, and linkage to community resources. In addition, we’ll introduce LSAC’s DiscoverLaw.org resources, including collaboration with local law school admission personnel in outreach activities for community college students.

Partners
- Street Law’s work with community colleges in the Chicago area and the San Francisco Bay Area is supported by grants from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, respectively. (mccormickfoundation.org | sdbjrfoundation.org)
- Street Law partners nationally with The Democracy Commitment to bring high-quality civic learning programs to community colleges. (thedemocracycommitment.org)
- Street Law Inc. and the Law School Admission Council’s DiscoverLaw.org have partnered nationally to provide enhancements to the program and introduce community college students to the pathway to a career in law. (DiscoverLaw.org)

About Street Law, Inc.
Street Law, Inc. is a 40-year-old nonprofit organization that creates classroom and community programs that teach people about law, democracy, and human rights worldwide. Street Law’s accessible, interactive programs empower students and communities to become active, legally-astute contributors to society. These programs are practical, relevant, and participatory—combining legal content with innovative teaching strategies that engage young people in the learning process. As a result, Street Law participants benefit from “real life” lessons and insights, which they can use to effect positive change in their lives. (www.streetlaw.org)