



სულხან-საბა ორბელიანის უნივერსიტეტი

Doctoral Educational Program

Program Title	Law
Program Director	Professor Dimitry Gegenava
Language of Instruction	Georgian
Qualification Awarded	Doctor Juris/Doctor of Law (Ph.D.)
Program Volume in ECTS Credits	60 ECTS
Approval Date & Protocol	26.04.2021 №05-21
Update date & Protocol	24.06.2026 №05-26

Program Objectives

The objectives of the Doctoral Program in Law are to:

- (A) Conduct in-depth scientific analysis of topical issues of legal practice and legal theory, carry out outcomes-oriented research, and create new knowledge;
- (B) Prepare researchers and academic staff oriented towards the dynamic challenges of law;
- (C) Contribute to the development of Georgian and comparative law and jurisprudence through the production of high-quality scientific works.

Learning Outcomes

The graduate:

- (A) Identifies topical issues in contemporary law and jurisprudence, the need for their research, appropriate research methods, and anticipated outcomes;
- (B) researches problematic legal issues and develops original, complex, and in-depth conclusions;
- (C) plans and delivers lectures and seminars using modern and up-to-date teaching methods;
- (D) participates in scientific-research and academic discussions in law and law-related interdisciplinary fields;
- (E) creates and publishes high-level qualification and academic works based on comparative legal methodology and the analysis of primary and secondary sources of law;

- (F) with an understanding of and adherence to academic integrity, assumes responsibility for the research conducted and academic works produced personally and under own supervision, and contributes to the development of Georgian and comparative law and jurisprudence.

Admission Requirements

The prerequisite for admission to the Program is a Master of Law / Research Master in Law degree (obtained as a result of the successful completion of a Master's Program in Law with a volume of at least 120 ECTS credits) or an academic degree recognized under the legislation of Georgia as equivalent to a Master of Law degree.

Admission to the Doctoral Program requires an interview with the field-specific commission and proficiency in English at a level not lower than B2, or proficiency in one of the Western European languages (German or French) at a level not lower than B2 and proficiency in English at a level not lower than B1. Other prerequisites for admission to the Doctoral Program, as well as the assessment criteria applied by the field-specific commission to applicants seeking enrolment in the Doctoral Program, are determined by the "Regulation on Doctoral Studies of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University" approved by the Rector of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University (hereinafter - the Regulation on Doctoral Studies).

Enrolment in the Doctoral Educational Program in Law through mobility is possible twice a year, within the time limits and in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia. An applicant seeking mobility must meet all mandatory prerequisites for admission to the Doctoral Program.

Enrolment in, or transfer to, the Doctoral Educational Program in Law from a recognized foreign higher educational institution is carried out within the time limits and in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.

A candidate is exempt from English/German/French language testing if the candidate submits a certificate confirming proficiency in English/German/French at a level not lower than B2. A candidate who has completed, fully or partially, a Bachelor's or Master's course/program in English/German/French is also exempt. Recognition of certificates and completed courses is ensured by the Language Center of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University.

List of Certificates and Scores Corresponding to English Language Level B2

TOEFL PBT	Score: at least 513 points
TOEFL IBT	Score: at least 65 points
British Council and University of Cambridge English Language Examinations (IELTS)	Score: at least 5,5 points
British Council and University of Cambridge English Language Examinations (Cambridge Exam)	FCE Level of proficiency: at least FCE

List of Certificates and Scores Corresponding to German Language Level B2

Goethe Zertifikat B2; TestDaF B2; DSH Certificate B2; Telc Deutsch B2; TestAS B2

List of Certificates and Scores Corresponding to French Language Level B2

Delf B2; TCF B2; TEF B2; DLC B2; Dalf C1

Teaching and Learning Methods

Student Knowledge Assessment System

Mastering the academic component provided for by the Doctoral Program in Law envisages the active participation of students in the teaching and learning process and is based on the principle of continuous assessment of acquired knowledge. During the implementation of the Doctoral Program in Law, the level of achievement of the student's learning outcomes is assessed in accordance with the assessment system approved by Order No. 3 of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 5 January 2007 on the "Rule for Calculating Credits for Higher Educational Programs".

Within the academic component of the Doctoral Educational Program in Law, assessment of the level of achievement of the student's learning outcomes includes forms of assessment – interim assessment (single or multiple) and final assessment (a specific course may be structured according to another principle), the sum of which constitutes the final grade (100 points).

Interim and final assessment (forms of assessment) include an assessment component/components that determine the method(s) for assessing the student's knowledge and/or skills and/or competences (oral/written examination, oral/written quiz, homework assignment, practical/theoretical work, etc.). An assessment component combines uniform assessment methods (test, essay, demonstration, presentation, discussion, performance of practical/theoretical tasks, group work, participation in discussion, writing a research paper, writing components of a research paper). The assessment method(s) are measured by assessment criteria, i.e., measurable indicators through which the level of achievement of learning outcomes is determined.

Each assessment form and component is assigned a specific weight in the final grade (out of 100 points), which is indicated in the respective syllabus and communicated to the student at the beginning of the academic semester. Awarding ECTS credits on the basis of only one form of assessment (interim or final assessment) is inadmissible. ECTS credits are awarded to the student only in the case of receiving a positive assessment.

During the implementation of the Doctoral Program in Law, the share of the minimum competence threshold for the student's interim and final assessment is reflected in the relevant syllabus and communicated to the student at the beginning of the academic semester. The assessment system provides for:

Five types of positive evaluations:

(A) Excellent	91-100 points;
(B) Very good	81-90 points;
(C) Good	71-80 points;
(D) Satisfactory	61-70 points;
(E) Sufficient	51-60 points.

Two types of negative evaluations:

(FX) Did not pass	41-50 points, meaning the student needs more work to pass and is given the right to retake the exam once through independent preparation;
(F) Fail	0-40 points, meaning the student's work is insufficient and the course must be taken again.

In the case of receiving an FX grade within an educational program component, a supplementary examination shall be scheduled no earlier than five (5) calendar days after the announcement of the final examination results. The score obtained by the student in the supplementary examination does not combine with the points received in the final assessment; rather, the score from the supplementary examination becomes the final assessment and is reflected in the final grade for the educational program component. If, taking into account the score received in the supplementary examination, the student's final grade for the educational program component remains between 0 and 50 points, the student will receive an F (0 points) for the component.

Assessment of the Doctoral Thesis (Dissertation)

Five positive and two negative evaluations are used for the assessment of the dissertation.

Positive evaluation of the dissertation is carried out according to the following system:

- a. Excellent (summa cum laude) - an excellent work - 91 points and above (maximum 100 points);
- b. Very Good (magna cum laude) - a result that exceeds the set requirements in every respect - 81-90 points;
- c. Good (cum laude) - a result that exceeds the set requirements - 71-80 points;
- d. Average (bene) - a result that meets the set requirements in every respect - 61-70 points;
- e. Satisfactory (rite) - a result that, despite shortcomings, still meets the set requirements - 51-60 points;

Negative evaluation of the dissertation is carried out according to the following system:

- a. Unsatisfactory (insufficenter) - a result that fails to meet the set requirements due to significant shortcomings - 41-50 points;
- b. Completely Unsatisfactory (sub omni canone) - a result that completely fails to meet the set requirements - 40 points or less.

If a positive assessment is received, the dissertation is deemed to have been defended.

If an Unsatisfactory (insufficenter) assessment is received, the doctoral student is granted the right to submit a revised dissertation within one year. For this purpose, the doctoral student has the right, within one month from the announcement of the result, to submit an application to the Secretariat of the Dissertation Council requesting revision of the work and a repeated defense of the dissertation.

If a Completely Unsatisfactory (sub omni canone) assessment is received, the doctoral student loses the right to submit the same dissertation and the doctoral student status is terminated.

Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities for a Doctor of Law are diverse. In addition to the institutions and agencies where employment is possible upon holding one of the qualifications in the field of law, a Doctor of Law is further able to pursue employment in higher educational institutions (in the academic positions of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor), research organizations, and international academic associations. The doctoral academic degree automatically exempts the holder from the notarial examination and, upon satisfying other prerequisites established by law, a Doctor of Law may become a notary without taking the examination.

Futher Study Opportunities

A Doctor of Law may actively participate in postdoctoral programs, obtain postdoctoral research and study grants at both national and international levels, and benefit from grants and scholarships established by universities and scientific foundations exclusively for postdoctoral researchers and young researchers.

Material Resources for Program Implementation

To achieve the learning outcomes provided for by the Doctoral Program in Law, the University's infrastructure and material-technical resources, accessible to students without restriction, are used, namely:

classrooms and conference halls equipped with appropriate inventory;

a moot courtroom;

a library equipped with computer hardware and information and communication technologies;

computer classrooms, computer hardware connected to the internet and internal network, and computer software adequate for the learning/teaching process;

various technical devices, etc.

The Educational Program is provided with relevant textbooks and methodological literature. The University Library provides students with the relevant printed and electronic textbooks, teaching-methodological and scientific literature envisaged by course syllabi, as well as with the database of the library book collection and the electronic catalogue available on the University website.

The material resources owned and possessed by the University ensure the realization of the objectives of the Doctoral Program in Law and the achievement of the planned learning outcomes:

Buildings and facilities – the Doctoral Educational Program is implemented in buildings and facilities owned and possessed by the University, where sanitary-hygienic and safety standards are observed (alarm systems are installed in the buildings, fire extinguishers are available, video surveillance is conducted around the perimeter, and order is maintained by the University security officer). The building fully complies with the technical requirements established for a higher educational institution and includes classrooms intended for lectures and practical classes equipped with appropriate equipment and inventory (projector, chairs, desks, boards, etc.).

Library – the University Library holds the printed and electronic collections relevant to the Doctoral Educational Program, which are accessible to students, invited staff, and academic staff. The library has a reading hall equipped with appropriate inventory (chairs, tables, computers). The library has a photocopying machine that students may use with the assistance of a library staff member. In the reading hall, students have the opportunity to use the internet and national and international electronic resources (Legislative Herald of Georgia, EBSCO, HeinOnline, Elsevier). The University Library has an electronic catalogue. In addition to the central reading hall, students of the Doctoral Program may also use the reading rooms of Prince David and the Zubalashvili Brothers.

Workspace for academic staff – an appropriately equipped working environment has been created for academic staff, with the necessary inventory and equipment (chairs, tables, cabinets, an internet-connected computer, and a multifunction photocopying device).

Information and communication technologies – for the purpose of supporting the implementation and administration of the Doctoral Program in Law, the University uses information and communication technologies. Software relevant to the Doctoral Program in Law is available; the existing computer hardware meets modern requirements, is connected to the internet, and is accessible to students, academic, invited, and administrative staff. To ensure students' access to assessments, monitoring of students' academic performance by the administration, and support for the learning process, an electronic system for student knowledge assessment and organization of teaching is used. Through the University website, on which the catalogue of Educational Programs and information related to the implementation of Educational Programs and the conduct of the learning process, among other information, are published, the University ensures the publicity and accessibility of information.

Program Structure

The Doctoral Program in Law consists of academic and scientific-research components. The volume of the academic component is 60 ECTS credits, comprising compulsory and elective study courses. The study courses are distributed across 4 semesters: the doctoral student must accumulate 14 ECTS credits in the first semester, 26 ECTS credits in the second semester, 17 ECTS credits in the third semester, and 3 ECTS credits in the fourth semester.

The scientific-research component entails the preparation of a doctoral dissertation. While working on the scientific-research component, the doctoral student completes three colloquia, which involve, by prior agreement with the scientific supervisor, the development and writing of part of the dissertation and its discussion before the field-specific commission. A doctoral colloquium may be completed from the third semester, provided that the doctoral student has received a positive assessment in the study course "Academic Writing and Dissertation Architectonics". At the defense of each colloquium, the doctoral student must receive a positive recommendation, which means a positive assessment of the colloquium by the majority of the field-specific commission. No ECTS credit is awarded for the completion of a colloquium, and it is not assessed by any points.

The doctoral thesis may be defended in the 6th semester. Issues related to the defense of the doctoral thesis, as well as its prerequisites and the implementation of the Program, are determined by the Regulation on Doctoral Studies.

Curriculum of the Educational Program

№	Prerequisite	Module/Course	ECTS Credits						Student Academic Workload	
			I Year		II Year		III Year		Contact Hours	Independent Hours
			Semester							
			I	II	III	IV	V	VI		
Study Component										
Compulsory Study Courses										
1.	None	Research Methods in Legal Studies	8/200						43	157
2.	None	Academic Writing and Dissertation Architectonics		6/150					42	108
3.	None	Modern Teaching Methods	6/150						30	120
4.	Research Methods in Legal Studies	Research Seminar in Comparative Law		10/250					8	242
5.	Research Methods in Legal Studies	Research Seminar in Legal Methods			10/250				8	242
6.	None	Qualitative Research Methods			7/175				39	136
7.	Modern Teaching Methods	Professorial Assistantship				3/75			11	64
Elective Study Courses										

1.	None	Principles of University Curriculum Design		10/250					33	217
2..	None	Philosophy of Higher Education		10/250					29	221
Per semester			14	26	17	3				
Per year			40		20					
Total			60							

Mapping of Program Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Program Objectives	Program Learning Outcomes					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Conduct in-depth scientific analysis of topical issues of legal practice and legal theory, carry out outcomes-oriented research, and create new knowledge	✓	✓			✓	
Prepare researchers and academic staff oriented towards the dynamic challenges of law			✓	✓		
Contribute to the development of Georgian and comparative law and jurisprudence through the production of high-quality scientific works.					✓	✓

Map of the Program's Compulsory Study Courses and Program Learning Outcomes

№	Module/Course	Status of the Course	Program Learning Outcomes					
			A	B	C	D	E	F
1.	Research Methods in Legal Studies	D M	+	+			+	
2.	Academic Writing and Dissertation Architectonics	M	+				+	+
3.	Modern Teaching Methods	M			+			
4.	Professorial Assistantship	D M			+			
5.	Qualitative Research Methods	D M	+	+				+
6.	Research Seminar in Comparative Law	M	+	+		+	+	+
7.	Research Seminar in Legal Methods	M	+	+		+	+	+

Course Status

I – Introductory Courses	D – Developing Courses	P – Practical Courses	M – Mastery Courses

Mapping of Learning Outcomes of the Program Study Courses

#	Course	Learning Outcome		
		Knowledge and Understanding	Skills	Responsibility and Autonomy
Compulsory and Elective Study Courses				
1.	Research Methods in Legal Studies	+	+	
2.	Academic Writing and Dissertation Architectonics	+	+	+
3.	Modern Teaching Methods	+	+	+
4.	Professorial Assistantship	+	+	+
5.	Qualitative Research Methods	+	+	+
6.	Research Seminar in Comparative Law	+	+	+
7.	Research Seminar in Legal Methods	+	+	+
8.	Principles of University Curriculum Design	+	+	
9.	Philosophy of Higher Education	+	+	