

Studying Intellectual Property (IP) at Wayne State University Law School

Intellectual property law regulates the use of inventions, trade symbols, information and ideas. The subject matter of IP law ranges from music to brand names to pharmaceuticals. Wayne State offers a broad set of courses for students interested in IP. These classes build on the foundational first-year courses in Contracts and Property; concepts from Constitutional Law and Torts will also play a role.

Wayne State divides its IP courses into the traditional doctrinal areas of Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks. Advanced classes build upon this material to consider areas such as international regulation of IP or the challenges involved in “prosecuting” a patent from initial application to completion. When considering which courses to elect, think about your interests and career goals. If you find music fascinating, the course in Copyright Law will be a good match. If you intend to help Ford protect against misleading uses of its logo and car brands, Trademark Law will prove helpful. If you want to assist researchers in gaining rights to new lifesaving drugs, Patent Law will be important. The seminar in Current Issues in Intellectual Property also offers an entry point for students who are unsure of their IP interests – it does not assume any prior exposure to IP and explores hot legal controversies such as e-voting or patents and public health as a lens to understand the doctrines involved.

The list below outlines courses at WSU law school treating IP subjects. Not all of them will be offered in 2007-2008. Should you have questions or concerns about either a class or your program of study, please make an appointment to speak with the faculty involved.

Class	Comments
Copyright Law	Basic course; no prerequisites
Patent Law	Basic course; no prerequisites
Trademarks and Unfair Competition	Basic course; no prerequisites
Current Issues in IP	No pre-requisites; some introduction to IP helpful
Law in Cyberspace	Covers both IP and non-IP law; no prerequisites
International IP Law	Has pre-requisites, or permission of instructor
Digital Copyright	Advanced course -- Copyright is a prerequisite
Patent Enforcement	Advanced course – Patent Law is a pre-requisite
Public Health Law	Not primarily an IP course, but covers the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement in the context of access to medications

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