

Recommendation for Discontinuance of a Degree or Certificate Program

(USRR Academic Program Discontinuance Policy <https://policy.ku.edu/governance/USRR#ArticleVIII>)

Name of Program and Type of Program (Degree or Undergraduate or Graduate Certificate):

Elder Law Certificate Program

Academic plan and sub plan codes to be retired: ELDRLAW-GC

Department: School of Law

School/College: School of Law

CIP Code: 22.9999

Number of students currently enrolled: zero

Number of students enrolled over the past five academic years: two

Number of program graduates over the past five years: two

Rationale for recommendation:

In 2016, we discontinued the Elder Law LL.M. program for lack of interest and lack of faculty support, but we retained the Elder Law Certificate as an option for students interested in this particular area of law. However, the lack of interest in elder law has continued at KU Law, as well as nationwide. The ABA lists only one other law school that offers an elder law certificate – Mitchell Hamline School of Law. It should note, however, that Mitchell Hamline does not list the certificate on their website and apparently discontinued it.

Only two students participated in the Elder Law Certificate in the last five years. The lack of interest, coupled with the lack of full-time faculty who teach in this area prompted us to remove it from our website and catalog listings. The last student who received the certificate graduated in 2017, at which time, the certificate, in essence has ceased to exist.

Impact of discontinuance:

On students: There is no impact on students. This program draws on existing classes that will continue to be taught. This program has not been offered in over three years and therefore has not even been an option to current students.


On faculty: There is no direct impact on the faculty. There are no full-time faculty members who focus on this particular area of law or who are willing to take leadership role with this certificate. This certificate has been dormant for since May 2017.

On staff: No impact.

[Feb 2021]

On mission: With the departure of Professor Kim Dayton many years ago our elder law program, in general has not had the benefit of a full-time, tenured/tenure-track faculty member at the helm whose primary focus was elder law. The retirement of Professor Sandy McKenzie in 2015, resulted in the discontinuance of our LL.M. Elder Law program in 2016. The continued diminished interest in elder law and the need to fill other instructional areas, recruiting faculty support in this area has not been a priority. While the certificate remained an option available to students following the elimination LL.M. degree, it never regained any real traction. Directing our resources to the demands of the students and the strengths of the faculty better serves the teaching and research components of the school's mission.

Signature and Sequence of Review:

Dean, School/College:  Date: 5/4/2021

Provost/EVC: Barbara A. Behlmeier Date: 5/4/21