

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & LAW



What is it?

The STL minor centers on the intersection of science, technology, and law in a global economy driven by knowledge, technology, and innovation. A primary objective of the minor is for students to be able to **identify and discuss broad scientific problems, in addition to social and ethical issues**. Courses connect “intellectual creations” (i.e. ideas, inventions, new technologies, etc.) to all facets of intellectual property (IP) law, including patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets. Related challenges in areas ranging from bioethics to the internet are considered in context.

Why do it?

Students will find the STL minor equips them with **legal and philosophical tools** while fostering **multi-disciplinary analytical skills and critical thinking abilities**. The minor includes opportunities to meet and interact with lawyers, IP professionals, inventors, researchers, and scholars. It will also prepare students to become “**citizen-engineers/scientists**” **who can succeed on multiple career paths**.



Who is it for?

The STL minor is meant for any **student in any major** and will provide a **deeper understanding of intellectual property and the crucial role it plays in today's economy**. Courses in the minor will highlight IP issues encountered by students on a regular basis (e.g. downloading songs from the internet, sharing photos via social media, engaging in undergraduate research opportunities, signing employment contracts, etc.).

Pathways Core Concepts

- 1a - Advanced Discourse
 - 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities
 - 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences
- Additional concepts possible depending on elective choices.

Pathways Integrative Concepts

- Ethical Reasoning
- Intercultural and Global Awareness

PATHWAYS MINORS

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Requirements

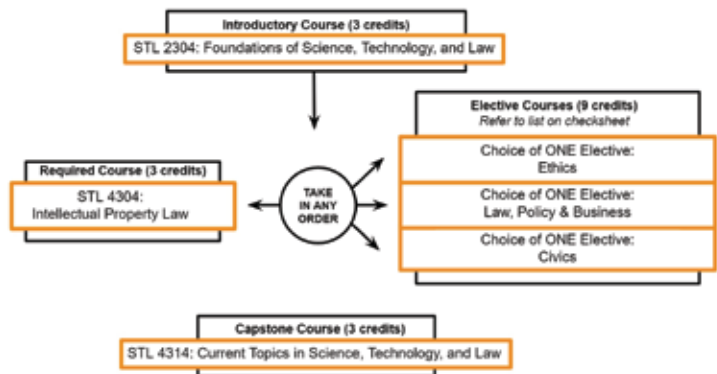
The 18-credit minor in Science, Technology & Law requires 3 STL core courses and 3 elective courses (3 credits each). Students must complete at least 6 hours at the 3000-level or higher in the core courses.

Required courses

STL 2304: Foundations of Science, Technology & Law

STL 4304: Intellectual Property Law

STL 4314: Current Topics in Science, Technology & Law



Elective courses

Students select the remaining 9 credits from a list of cross-disciplinary, interdepartmental courses that complement the minor, and 3 credit hours each must be taken from each of the 3 required elective course groups (ethics; civics; and law, policy and business). For a complete list of elective courses, consult the checksheet at <https://registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief/index1.html>.



The STL minor has helped students start careers in Intellectual Property positions at Fortune 500 companies, such as IBM and US Gypsum Corp, and in key government agencies, such as the US Patent and Trademark Office. Other students who completed the minor have been accepted to top law schools, including NYU, Emory, and UVA.

www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors

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PATHWAYS GENERAL EDUCATION