SPACE, CYBER, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAW
WE ARE NEBRASKA LAW

The University of Nebraska College of Law has been developing leaders who impact Nebraska and the world since 1891. Situated within the College, the Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program has been bridging law, technology, and global security since 2008. Students explore laws and regulations that impact every satellite, every phone call, every online interaction, and develop the skills they will need to solve problems now and into the future. Our students, faculty, and alumni are leading a wave of change — all from America’s heartland.

A THRIVING CITY

We are part of the University of Nebraska, a Big Ten research university in Lincoln, Nebraska. Lincoln offers the comforts of a smaller community with a big city feel. Known for its affordability, Lincoln boasts housing costs significantly lower than the national average. Concert venues, live theatre, art galleries, sporting events, and restaurants are in abundance here, as are biking and running trails (130+ miles), and opportunities for golfing, fishing and kayaking. Many of our students also live or work outside of Lincoln — Omaha is a short 45-minute drive and the U.S. Strategic Command Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base is just an hour away.
PERSONALIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE

SPECIALIZATIONS

Space Law
Space law is the study of the laws and regulations governing not just activities in space, but also activities on Earth necessary to launch objects into space or to communicate with objects in space. This area of the program focuses on all national and international laws governing such activities. Activities regulated involve innovative new industries like commercial human space flight, on-orbit satellite servicing, and asteroid mining, rapidly changing traditional activities, such as communications, remote sensing, and launch, as well as military applications and uses of space. Students may have the opportunity to attend our annual Space Law conference in Washington, D.C., to hear from industry leaders from around the world.

National Security
A defining feature of the Nebraska Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program is our long relationship with the United States Air Force, and the Department of Defense. With invigorated space and cyber commands, attorneys and policy makers with these specializations as well as backgrounds in national security law, are pivotal to national security. These courses focus on international humanitarian law, the laws of armed conflict, intelligence law, and other laws and policies impacting security. Students focused in this area can also take advantage of our relationship with the Department of Defense through many internships, conferences, and research opportunities.

SPECIALIZATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEBRASKA GOVERNANCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Cyber Law
Cyber law (or Internet law) is the study of the relationship of technological and electronic elements, including computers, software, hardware and information systems, to the law. Cyber law encompasses the regulation of commercial industries and private company data, as well as a vast number of military operations. From hacks to cloud storage to cyber warfare, the law interacts with technology, but often with difficult dilemmas in how best to proceed. Cyber law is now virtually required in every law practice as nearly all clients have an online presence.

Telecommunications Law
Telecommunications law covers every electronic communication and all broadcasting across the United States. This area is heavily regulated by federal law and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), but also by state and local laws, dealing with privacy and real estate. Telecommunications law is an area with many controversies as new technologies are created and invented by entrepreneurs. Google is now spending more money lobbying in Washington, D.C., than any oil company. From net neutrality to cable contracts to spectrum management, the world of telecommunications law continues to grow and change along with technology.
A PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR YOU

DEGREE OPTIONS

J.D. + Space, Cyber, Telecommunications Concentration

Juris Doctor (J.D.) students at Nebraska Law benefit from our expansive space, cyber, and telecommunications law curriculum and may design a program of study in this field. Completing a program with a concentration in one of our specializations requires no separate application. After admission to Nebraska Law and completion of the first-year curriculum, a J.D. student must take a minimum of 15 credit hours of approved curriculum in the subject area and formally declare their concentration with the registrar. Students receive an additional certificate indicating their concentration at graduation. There is no extra cost for a concentration.

The Space, Cyber and Telecom program offers students an incredible opportunity to learn from people that are passionate and lead in their respective fields. Their enthusiasm to include students opened the door for me to discover the field of communication frequencies, which are directly responsible for cell phone, cable TV and internet services. This is something I had no idea existed but found myself completely drawn into. Since expressing my interest, everyone in the program has helped foster my interest through recommended courses or summer work opportunities. Their support makes me feel more confident about my capabilities as well as my future prospects.

ENDELIZA HAMPTON, J.D. CLASS OF 2022

LL.M. Full-Time On-Campus and Part-Time Online Options

The LL.M. program is available both on campus and as an interactive online program. Online students can complete the program over several years to accommodate work commitments and attend class in real time online with opportunities to participate in class discussions. The LL.M. program is open both to students with J.D. degrees from ABA-accredited law schools and to students with degrees in law from foreign universities. The LL.M. program enrolls between 10-15 students per academic year to ensure individualized attention during the demanding course year.

My LL.M. at Nebraska has shaped my career both at U.S. Cyber Command and U.S. Space Command by teaching me about the complexities and importance of both the cyber and space domains. It has introduced me to the top academics and practitioners in the area of space and cyber law and continues to serve as a foundation of my legal practice. The Nebraska LL.M. community is like family and I am proud to be an alum.

ERIK MUDRINICH, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL, U.S. SPACE COMMAND, LL.M. CLASS OF 2011

Note: the J.S.D. degree program is no longer available and is not accepting any applications, but produced multiple successful alumni and has current students completing their dissertations.

J.S.D.

The University of Nebraska College of Law offers a Juris Scientiae Doctor or Doctor of Juristic Science degree (J.S.D.) in space law. Research-focused and dissertation-based, the J.S.D. program requires students to write a book-length thesis about an aspect of space law. The degree broadens opportunities for experienced lawyers and legal scholars to delve into the very intricate and complex issues facing the regulation of outer space activities in an in-depth manner. Currently, a J.S.D. option is not available for our other specializations.
Nebraska Law gives you options for tailoring your education to your interests. Each of the space, cyber, and telecommunications law degree programs have different course requirements. Our faculty teach a wide range of courses to help you satisfy those requirements.

**Offered Courses**

- American Foreign Relations Law and Policy Seminar
- Arms Control: Problems of Law and Technology (not available online)
- Aviation Law
- Export Control Law: ITAR
- Government Procurement and Contracting
- Human Rights and International Criminal Law
- International Business Transactions
- International Cyber Security: Mischief, Crime and Warfare (required for LL.M.)
- International Law (required for LL.M.)
- International Satellite Communications (required for LL.M.)
- International Trade Law
- LL.M. Research Independent Study (required for LL.M.)
- National Security Law (not available online)
- National Security Space Law (required for LL.M.)
- National Space Legislation
- Researching Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law (not available online) (required for LL.M.)
- Space and Satellite Business Law
- Space Law (required for LL.M.)
- Spectrum Management Law and Policy
- Nebraska Governance and Technology Block Curriculum Options:
  - Technology Governance and Regulation: Concepts (3-week intro course, required for LL.M.)
  - Cyberlaw: Jurisdiction and Laws Governing Users (required for LL.M.)
  - Platforms: Network and Infrastructure (required for LL.M.)
  - Platforms: Speech and Media
  - Privacy: Informational, Reputational, and Dignitary Harms
  - Cybersecurity and Sectoral Data Regulation

*Not all elective courses are available online.*
NEBRASKA GOVERNANCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The Nebraska Governance and Technology Center studies the ever-changing relationship between law and technology — how the law can regulate technology and how new technologies affect what the law can do. The center, housed in the Nebraska College of Law, is a key partner to the Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program. Legal questions serve as a coordinating function for the center’s research and other academic programming, but their mission is an inherently interdisciplinary endeavor engaging in active governance-related research with researchers also representing the Colleges of Business, Engineering, and Journalism, each studying the challenges of technology governance. The center’s innovative curriculum for technology training overlaps with the space, cyber, and telecommunications law courses, and students are welcome in all sections. Learn more about the center at ngtc.unl.edu.

The center is led by Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Co-director Gus Hurwitz and Executive Director Elsbeth Magilton.
INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

CAREER SERVICES AND ALUMNI PLACEMENT

There are a number of different career sectors in our specializations, ranging from private industry, to policy, to national security. The majority of program alumni will take positions within the government or Department of Defense, while others are spread across the private sector, think tanks, and law firms.

LL.M. and J.D. students are offered personalized career coaching and a job seekers plan to help them be in the best place possible when seeking employment in these fields. For students particularly interested in space, it is important to understand that it is a growing, but still relatively small, field. Often, new attorneys must gain legal experience in other fields before pivoting back to space. Our career-planning advising helps our graduates make that transition and stay on track to join the space industry.

The Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program was a big reason I chose Nebraska Law and it has exceeded my expectations. The staff is a dedicated and experienced team of the field’s leading scholars. The Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition has been the highlight of my law school career thus far—it was engaging and exciting to collaborate with my talented peers and compete against teams from across the nation. It fueled my passion for space law and helped me land a summer internship with United Launch Alliance in Denver.

MARTIN FISCHER, J.D. CLASS OF 2022

A CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

Our LL.M. program is small — on purpose! Nebraska Law provides small class sizes and individual attention to support students in these challenging specializations. Typically, the full-time, on-campus LL.M. class is about 6-10 individuals, with the majority of those students being active-duty military members assigned to our program to prepare them for the next assignment.

In the J.D. program, we have a cohort of students specializing within our program areas during their second and third years — always diverse in interest. Some very focused on space, others on national security or technology more generally. So, while all our areas intersect, certainly there is room to specialize.
CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NATION’S SECURITY

Nebraska Law’s Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program has a strong relationship to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). The program trains multiple Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps Judge Advocates each year, and has since 2008. Our active-duty alumni are spread across the globe, serving their country.

Co-Director Jack Beard, a Lieutenant Colonel in U.S. Army JAG Corps (retired), previously served as the Associate Deputy General Counsel (International Affairs) in the DOD and leads the DOD and the Defense Intelligence Agency externship programs, where Nebraska Law J.D. students spend a semester in Washington, D.C., working in these offices.

Additionally, Beard is the editor-in-chief of the *Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Operations*, an international manual that articulates and clarifies existing international law applicable to military space operations.

Program Executive Director Elsbeth Magilton is Nebraska Law’s liaison to the National Strategic Research Institute, where she is also a Research Fellow, which oversees the University of Nebraska’s Affiliated Research Center with U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). There she spearheads research collaborations across the DOD and identifies opportunities for students. Through Magilton, Nebraska Law is also deeply integrated with the Academic Alliance programs across multiple commands.
CONNECT AND LEAD

CONFERENCES

Nebraska Law’s Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program hosts numerous conferences, including an annual space law conference in Washington, D.C., that features faculty-authored white papers, invite-only government-industry round-tables, public sessions, and partnerships with leading think tanks and agencies.

Our space law events include presentations from the top lawyers and policy-makers at government agencies, such as USSTRATCOM, FAA, FCC, NASA, U.S. State Department, U.S. Cyber Command, and private corporations, including SpaceX, Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin, Google, Verizon, and Comcast.
Nebraska Law faculty hosts some of the biggest names in the field of space law. Professor Frans von der Dunk has written more than 180 articles and published papers and (co)organized over 50 international symposia, workshops and other events in space law. As of 2006, he is the series editor of ‘Studies in Space Law’, published by scholarly publication house, Brill. In 2015, he published the first comprehensive *Handbook of Space Law* with Edward Elgar Publishing, and in 2018 another major research collection under the title *International Space Law* with the same publisher. His work is internationally recognized in the field.

Professor Matthew Schaefer, also widely recognized for his expertise, is the founding director of the Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program. He was integrally involved in gaining University and external approval for the LL.M. degree, developing the curriculum and hiring permanent faculty and adjunct faculty for the program. He is the principal organizer of the Program’s annual conference in Washington, D.C., an event that now exceeds 200 registrants each year. Space law is a major thread of Professor Schaefer’s scholarship. His white papers on commercial space issues have circulated among Congress, the White House, NASA, as well as private industry.

Schaefer was the leader responsible for administering a $1.71 million NASA grant from 2008-2011 that helped launch Nebraska’s program and was co-lead with Executive Director Magilton on a $250,000 NASA grant in 2018-2019 to strengthen and diversify the nationwide space law network.
JOIN US AT NEBRASKA LAW

HOW TO APPLY

The Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law Program accepts all application types at any time via the Law School Admission Council. Semester start times (fall or spring only) are based on our rolling admissions and the applicant’s requested start date.

To apply for either the LL.M. or J.S.D. program, we require:

- A personal statement
- All undergraduate and law college transcripts
- The LSAC application questionnaire
- 2-3 letters of recommendation
- A resume
- An English language exam if an applicant’s native language is not English

J.D. applicants choosing a concentration in space, cyber, and telecommunications law will follow the application procedures outlined for all J.D. applicants which can be found on our website.