

Decision of the FIBAA Accreditation and Certification Committee



17th Meeting on March 12, 2025

PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION

Project Number:	23/095 Cl. 1
Higher Education Institution:	Universitas Sumatera Utara
Location:	Medan, Indonesia
Study programme:	Bachelor of Law (S.H.) Bachelor of Communication Science (S.I.Kom.) Bachelor of Political Science (S.Sos.)
Type of accreditation:	initial accreditation

The FIBAA Accreditation and Certification Committee has taken the following decision:

According to § 7 (6) in conjunction with § 9 (1) of the FIBAA General Terms and Conditions within the framework of procedures for the award of the FIBAA Quality Seal for Programmes from January 1, 2021, the study programmes are accredited with one condition.

- **Condition 1** (see chapter 3.2):

The University supplies the Diploma Supplement with a grade distribution table in accordance with the ECTS User's Guide 2015.

Proof of meeting this condition is to be supplied by December 11, 2025.

Period of Accreditation: March 12, 2025, until March 11, 2030.

The FIBAA Quality Seal is awarded.



Assessment Report

Higher Education Institution:

Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

Bachelor programmes:

1. Bachelor of Law
2. Bachelor of Communication Science
3. Bachelor of Political Science

Qualification awarded on completion:

1. Sarjana Hukum (S.H.)
2. Sarjana Ilmu Komunikasi (S.I.Kom.)
3. Sarjana Sosial (S.Sos.)

General information on the study programme

Brief description of the study programme:

Bachelor of Law:

The undergraduate Law programme at the Faculty of Law, Universitas Sumatera Utara, aims to produce graduates who demonstrate critical, analytical, and systematic thinking skills, coupled with strong moral and ethical values. The programme offers six concentrations, namely Civil Law, Criminal Law, State Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, International Law and Economic Law.

Bachelor of Communication Science:

The undergraduate Communication Science programme at the Faculty of Social Science and Political Science is designed to equip students with comprehensive skills and knowledge in public relations, journalism, and advertising. With an emphasis on fostering global competitiveness, the programme prepares graduates to excel in various communication-related fields by integrating practical skills, theoretical understanding, and creativity, ensuring they remain adaptive to the demands of an evolving global industry. The Communication Science study programme offers its students three different concentrations, namely Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising.

Bachelor of Political Science:

The undergraduate Political Science programme seeks to produce graduates capable of advancing the field of political science, conducting research, and serving society in an adaptive, creative, and proactive way within the spheres of community and state affairs.

Type of study programme:

Bachelor programme

Projected study time and number of national credits assigned to the study programme:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bachelor of Law: | 4 years, 146 SKS credits |
| 2. Bachelor of Communication Science: | 4 years, 146 SKS credits |
| 3. Bachelor of Political Science: | 4 years, 144 SKS credits |

Mode of study:

Full-time

Didactic approach:

Study programme with obligatory class attendance

Double/Joint Degree programme:

No

Programme cycle starts in:

August

Initial start of the programme:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Bachelor of Law: | 1954 |
| 2. Bachelor of Communication Science: | 1980 |
| 3. Bachelor of Political Science: | 2001 |

Type of accreditation:

Initial accreditation

Procedure

A contract for the initial accreditation of the bachelor programmes Bachelor of Law (S.H.), Bachelor of Communication Science (S.I.Kom.), and Bachelor of Political Science (S.Sos.) was concluded between FIBAA and Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) on December 13, 2023. On 28 February 2024, USU submitted a self-evaluation report, which included a detailed description of the programme and further documents in order to prove that the criteria for programme accreditation are met.

At the same time, FIBAA appointed a review panel¹. USU has agreed with the chosen experts. The panel consisted of:

Christoph Fay

Deutsche Lufthansa AG

Lawyer, former Head of University Marketing and Junior Executive Programmes

Practice representative

Dr. Maria Ochwat

University of Szczecin, Poland

Assistant Professor for Communication Sciences and Public Relations

Dr. Aditya Perdana

University of Indonesia, Indonesia

Associate Professor, Political Science, Government Studies, Social Sciences

Country expert

Prof. Dr. Thomas Ratka

University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria

University Professor for corporate and European law

Noemie Jeanne Scherrer

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Student of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (B.Sc.)

Student representative

Prof. Dr. Antonio Stango

Rome Link University, Italy

Adjunct Professor, International Organisations and Human Rights

FIBAA project manager:

Lisa Lubomierski

The assessment is based on the self-evaluation report, amended by further documents, as requested by the panel, and an on-site visit. The on-site visit took place on October 16–17, 2024 at USU's premises in Medan, Indonesia. At the end of the on-site visit, the panel has given short feedback on its first impressions to representatives of USU.

¹ The panel is presented in alphabetical order.

The assessment report based on this was delivered to USU for comment on February 17, 2025. The statement on the report was given up on February 24, 2025. It has been taken into account in the report at hand.

Summary

The bachelor programmes Law (S.H.), Communication Science (S.I.Kom.), and Political Science (S.Sos.) offered by Universitas Sumatera Utara (**USU**) fulfil the FIBAA quality requirements for bachelor programmes with few exceptions. They can be accredited by the Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA) for five years starting on March 12, 2025, and finishing on March 11, 2030, under conditions. The programmes are in accordance with the national and the European Qualification Frameworks and the European Standards and Guidelines in their applicable version valid as of the time of the opening of the procedure, and in accordance with the Bologna Declaration.

The panel members identified need for improvement regarding the following aspect:² Structure. They recommend the accreditation for **all programmes** on condition of meeting the following requirement:

- **Condition 1** (see chapter 3.2): The University supplies the Diploma Supplement with a grade distribution table in accordance with the ECTS User's Guide 2015.³

Proof of meeting this condition is to be submitted by December 11, 2025.

Furthermore, the quality requirement that has not been fulfilled – Internationality of the student body (see chapter 3.4) – is not an asterisk criterion and therefore does not lead to a condition. The measures USU takes to solve the identified problem are to be considered during the re-accreditation.

The panel members also identified several areas where **the three programmes** could be further developed and **recommend**:

- placing greater emphasis on developing students' soft skills in the area of intercultural communication (see chapter 1.2),
- reviewing the English admission requirements as some of the teaching materials is provided in English and it needs to be made sure that all admitted students can follow the material (see chapter 2.1),
- exposing students more to an international environment (see chapter 3.4),
- intensifying measures to promote internationality which are goal oriented (see chapter 3.4),
- intensifying efforts to recruit lecturers from abroad and/or with international background in both the Faculty of Law (for the specialization in International Law) and the Faculty of Social Science and Political Sciences (see chapter 3.4),
- establishing a regular basis for the evaluation of employers of graduates (see chapter 5).

For the **Bachelor of Law** programme, the panel **recommends** additionally:

- defining the intended learning outcomes more precisely to underline that graduates are able to analyse legal norms and legal regulations, as well as to apply them in practice (see chapter 1.1).

² These aspects are asterisk criteria which means that they are essential for the study programme.

³ See [ECTS User's Guide 2015](#) (pages 39-41) for an explanation of grade distribution tables.

For the **Bachelor of Political Science**, the panel **recommends** additionally:

- including the acquisition of competences in order to operate in the global market into the study programme (see chapter 1.1),
- implementing courses dealing with international matters such as a course on International Organisations or International Public Law (see chapter 3.4)

The measures that USU takes in order to implement the recommendations of the panel members will have to be considered during the re-accreditation.

There are three criteria in which the programme exceeds the quality requirements:

- Internal cooperation (see chapter 4.1),
- Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty (see chapter 4.2),
- Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (see chapter 4.4).

For the overall assessment of the programme, please refer to the quality profile at the end of this report.

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Information

Information on the Institution

The Universitas Sumatera Utara (hereinafter referred to as USU) was initially established in 1952 under the name North Sumatra University Foundation. In 1957, it was officially recognized as the seventh State University in Indonesia. Since 2012, USU has been designated as a Legal Entity State University.⁴ USU is accredited as excellent by the National Accreditation Board for Higher Education (BAN-PT) since 2018.

USU strives to realize its vision “to become a university that has academic excellence as a barometer of scientific progress that is able to compete in the global world”.⁵ Currently, USU is embracing the theme of internationalization to achieve this vision, aiming to make USU locally distinctive yet globally competitive. Hence, USU has adopted the tagline "Transformation towards the Ultimate" reflecting its commitment to self-evaluation and continuous improvement.⁶ Based on input from all stakeholders, USU developed TALENTA as its competitive advantage, which emphasizes the potential of the North Sumatra region and the University. TALENTA encompasses Tropical Science and Medicine, AgroIndustry, Local Wisdom, Energy (sustainable), Natural Resources (biodiversity, forest, marine, mine, tourism), Technology, and Arts (ethnic).

Universitas Sumatera Utara has two main campuses located in the provincial capital of North Sumatra. The main campus is strategically situated in the centre of Medan City, while the second campus, known as USU Kwala Bekala, is approximately 13km from the main campus. USU comprises 15 faculties, one vocational faculty, and one graduate school. It offers 14 diploma programmes, 51 undergraduate programmes, 68 postgraduate programmes, and 31 professional and specialist programmes. Currently around 42,500 students are enrolled in the study programmes of USU.⁷

USU has established collaborations with educational institutions worldwide, including regions in Asia, Europe, Australia, and America. Collaborations include partnerships with Chiba University of Commerce (Japan), Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), Nirwana Education Group (Malaysia), Thuyloi University Southern Campus (Vietnam), Universiti Teknologi Mara (Malaysia), Yonsei University (South Korea), University of Warsaw (Poland), Sieć Badawcza Łukasiewicz, Poznań Institute of Technology (Poland), University of Rhode Island (USA), James Cook University (Australia), National University of Singapore, and more.

In realizing its vision, USU embraces the following missions:

1. Conducting higher education based on autonomy, serving as a platform for the development of character and professionalism in human resources. It is grounded in empowerment with a spirit of democratizing education, acknowledging diversity, and emphasizing education oriented toward seeking alternative solutions to current problems based on scientific, moral, and conscientious considerations.

⁴ Following Law No. 12/2012 concerning Higher Education.

⁵ [About USU | Universitas Sumatera utara](#), last accessed November 18, 2024.

⁶ [Transformation towards Ultimate, Strategy for World Class Universitas Sumatera Utara | Universitas Sumatera utara](#), last accessed November 18, 2024.

⁷ [About USU | Universitas Sumatera utara](#), last accessed November 18, 2024.

2. Producing graduates who are agents of change and modernization in society, possessing strong scholarly competence, relevance, and competitiveness, along with ethical wisdom.
3. Implementing, developing, and enhancing education, cultural research, and community service programs to improve academic quality by developing excellent knowledge for the betterment of society.

USU is ranked 18th nationally and 62nd on Asian level.⁸ The main competitors for USU are the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) which are geographically close. At the national level, USU's main competitors are universities that are also State Universities (PTNBH) such as Gadjah Mada University (UGM), University of Indonesia (UI), Padjadjaran University (UNPAD), Andalas University (UNAND).

The accreditation process covered in this report involves study programmes from two faculties: the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law was established as Faculty of Law and Public Knowledge in 1954 as the second faculty of the University.⁹ The Faculty currently organizes four study programmes: an undergraduate study programme, a Master of Law study programme, a Master study programme Notary and a Doctoral programme. The undergraduate study programme and the Master of Law study programme are accredited as excellent by the National Accreditation Board (BAN-PT).

Faculty of Social Science and Political Science

The Faculty of Social Science and Political Science (FISIP) was established in 1980. Currently, FISIP has seven undergraduate study programmes, five postgraduate programmes, and two doctoral programmes. All undergraduate programmes have received an excellent accreditation from BAN-PT.

When the Faculty of Social Science and Political Science was first established in 1980, the **Bachelor of Communication Science** was one of its initial two study programmes. The **Bachelor of Political Science**, however, was officially launched in 2001, having evolved from the Political Science Laboratory set up in 1999.

⁸ [Universitas Sumatera Utara: Rankings, Fees & Courses Details | Top Universities](#), last accessed November 18, 2024.

⁹ <https://fh.usu.ac.id/en/about-us>, last accessed November 12, 2024.

Statistical data

The student numbers are currently falling due to the change in the admission regulations from the Ministry of Education regarding the student admission requirements. For example, if the students have passed the national examination, then they cannot apply for the other selection which is held by the University.

Bachelor of Law

Table 1: Statistical data of Bachelor of Law

		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# Study places offered by HEI		651	600	700	700	500	519
# Applicants	Σ	8621	4786	5813	6508	6379	3833
	f						
	m						
Application rate		13.24%	7.98%	8.30%	9.30%	12.76%	7.39%
# First-year student (accepted applicants)	Σ	580	579	669	681	472	449
	f	294	302	360	384	249	254
	m	286	277	309	297	223	195
Rate of male students		49%	48%	46%	44%	47%	43%
Rate of female student		51%	52%	54%	56%	53%	57%
# Foreign students	Σ	0	0	0	0	0	0
	f	0	0	0	0	0	0
	m	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rate of foreign students		0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of occupied study places		89.09%	96.50%	95.57%	97.29%	94.40%	86.51%
# Graduates	Σ	458	446	288	NA	NA	NA
	f	205	255	194	NA	NA	NA
	m	253	191	94	NA	NA	NA
Success rate		78.97%	77.03%	43.05%	NA	NA	NA
Dropout rate		8.45%	4.49%	1.05%	0.15%	0.00%	0.00%

Average duration of study		3 years 9 months	3 years 9 months	3 years 8 months	NA	NA	NA
Average grade of final degree		3.31	3.5	3.61	NA	NA	NA

Bachelor of Communication Science

Table 2: Statistical data of Bachelor of Communication Science

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# Study Places offered by HEI		127	133	133	128	126	120	120	120
# Applicants	∑	2836	3330	4561	2561	3199	3378	3562	3812
	f	1986	1998	2736	1536	1919	2027	2137	2287
	m	850	1332	1825	1025	1280	1351	1425	1525
Application rate		2233,07%	2503,76%	3429,32%	2000,78%	2538,89%	2815,00%	2968,33%	3176,67%
# First-Year Students (accepted applicants)	∑	117	118	129	122	128	117	108	99
	f	91	88	87	83	85	79	84	69
	m	26	30	42	39	43	38	24	30
Rate of female students		0,78	0,75	0,67	0,68	0,66	0,68	0,78	0,70
# Foreign Students	∑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	f	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rate of foreign students		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of occupied study places		92,13%	88,72%	96,99%	95,31%	101,59%	97,50%	90,00%	82,50%
# Graduates	∑	116	117	129	120	NA	NA	NA	NA
	f	91	88	87	100	NA	NA	NA	NA

	m	25	29	42	20	NA	NA	NA	NA
Success rate <i>(students who finished their studies)</i>		99,15%	99,15%	100,00%	98,36%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dropout rate <i>(students who dropped their studies)</i>		0,85%	0,85%	0,00%	1,64%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average duration of study		3,10 years	4 years	4,1 years	3,11 years	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average grade of final degree		3.41	3,47	3,61	3,72	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Communication Science programme was established with the founding of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences in 1980.

Bachelor of Political Science

Table 3: Statistical data of Bachelor of Political Science

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# Study Places offered by HEI		122	112	108	104	126	120	120	124
# Applicants	Σ	1369	1892	2392	1463	1360	1522	1593	637
	f	588	837	908	702	652	639	669	320
	m	781	1055	1484	761	708	883	924	317
Application rate									

# First-Year Students (accepted applicants)	Σ	116	100	96	93	107	103	103	93
	f	50	36	32	49	46	44	44	52
	m	66	64	64	44	61	59	59	41
Rate of female students		0,43	0,36	0,33	0,53	0,43	0,43	0,43	0,56
# Foreign Students	Σ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	f	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rate of foreign students		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of occupied study places		95,08%	89,29%	88,89%	89,42%	84,92%	85,83%	85,83%	75%
# Graduates	Σ	107	94	88	85	NA	NA	NA	NA
	f	47	34	28	45	NA	NA	NA	NA
	m	60	60	60	40	NA	NA	NA	NA
Success rate (students who finished their studies)		92,24%	94,00%	91,67%	91,40%	NA	NA	NA	NA

Dropout rate (students who dropped their studies)		7,76%	6,00%	8,33%	8,60%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average duration of study		4 years	4 years	4,1 years	4,1 years	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average grade of final degree		3.39	3,41	3,44	3,45	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Political Science programme was established in 2001 at the faculty originating from the Political Science Laboratory established in 1999

Appraisal

There was a drop of applications in all three programmes in 2023, of which Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Political Science are affected significantly. The University explained that this drop is due to a change in the admission regulations on national level.¹⁰ The explanation is satisfactory for the expert panel.

In general, it takes students approximately four years to graduate the eight-semester programmes.

Efforts need to be made with regards to the foreign student population in all three study programmes. Currently, no foreign students are enrolled in any of the programmes. Female students are well represented. In Bachelor of Law as well as political science the ratio ranges is around 50% while the female students outnumber the male in the Bachelor of Communication Science.

¹⁰ For example, if the students have passed the national examination, then they cannot apply for the other selection which held by the university.

Programme Description and Appraisal in Detail

1. Objectives

1.1 Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)

Graduate student profiles are prepared by referring to the Indonesian National Qualifications Framework (KKNI) which was ratified based on national regulations.¹¹ KKNI is a reference in preparing the learning outcomes of graduates. This curriculum framework refers to the achievement of competencies which refer to learning outcomes.

Learning outcomes are in line with the vision and mission at the University-, Faculty-, and study programme levels and can then be used as a teaching guide in the classroom. In the KKNI concept, every graduate must meet standards to have main competencies, supporting competencies and other competencies required by industry according to the profile of their respective study programme. Each study programme sets Programme Educational Objectives (PEO) and Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) which are mapped to Performance Indicators (PI). All study programmes additionally include the BINTANG values of USU for academics: 1. Being devoted to an almighty god, 2. being innovative and having integrity, and 3. Being resilient and wise.¹²

The objectives are outlined for each of the three programmes in the following.

Bachelor of Law

The profile of graduates at the undergraduate level includes aspects of work skills, knowledge, managerial skills, and ethics as well as the values contained in the BINTANG values of USU.

Graduate Profile:

1. Ability to provide solutions to existing legal problems by applying legal principles, theories and arguments in accordance with the scope of work or profession.
2. Ability to work professionally in accordance with the ethics of the legal profession and apply the BINTANG values.
3. Ability to produce innovative legal studies, expressed in various forms of legal documents as a result of research in the legal field with the application of technology.
4. Communication skills in providing legal services as law enforcers such as judges, prosecutors, advocates, investigators, etc. based on legal knowledge and skills.

Programme Educational Objectives (PEO):

Graduates are able to:

1. Understand, internalize and implement religious values and beliefs, Pancasila, and ethical responsibilities of the legal professions and integrity in social, national and state life.
2. Master the principles, theories, doctrines, legal arguments and legal norms in accordance with the national and international legal knowledge.

¹¹ Presidential Regulation No. 08/2012 concerning the Indonesian National Qualifications Framework (KKNI).

¹² [About USU | Universitas Sumatera utara](#), last accessed December 18, 2024.

3. Utilize science and technology to conduct research in the legal field to design legal documents by upholding the legal professional ethics.
4. Apply legal knowledge through study and analysis of legal problems that occur and develop in the society life and in the national and global scope, in a quality and responsible manner.
5. Apply logical, critical, systematic and innovative thinking in the context of the development or the implementation of science and technology that takes account of and applies legal knowledge in accordance with their expertise.
6. Adopt the appropriate decisions in solving the problem in the legal field based on the result of information and data analysis.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO):

Graduates are able to:

1. Understand, internalize and implement religious values and beliefs, Pancasila, and ethical responsibilities of the legal profession and integrity in the life of society, nation and state.
2. Master the principles, theories, doctrines, legal postulates and legal norms in accordance with national and international legal knowledge.
3. Utilize science and technology to conduct research in the legal field to design legal documents by upholding the ethics of the legal profession.
4. Apply legal knowledge fairly through study and analysis of legal problems that occur and develop in people's lives at national and global scope, in a quality and responsible manner.
5. Apply logical, critical, systematic, and innovative thinking in the context of developing or implementing science and technology that pays attention to and applies legal knowledge in accordance with their field of expertise.
6. Make appropriate decisions in solving problems in the legal field based on the results of information and data analysis.

The Bachelor of Law programme offers six concentrations, namely Civil Law, Criminal Law, State Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, International Law and Economic Law. The field of expertise of graduates is in accordance with the scientific field (concentration) chosen during their studies. Based on data from tracer study results, most graduates secure employment in their scientific field, as law enforcement officers (judges, prosecutors, advocates), legal services (notaries, PPAT (Land Deed Making Officer), clerks, curators, mediators, legal drafters, arbitrators), state civil servants, legal staff in private or government companies, diplomats, researchers, lecturers, legislative members, etc. Some alumni also choose careers in banking and entrepreneurship.

Bachelor of Communication Science

The graduate profiles cover aspects of job skills, knowledge understanding, managerial skills, and ethics and values.

Programme Education Objectives (PEO).

The graduates have the ability:

1. To internalize the values of BINTANG in carrying out their profession.
2. To communicate effectively in the fields of public relations, journalism, and advertising in accordance with the development of science and technology, and based on the applicable code of ethics.

3. To produce academic and creative writing in the fields of public relations, journalism, and advertising.
4. To negotiate, investigate, and think creatively in completing work in the fields of public relations, journalism, and advertising.
5. To work in teams, time management, leadership, interpersonal communication, and self-management to achieve efficient and effective work goals.
6. To use communication and information technology and are adaptive and applicable in accordance with digital developments.
7. To think critically and solve problems in analysing social phenomena to encourage change and innovation in society.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO):

Graduates are able to:

1. Apply the BINTANG values.
2. Contribute to improving the quality of life in society, nation, state, and advancement of civilization based on Pancasila by upholding the value of nationalism.
3. Communicate in interpersonal, organizational, group, and public, political and intercultural contexts.
4. Analyse and apply theories and basic concepts of communication science.
5. Implement theoretical approaches, basic concepts, and methodologies of communication science in accordance with social research principles.
6. Map how media management works with a critical approach to the field of mass communication science.
7. Analyse marketing and social marketing issues using theoretical approaches and basic concepts of marketing communication, media buyers, and consumer behaviour.
8. Integrate logical, critical, systematic, and creative thinking in the context of developing or implementing science and technology and applying humanities values in accordance with their field of expertise.
9. Compile a scientific description of the results of the study in the form of a thesis or final project report and upload it on the college website.
10. Form networks with supervisors, colleagues, peers both inside and outside their institutions.
11. Evaluate appropriately in the context of problem solving in their field of expertise, based on the results of information and data analysis.
12. Organize public relations activities for internal and external publics.
13. Produce creative products in applied communication science.

The Communication Science study programme offers its students three different concentrations, namely Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising. Tracer studies revealed that most graduates are employed in fields aligned with their chosen concentrations. Communication Science graduates work in government agencies, serving in the public relations and protocol sections. Alumni who choose a career as entrepreneurs also open businesses in the field of communications, namely photography, graphic design, or as social media specialists.

Bachelor of Political Science

The graduate profile is designed covering aspects of job skills, knowledge understanding, managerial skills, and ethics and values.

Programme Educational Objectives (PEO):

Graduates are:

1. Equipped to cultivate an attitude of devotion to God Almighty within a framework of diversity, demonstrating innovation accompanied by integrity, as well as exhibiting resilience and wisdom.
2. Able to utilize science and technology in analysing political phenomena scientifically.
3. Graduates master the management of election governance systematically and responsibly.
4. Able to communicate well both orally and in writing in the context of cultural diversity, perspectives, religions, and beliefs, as well as opinions.
5. Able to analyse societal issues at the local, national, and international levels.
6. Capable of creating changes and innovations in the governance system.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO):

Graduates are able to:

1. Demonstrate piety towards God Almighty and internalize values, norms, and ethics in contributing to society and the surrounding environment.
2. Master theoretical concepts of political science and use them to analyse and explain political phenomena.
3. Analyse the conduct of general elections as a mechanism in the formation of government within a democratic system.
4. Design winning strategies for election participants and public policies.
5. Produce innovative and creative academic writings related to political science and political phenomena.
6. Communicate aspirations and ideas as strategies to achieve goals.
7. Identify social and political issues, empathize, and contribute to the community and environment.
8. Critically analyse social and political phenomena to drive change and innovation in governance.
9. Design local government governance and regional autonomy.

Tracer study results show that graduates of the Political Science programme work in various areas, namely bureaucracy, academics and research, marketing and as private sector employees. Apart from that, there are alumni who choose a career as entrepreneurs.

Appraisal:

The qualification objectives of the **three programmes** are explained and convincingly presented in relation to the target group, targeted professional field and societal context of the disciplines. They embrace academic proficiency, comprehensive employability, as well as the development of the individual student's personality. For the **Bachelor of Law** programme, the panel **recommends** defining the intended learning outcomes more precisely to underline that graduates are able to analyse legal norms and legal regulations, as well as to apply them in practice.

The subject-specific and extra-curricular qualification objectives and skills to be acquired correspond with the aspired level at graduation. They take into account the requirements of the

national qualification framework. For the **Political Science** programme, the panel **recommends** including the acquisition of competences in order to operate in the global market into the study programme.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.1* Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

1.2 International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)

The internationalization programme has been started at the university level as a development programme policy to realize TALENTA. This policy is then passed down at the faculty level to be applied at the study programme level.

Bachelor of Law

Internationalisation within the programme is reflected in various aspects such as the learning process, learning method, curriculum, and infrastructure development. The programme invites guest lecturers and adjunct professors for example from Malaysia, Australia, the Philippines, and Singapore. This is facilitated by working with partner universities abroad. Examples include: Universiti Kebangsaan – Malaysia, Monash University – Australia, Far Eastern University – Philippines, University of Iraq, Maastricht University – Netherlands, Jindal Global University – India, and National University of Singapore.

These cooperations also allow the study programme to organise summer courses. In 2024 a summer course titled “Carbon Trading for Mangrove Tourism Village” was held. Speakers included an associate professor from the Faculty of Law UiTM, Malaysia and a professor from Jindal Global Law School, India. 25 international students from various countries, including Yemen, India, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, and Malaysia attended the summer course.¹³

Aside from welcoming foreign students to the summer course, the programme also sends students to various universities abroad through the Indonesia International Mobility Award programme to countries such as Poland, Turkey, Hong Kong, United States, Vietnam, Australia, and Thailand. Additionally, ten students actively participate in international student programmes and workshops with the International Working Group outside campus. The programme that students take part in is a student exchange to the University of Technology Malaysia (UiTM).

The lecturers of the programme conduct joint research, participate in international community service and participate in international conferences. In 2022, the Faculty cooperated with the Centre for International Bachelor of Law, University of Indonesia to host the eleventh international

¹³ [Summer Course Program 2024 Fh Usu “carbon Trading For Mangrove Tourism Village” | Faculty of Law Universitas Sumatera Utara](#), last accessed November 13, 2024.

Bachelor of Law Conference with the theme “Global Resilience, Recovery and Solidarity: The Role for International Law”.¹⁴

The study programme also offers their students courses relevant to scientific developments and the industrial world which are internationally oriented. Examples include Humanitarian Law, International Law, Consumer Protection Law, Criminal Law, Business Contract Law, International Private Law, and Corruption Crime.

Bachelor of Communication Science

In the programme, internationalisation is reflected in various aspects. One aspect is the international content offered to students within the programme. On the one hand, courses are offered that are in line with world scientific and industrial developments, namely Communication and Information Technology, Mass Communication, Publicity, Film Studies, Communication Skills I and II, Digital Media Literacy, Communication Theory, Disaster Communication, and Intercultural Communication. These courses are also available for the international classes of the Faculty.

Students get the chance to actively participate in international student programmes and workshops with the International Working Group off campus. Programmes participated by students include student exchange to Gwangju, Korea¹⁵ and UiTM, Malaysia¹⁶. To invite students to USU, the Faculty hosted a summer course in 2023 with the topic “Glocalizing Development in North Sumatera”. Further, four lecturers in the programme are members of the International Communication Association.

Bachelor of Political Science

The programme offers a range of internationally focused courses that align with both Indonesian contexts and global scientific and industrial advancements, such as International Politics, Digital Democracy, International Organization and Administration, and Diplomacy and International Cooperation. In addition, it promotes active international engagement through student programmes and workshops facilitated by the International Working Group. The faculty's involvement extends beyond teaching, with lecturers participating as administrators in the Political Science Programme Association and the Indonesian Political Science Association. Furthermore, lecturers are actively engaged in publishing SCOPUS-indexed articles, serving on academic committees, and speaking at international conferences.

Appraisal:

The design of the **three study programmes** appropriately takes into account the required international aspects, with respect, too, to graduates' employability. The expert panel **recommends** placing greater emphasis on developing students' soft skills in the area of intercultural communication. This skill set is essential for preparing students to navigate and address cultural dynamics such as individualism versus collectivism, which often arise in diverse professional environments. By fostering these competencies, students learn how to effectively

¹⁴ [Faculty of Law Usu Collaborates with CILS Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia to Hold International Conference | University Faculty of Law North Sumatra](#), last accessed November 13, 2024.

¹⁵ [From Medan to Gwangju: Sister City Collaboration in the Spirit of Friendship and International Cooperation | QS GEN](#), last accessed November 13, 2024.

¹⁶ [It has been implemented, how is the continuation of the internationalization program? - MediaPijar.com](#), last accessed November 13, 2024.

communicate and collaborate in multicultural settings. This will improve their employability, enabling them to work in multinational companies and compete in the global job market.

In their statement on the report, USU points out that the Bachelor of Communication Science study programme offers the course Intercultural Communication which is also available as a University Compulsory Course (MKWU). MKWU is a set of courses required for all students at USU, allowing students from other study programmes, including Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Political Science students, to take this course to strengthen their ability to interact in an intercultural context. However, the Bachelor of Communication Science programme, as the course organizer, acknowledges that the learning concept currently applied is still focused on the Indonesian context. Moving forward, the study programme will ensure that the course content covers not only national perspectives but also includes a global perspective.

USU further elaborates in their statement that in order to develop students' soft skills in intercultural communication, the HEI directs the study programme to establish a work plan and budget that support the implementation of activities such as study tours, scientific meetings, or international competitions at foreign universities. This commitment is outlined in the 2025 Performance Agreement signed between the Faculty Dean and the Rector of Universitas Sumatera Utara which has been handed in with the statement on the report. This performance agreement will be delegated to the study programme level for implementation. In this contract, the development of students' soft skills is a faculty priority, reflected through student participation in international competitions and the achievement of internationally recognized competency certificates. To achieve this performance target, the study programme must develop and mentor students to enable them to interact in a multicultural environment, particularly in academic settings. Academic activities involving international practitioners, scientist webinars, and the organization of summer courses are also part of the faculty's performance contract, which is delegated to the study programmes for implementation.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.2*	International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

1.3 Positioning of the study programme

Positioning of the study programme on the educational market

Bachelor of Law

The study programme has an important position in the legal higher education market in Indonesia in particular. As can be seen in the statistics above, there is a high number of prospective students who apply for the programme every year. The reasons of prospective students to choose the Bachelor of Law programme of USU are manifold:

1. Learning outcomes, competencies, skills and learning methods offered by the study programme are in accordance with current job market needs;
2. Curriculum supported by the availability of RPS and teaching materials;
3. Student activities and achievements;

4. Graduates have important positions in various fields of work;
5. Reputation of the Faculty of Law nationally;
6. Public awareness towards legal position.

Learning processes, learning methods, curriculum are designed and developed periodically by involving stakeholders using tracer study methods, satisfaction surveys and focus group discussions. This process also involves the National Law Faculty Cooperation Agency for State Universities (BKSPTN). Further, a comparative study was carried out comparing the programme with competing law faculties with international reputations, such as the Faculty of Law at Leiden University, Maastricht University, Vrije Universiteit, and various Law Faculties in the Southeast Asia region.

Bachelor of Communication Science

Located in North Sumatera Province which has eight ethnicities, multiculturalism has become part of North Sumatera society. Good communication competence is needed to be a liaison and mediator in interactions between individuals who have different cultural backgrounds. The Communication Science programme participates in meeting these communication competency needs through courses, studies/research and scientific meetings related to Intercultural Communication.

The specialty of the USU FISIP Communication Science programme that differentiates it from other Communication Science study programmes is the Disaster Communication course. This course is offered because of Indonesia's geographical location, which is a country prone to disasters. This course is a mandatory course for students of this programme and is available for students outside the programme as well.

Bachelor of Political Science

What sets the USU FISIP Political Science Programme apart from other similar programmes is its distinct focus on multiculturalism, a reflection of its location in North Sumatra Province, which is rich in ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity. This emphasis is embedded in its curriculum, with courses such as Anthropology and Political Sociology, Multiculturalism and Identity Politics, Local Politics and Regional Autonomy, as well as Nationalism, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights. These courses are specifically designed to address the complexities of diverse social contexts.

Positioning of the study programme on the job market for graduates ("Employability")

To maintain the quality of graduates and ensure that graduates find employment quickly and in accordance with their field of study, the three study programmes conduct market research and surveys as well as FGDs with stakeholders and alumni. This is done so that the curriculum offered remains in line with market trends and needs.

Bachelor of Law

Continuously growing national development, economic globalization, large markets, regional economic cooperation, and public legal awareness have increased the need for human resources in the legal field in all sectors. According to the tracer study, the data indicates that, on average, graduates secure employment within six months. Additionally, the survey results reveal that all sampled alumni have found positions aligned with the professional profiles targeted by the programme, such as becoming a prosecutor, judge, advocate, in-house lawyer in companies and

government offices, and continuing their studies at the Master of Law or notary master's level. This demonstrates a match between their education and career paths.

Bachelor of Communication Science

Tracer study results show that, on average, alumni of the Communication Science programme were able to get jobs within the first six months after graduation. Alumni generally work in fields aligned with their major at the national, multinational and international levels. Examples include alumni working at the Indonesian Embassy in San Francisco, LNSW, Ministry of Finance, National Social Security Council, Ministry of Transportation, Corruption Eradication Commission, Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Ministry of Trade, Astra Insurance, TVOne, and Kompas TV.

Bachelor of Political Science

The results of a tracer study illustrate that, on average, alumni of the Political Science programme found employment after less than six months. The alumni sampled in the survey state that they have found employment in fields aligning with their education. Alumni work nationally as well as internationally in positions, for example, at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Papua New Guinea and the international organization Via La Campesina. At the national level, alumni work in government agencies, private companies, civil society organizations, and as entrepreneurs.

Positioning of the study programme within the HEI's overall strategic concept

As outlined above, Universitas Sumatera Utara aims to become an internationally standard university with local excellence characteristic. Part of the strategic concept is the focus on TALENTA. Of these seven areas, the three study programmes in this accreditation procedure place their focus on Local Wisdom. This positions each study programme within the overall strategic concept of USU.

Bachelor of Law

The Faculty of Law based their vision and mission on the vision of USU, namely: "Producing graduates who have high competence and competitiveness in the field of law in accordance with developments in national and international law". This is included in the strategic plan of the Faculty.

Bachelor of Communication Science

The vision and mission of the Communication Science programme is adjusted to the vision and mission of the University and Faculty of Social and Political Sciences. The vision and mission are "to become a Centre for Communication Science Education that produces competent graduates in the fields of Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising who are competitive". This is outlined in the strategic plan of the programme.

Bachelor of Political Science

The Political Science programme based its mission and vision on the vision and mission at the University and FISIP level: "To become a superior study programme in the field of political science with local characteristics that is able to compete on a national and international scale". This has been outlined in the strategic plan of the programme.

Appraisal:

The reasons given for the positioning in the educational market of the **three study programmes** are plausible. The University has established TALENTA, using its location in the multicultural society of the North Sumatera Province as its unique selling point. This focus can be found in all three of the study programmes, setting them apart from competing programmes.

The arguments in support of graduate employability¹⁷ on the basis of the stated qualification objectives are convincingly presented. The future fields of employment for graduates are plausibly set forth.

The study programmes are convincingly integrated into USU's overall strategic concept of TALENTA. The study programmes' qualification goals are in line with USU's mission and strategic planning.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.3	Positioning of the study programme					
1.3.1	Positioning of the study programme in the educational market			X		
1.3.2	Positioning of the study programme on the job market for graduates ("Employability")			X		
1.3.3	Positioning of the study programme within the HEI's overall strategic concept			X		

¹⁷ Chapter 3.6 will outline employability of graduates in the three programmes further.

2. Admission

Admission requirements (Asterisk Criterion)

Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) is a public higher education institution in Indonesia. It follows national standards and regulations for undergraduate admissions. The university implements three admission schemes, consisting of two nationally implemented schemes, one regionally applied scheme, and one special scheme for international students (KNB).

I. SNBP¹⁸

SNBP (Seleksi Nasional Berbasis Prestasi) translates to National Achievement-Based Selection. It is the first wave of undergraduate admissions. SNBP is a student admission scheme that involves a portfolio analysis managed directly by the Technical Implementation Unit (UPT) of the Education Testing and Management Centre (BP3). In the SNBP pathway, prospective students are encouraged to possess holistic and interdisciplinary competencies. Participant requirements are based on the Regulation of the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Number 48 of 2022 regarding the Admission of New Students to Diploma and Undergraduate Programmes at State Universities. The selection process considers the suitability of applicants based on the performance reports of the last five semesters in high school, their portfolio, and the accreditation of the high school they come from.

II. SNBT¹⁹

SNBT (Seleksi Nasional Berbasis Tes) translates to National Test-Based Selection. It is the second wave of undergraduate admissions. SNBT is managed by the Education Testing and Management Centre (BP3) in collaboration with state universities (PTN). In the SNBT pathway, state universities utilise a nationally standardised written exam pattern. The SNBT exam is carried out on a computer basis. The exam material consists of the Scholastic Potential Test (TPS), Mathematical Reasoning, Literacy in Indonesian and literacy in English.

III. SMM²⁰

SMM USU (Seleksi Mahasiswa Mandiri USU) translates to Independent Student Selection at the Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU). It is the third wave of undergraduate admissions organised independently by USU. This selection process is conducted to support the quota for new student admissions after the SNBT and SNBP pathways. It is specifically intended for recent high school graduates or equivalent, enabling them to pursue undergraduate programmes at USU. The exam material consists of the Scholastic Potential Test (TPS), Mathematical Reasoning, Literacy in Indonesian and literacy in English.

IV. SBPU TALENTA²¹

SBPU Talenta USU (Talent-Based Outstanding Achievement Selection at the Universitas Sumatera Utara) is an undergraduate admission program established regionally by the Universitas Sumatera Utara. SBPU Talenta USU is a screening programme for prospective USU students who demonstrate excellence in academic and non-academic fields or possess special talents recognised at the national or international level. The aim is to identify high-achieving

¹⁸ <https://snpmb.bppp.kemdikbud.go.id/>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

¹⁹ <https://snpmb.bppp.kemdikbud.go.id/>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

²⁰ <https://penerimaan.usu.ac.id/smm/>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

²¹ <https://penerimaan.usu.ac.id/sbpu/>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

students with distinctive characters and accomplishments in their areas of interest and talent. According to the Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) Rector's Regulation No. 5 of 2022 on the Admission of New Students through the Talent-Based Outstanding Achievement Selection (SBPU TALENTA) USU pathway, it is clarified that the results are officially approved through the Rector's Decree and organized by the university-level committee. Assessment is determined based on portfolio. Apart from that, interviews and competency tests were also carried out by the Selection Team from Universitas Sumatera Utara.

V. SMMPTN Barat²²

SMMPTN Barat is a self-admission pathway to enter state universities (PTN) in the western region of Indonesia. The Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU), along with 24 other state universities in the Western Region of Indonesia, organizes SMMPTN Barat with the aim of allowing prospective students to participate in independent admissions selection. This provides an opportunity for them to choose from 25 participating campuses and become students, particularly at the Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU). These regulations are based on the Decision of the Rector of the Universitas Sumatera Utara Number 368 of 2023 and are in accordance with national regulations.

The exam material includes the following components:

1. Scholastic Potential Test (TPS):

This measures cognitive abilities deemed essential for success in formal education, particularly in Higher Education. The areas assessed in the TPS include:

- General reasoning ability.
- Quantitative ability, encompassing knowledge and mastery of basic mathematics.
- General knowledge and understanding.
- Reading comprehension and writing skills.

2. Mathematical Reasoning:

This evaluates the ability to think critically using mathematical concepts, procedures, facts, and tools to solve everyday problems. The problems presented cover various contexts relevant to individuals as both Indonesian citizens and global citizens.

3. Literacy in Indonesian and English:

This assesses the ability to understand, use, evaluate, and reflect on a variety of texts. It aims to develop individual capacities as Indonesian and global citizens, enabling productive contributions to society.

The capacity for each faculty or study programme is determined through a request letter signed by the Vice Rector I, considering faculty-to-student ratios and available teaching facilities. The approved capacities are finalised and published in a Rector's Decree.

Counselling for prospective students

Universitas Sumatera Utara offers both online and offline help desks to assist prospective students with admissions, registration, and general inquiries. Students can access information through the university's website or directly contact the help desk with working hours Monday-Thursday (08:00-16:00 WIB) and Friday (08:00-16:30 WIB). For international students, an information centre is available at iao@usu.ac.id or by phone (+62) 618219768.

²² <https://penerimaan.usu.ac.id/smmb/>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

For local inquiries, prospective students can reach the registration helpdesk at:

- Phone: +628216889060
- Call Centre: +628216889060
- Email: info@usu.ac.id
- Website: USU's admission site
- Instagram: [official.usu](https://www.instagram.com/official.usu)

The Integrated Service Unit (ULT) at the Central Administration Bureau also provides in-person assistance during business hours. For 24-hour service, prospective students can visit the FAQ section at USU FAQ²³ or contact the university's social media, where staff will forward messages to the central admission office.

Visa Registration Information for Foreign Students

The Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) International Affairs Office (IAO) provides services to assist international students and academic staff in arranging immigration documents. These include Study Permits, Student Visas, Working Visas for Academic Staff, and Stay Permits. Each international student is required to enter Indonesia with a Student Visa. The IAO facilitates the visa processing for all international students. Once the Study Permit and Visa processes are completed, students must obtain an approval letter—commonly referred to as a telex visa—from the Directorate General of Immigration in Jakarta. This approval letter is required to obtain the Limited Stay Permit (KITAS).

Selection procedure (if relevant)

National Admission

Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU), as a state university, follows admission regulations set by the Ministry of Education. Admissions are conducted through the SNBP and SNBT processes, which are regulated by the Higher Education Entrance Test Institute (LTMP). Additionally, USU holds independent and regional selection processes to meet capacity targets and ensure that study programmes attract high-quality candidates.

- **SNBP Admission:** The SNBP process is based on student and school indexes. To maintain transparency, schools participate in evaluating these indexes. Schools rank students based on their academic performance, such as grades in school subjects and student portfolios. The school index evaluates the institution's overall performance, including achievements in academic and non-academic competitions, school accreditation, and education management. As SNBP involves both students and schools in the process, the final results are determined by the combined performance portfolio of the students and the schools. The official SNBP committee website serves as the primary platform for schools and prospective students to monitor the admissions process.
- **SBPU TALENTA USU:** This regional selection process, conducted by Universitas Sumatera Utara, evaluates candidates based on achievement certificates and student portfolios.
- **SNBT, West PTN SMM, and SMM Admission:** For the SNBT, West PTN SMM, and SMM pathways, candidates must complete a computer-based exam. The SNBT process is facilitated by the Educational Testing Management Centre (BP3) and held at universities appointed by the SBMPTN committee or locations near the candidate's residence. Since

²³ <https://www.usu.ac.id/en/frequently-asked-questions>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

the test is computer-based and supervised, results are directly linked to the candidate's exam performance.

The West PTN SMM and SMM processes are conducted independently by universities, including USU, and follow a similar computer-based format. These tests are managed autonomously, with eligibility criteria specified on USU's official admissions website.

Registration and Selection Process

USU's admissions are conducted entirely online via the university's website. Registration closes once the deadline has passed, and no late registrations are accepted. Exam location and schedules are communicated through participant cards, which candidates print before the test. For the SBPU TALENTA pathway, an additional interview test is required. Once the selection processes are completed, national admission results are announced through each participant's SPMB account. SMM results are published on the website²⁴, and participants can follow the instructions provided to check their results.

Ensuring foreign language proficiency (Asterisk Criterion)

In all national entrance exam pathways to state universities, English is consistently included as one of the subjects in the examination.

Once participants are accepted and commence their education at Universitas Sumatera Utara, they will be provided with opportunities to develop their foreign language proficiency. Mandatory university English courses are widely offered and are frequently taken by students from various study programmes. These include TOEFL preparation, IELTS preparation, and English for Office and Banking. Furthermore, several programmes at USU offer international classes.

USU also operates a Language Centre as a dedicated unit that provides language-related facilities, including courses, training, translation services, and other language-related services. Through the foreign language courses provided, it is expected that participants will achieve the specified foreign language proficiency standards by the end of their study period.

Transparency and documentation of admission procedure and decision (Asterisk Criterion)

New Student Admission Procedures (PMB) are stated in the Rector's Regulations and Standard Operational Procedures for each New Student Admission Route. Participants can obtain information regarding admission requirements through the websites²⁵. Other than through the provided website, participants can also obtain information through the following help desk:

1. Call Centre: 08216889060
2. Email: info@usu.ac.id
3. Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/official.usu/?hl=id>

Alternatively, participants can also visit the Universitas Sumatera Utara and directly go to the Integrated Service Unit (Integrated Service Unit or ULT) located at the Central Administration Bureau of USU. The selection results announcement can be checked directly by participants through the website²⁶ for the SNBP route and on the website²⁷ for the SMM route.

²⁴ <https://announcement.usu.ac.id/smm>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

²⁵ <https://www.usu.ac.id/> or <http://penerimaan.usu.ac.id>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

²⁶ <https://pengumuman-snbp-snpmb.bppp.kemdikbud.go.id/>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

²⁷ <http://pengumuman.usu.ac.id/>, last accessed January 17, 2025.

Appraisal:

The admission requirements are defined and comprehensible. The national requirements are presented conclusively, and USU follows all processes required by the state.

Applicants can directly turn to a student counselling service, or to whatever other helpdesk at USU, for clarification of specific questions, of personal aptitude, of career perspectives etc. Personal dialogue between applicants and USU is provided by defined office hours, by telephone and via e-mail.

The selection procedure is transparent and ensures that qualified students are admitted.

The admission requirements regarding required language proficiency level or required result in a concrete language test ensure that students are able to successfully complete the study programmes at hand. This is regulated on national level, as one part of the national admission procedure is an English proficiency test of students. Nonetheless, the expert panel **recommends** reviewing the English admission requirements, as some of the teaching materials are provided in English and it needs to be made sure that all admitted students can follow the material.

In their statement on the report, USU explains that English proficiency has become part of the university entrance examination process for national students, although it is not an absolute requirement that could prevent prospective students from entering higher education. This is because the Indonesian education system is obligated to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to pursue higher education, even without excellent English skills. They note that once students are admitted to university, institutions facilitate the enhancement of their English proficiency. English is offered as a Compulsory University Course (MKWU). Specifically, courses such as Basic English Grammar, Basic Reading Comprehension, Basic Listening, and IELTS Preparation are provided. For international students, USU sets the following English proficiency requirements: Own Admission Test 500+ / TOEFL 61+ / IELTS 5.5+ / CATS 498+.

The admission procedure is described, documented, and accessible for interested parties. The admission decision is based on transparent criteria and is communicated in writing.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
2.1* Admission requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
2.2 Counselling for prospective students			X		
2.3* Selection procedure (if relevant)			X		
2.4(*) Professional experience (if relevant; Asterisk Criterion for master programmes that require professional experience)					X
2.5* Ensuring foreign language proficiency (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
2.6* Transparency and documentation of admission procedure and decision (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

3. Contents, structure and didactical concept of the programme

3.1 Contents

Logic and conceptual coherence (Asterisk Criterion)

As a legal entity, the University of Sumatera Utara (USU) possesses autonomy in designing its curricula under the regulations set forth by the Ministry of Higher Education, Culture, Research, and Technology.²⁸

To support this autonomy, USU has established an institution called LINKUP²⁹, which stands for the Institution of Curriculum and Learning Innovation. LINKUP assists study programmes in swiftly responding to current regulations and policies related to curriculum design, ensuring adherence to the standards set by the Ministry. For example, USU has issued a Rector's Decree³⁰, which outlines the Curriculum Improvement Mechanism for all study programmes at USU. Additionally, the University has developed a Guidebook for Curriculum Development, a Guidebook for Course Syllabus Design, and KUMALA³¹, an integrated online system for curriculum design, among other resources. It also regularly organizes a variety of workshops for curriculum implementation.

Furthermore, the study programmes actively involve various stakeholders in the curriculum development process, including faculty members, industry representatives, alumni, and current students. This collaborative approach ensures that the curricula remain relevant and practical. USU regularly reviews and updates its curricula based on feedback, educational trends, and advancements in various fields and commits to perform continuous improvement to providing high-quality education. Ultimately, this autonomy enables USU to tailor its programmes to meet the needs of its students, the labour market, and societal demands.

Bachelor of Law

The Bachelor of Law study programme has implemented a new curriculum in 2022.³² This curriculum incorporated an Outcome Based Education (OBE) approach and the Implementation of the Independent Learning-Independent Campus (MBKM³³) programme. It was devised taking stakeholder feedback into account.

The study load in the Bachelor of Laws study programme is 146 SKS credits³⁴, divided into eight semesters. For semesters 1-7, the workload is 20 SKS credits per semester and in semester eight students complete the final assignments worth six SKS credits.

Compulsory courses are provided from semester one to semester five, in semester six students can choose courses according to their desired specialization. There are six specializations

²⁸ No. 3/2020 regarding the National Standard of Higher Education, following Kemdikbudristek No. 53/2023 concerning Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

²⁹ [Home | Institute for Curriculum and Learning Innovation Universitas Sumatera Utara](#), last accessed December 12, 2024.

³⁰ No. 3288/UN5.1.R/SK/SPB/2024.

³¹ <https://kumala.usu.ac.id>

³² USU Rector's Decree No. 312/UN5.1.R/SK/KRK/2022.

³³ See chapter 3.3.

³⁴ See chapter 3.2. for an explanation of the national credit system.

offered: Civil Law, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, State Administrative Law, International Law and Economic Law. Each specialization provides seven credits of mandatory courses and four credits of specialization elective courses that can be chosen. In semester seven, there are several elective courses that students can choose for 20 SKS credits.

Table 4: Curriculum overview Bachelor of Law

Semester	Course Code	ECTS credits	Course Name
I	M1		University Compulsory Course
	USU1101	3,2	Pendidikan Agama / <i>Religion Studies</i>
	USU1109	3,2	Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan/ <i>Citizen Education</i>
	USU1110	3,2	Bahasa Indonesia/ <i>Indonesian Language</i>
	MAT1100	4,8	Matematika untuk Sos Hum/ <i>Mathematics for the Social Humanities</i>
	M2		Study Program Compulsory Course
	HKM1101	4,8	Pengantar Ilmu Hukum/ <i>Introduction of Legal study</i>
	HKM1102	3,2	Ilmu Negara / <i>State Study</i>
	HKM1103	3,2	Hukum dan Masyarakat / <i>Law and society</i>
	HKM1104	3,2	Bahasa Belanda/ <i>Dutch Language</i>
	HKM1105	3,2	Bahasa Inggris Hukum / <i>Legal English</i>
II	M3		University Compulsory Course
	USU1108	3,2	Pendidikan Pancasila / <i>Pancasila Education</i>
	M4		Study Program Compulsory Course
	HKM1201	4,8	Hukum Internasional / <i>International Law</i>
	HKM1202	4,8	Hukum Perdata / <i>Civil Law</i>
	HKM1203	4,8	Hukum Pidana / <i>Criminal Law</i>
	HKM1204	4,8	Hukum Tata Negara / <i>Constitutional Law</i>
	HKM1205	4,8	Hukum Administrasi Negara / <i>Law of State Administration</i>
	HKM1206	4,8	Hukum Ekonomi / <i>Economy Law</i>
III	M5		Study Program Compulsory Course
	HKM2101	3,2	Kearifan Lokal (Hukum Adat) / <i>Local wisdom (Customary Law)</i>
	HKM2102	4,8	Hukum Acara Perdata / <i>Law of Private Procedure</i>
	HKM2103	4,8	Hukum Acara Pidana / <i>Law of Criminal Procedure</i>
	HKM2104	4,8	Hukum Acara Tata Usaha Negara / <i>Law of Administrative Procedure</i>
	HKM2105	4,8	Hukum Dagang / <i>Comercial law</i>
	HKM2106	3,2	Hukum Pajak / <i>Tax Law</i>
	HKM2107	3,2	Hukum Perdata Internasional / <i>International Private Law</i>
	HKM2108	3,2	Hukum dan Hak Asasi Manusia / <i>Law and Human Rights</i>
IV	M6		Study Program Compulsory Course
	HKM2201	4,8	Hukum Agraria / <i>Agrarian Law</i>
	HKM2202	4,8	Hukum Islam / <i>Islamic Law</i>
	HKM2203	4,8	Hukum Perburuhan / <i>Labor Law</i>
	HKM2204	4,8	Perancangan Peraturan Perundang- undanga / <i>Drafting of Legislation</i>

	HKM2205	3,2	Perancangan Kontrak / <i>Contract Drafting</i>
	HKM2206	3,2	Metode Penelitian dan Penulisan Hukum / <i>Legal Research and Writing Methods</i>
	HKM2207	3,2	Hukum Hak Milik Intelektua / <i>Intellectual Property Law</i>
	HKM2208	3,2	Etika Profesi Hukum / <i>Professional Ethics and Responsibility</i>
V			University compulsory Course
	*	3,2	Art and Recreational Activities
			Department Compulsory Courses
	HKM3101	3,2	Hukum Acara Mahkamah Konstitusi / <i>Procedural Law of the Constitutional Court</i>
	HKM3102	3,2	Hukum Acara Pengadilan Pajak/ <i>Tax Court Procedure Law</i>
	HKM3103	3,2	Internasionalisasi (Hukum Humaniter)/ <i>Internationalization (Law humanitarian)</i>
	HKM3104	3,2	Tindak Pidana Khusus/ <i>Specific Crimes</i>
	HKM3105	3,2	Filsafat Hukum/ <i>Philosophy of law</i>
	HKM3106	3,2	Kriminologi / <i>Criminology</i>
	HKM3107	3,2	Penyelesaian Sengketa Alternatif / <i>Alternative Dispute Resolution</i>
	HKM3108	3,2	Hukum Lingkungan / <i>Environmental law</i>
	HKM3109	3,2	Manajemen Pengelolaan Perkara / <i>case management</i>
VI			University compulsory Course
	*	3,2	Literacy Skills
			Department Compulsory Courses
	HKM3201	3,2	Praktek Peradilan Semu Bidang Perdata / <i>Civil Law Moot Court Practice</i>
	HKM3202	3,2	Praktek Peradilan Semu Bidang Pidana / <i>Criminal Law Moot Court Practice</i>
	HKM3203	3,2	Praktek Peradilan Semu Bidang Tata Usaha Negara / <i>State Administrative Law Moot Court Practice</i>
			Private Law Department Compulsory Courses
	HKM3206	3,2	Hukum Perbankan dan Pembiayaan / <i>Banking and Financing Law</i>
	HKM3207	3,2	Hukum Korporasi dan Investasi / <i>Corporate and Investment Law</i>
	HKM3208	3,2	Hukum Bisnis Properti / <i>Property Business Law</i>
	HKM3209	1,6	Hukum Kontrak dan Penyelesaian Sengketa / <i>Law of Contract and Dispute Settlement</i>
			Private Law Department Elective Courses
	HKM3210	3,2	Hukum Konstruksi, Pengadaan Barang dan Jasa / <i>Law of Construction, Procurement and Service</i>
	HKM3211	3,2	Hukum Keagenan / <i>Agency Law</i>
	HKM3212	3,2	Hukum Arbitrase / <i>Arbitration Law</i>
			Commercial Law Department Compulsory Courses
	HKM3213	3,2	Hukum Pembiayaan dan Jasa Perbankan / <i>Financing and Banking Service Law</i>
	HKM3214	3,2	Hukum Kontrak Dagang Nasional dan Internasional / <i>National and International Trade Contract Law</i>
	HKM3215	3,2	Hukum Transportasi Nasional dan Internasional / <i>National and International Transport Law</i>
	HKM3216	1,6	Perkembangan Hukum Asuransi / <i>Development of Insurance Law</i>
			Commercial Law Department Elective Courses
	HKM3217	3,2	Kapita Selektta Hukum Dagang / <i>Capita Selecta of Commercial Law</i>

HKM3218	3,2	Hukum dan Transaksi Dagang Internasional / <i>International Trade Law and International Trade Transaction</i>
HKM3219	3,2	Perlindungan dan Penyelesaian Sengketa Konsumen / <i>Consumer Protection and Consumer Dispute Settlement</i>
HKM3220	3,2	HKI Dalam Perdagangan / <i>Intellectual Property Rights in Trade</i>
HKM3221	3,2	Perkembangan Hukum Perusahaan / <i>Development of Corporate Law</i>
		Islamic law Department Compulsory Courses
HKM3222	3,2	Hukum Ekonomi Syariah / <i>Sharia Economic Law</i>
HKM3223	1,6	Hukum Pidana Islam / <i>Islamic Criminal Law</i>
HKM3224	3,2	Perancangan Kontrak Syariah / <i>Sharia Contract Design</i>
HKM3225	3,2	Peradilan Agama / <i>Religious Judicature</i>
		Islamic law Department Elective Courses
HKM3226	3,2	Hukum Perjanjian Islam / <i>Islamic Covenant Law</i>
HKM3227	3,2	Hukum Perbankan dan Asuransi Syariah / <i>Banking Law and Sharia insurance</i>
HKM3228	3,2	Hukum dan Manajemen Wakaf / <i>Waqf Law and Management of Waqf</i>
		Customary law Department Compulsory Courses
HKM3229	3,2	Hukum Perdata Adat / <i>Customary Civil Law</i>
HKM3230	3,2	Pengakuan Masyarakat Adat / <i>Recognition of Indigenous Peoples</i>
HKM3231	3,2	Hukum Tanah Adat / <i>Customary Land Law</i>
HKM3232	1,6	Penyelesaian Sengketa Berbasis Adat / <i>Customary Based Dispute Resolution</i>
		Customary law Department Elective Courses
HKM3233	3,2	The Living Law dalam Putusan-Putusan Pengadilan / <i>The Living Law in Decisions Court</i>
HKM3234	3,2	Hukum Transaksi Adat / <i>Customary Transaction Law</i>
HKM3235	3,2	Hukum Kekerabatan dan Perkawinan Adat / <i>Kinship Law and Customary Marriage Law</i>
		Criminal Law Department Compulsory Courses
HKM3236	3,2	Kapita Selektika Hukum Pidana / <i>Capita Selecta of Criminal Law</i>
HKM3237	1,6	Panitentiere Recht/ <i>Penitentiary Law</i>
HKM3238	1,6	Kedokteran Kehakiman / <i>Judiciary Medical</i>
HKM3239	1,6	Psikologi Kriminal / <i>Criminal Psychology</i>
HKM3240	3,2	Perbandingan Hukum Pidana / <i>Criminal Law Comparison</i>
		Criminal Law Department Elective Courses
HKM3241	3,2	Kejahatan Anak / <i>Child Crime</i>
HKM3242	3,2	Politik Hukum Pidana / <i>Criminal Law Politic</i>
HKM3243	3,2	Victimologi / <i>Victimology</i>
		Constitutional Law Department Compulsory Courses
HKM3244	3,2	Ilmu Politik / <i>Political science</i>
HKM3245	3,2	Perbandingan Hukum Tata Negara / <i>Comparison of Constitutional Law</i>
HKM3246	3,2	Kapita Selektika Hukum Tata Negara / <i>Capita Selecta of Constitutional Law</i>
HKM3247	1,6	Lembaga Kepresidenan / <i>Presidential Agency</i>
		Constitutional Law Department Elective Courses

HKM3248	3,2	Hukum Pemerintahan Daerah/Desa / <i>Regional/Village Government Law</i>
HKM3249	3,2	Pemilihan Umum / <i>General elections</i>
HKM3250	3,2	Politik Hukum dan Perundang-undangan / <i>Political Law and Legislation</i>
		State Administrative Law Department Compulsory Courses
HKM3251	3,2	Hukum Perizinan / <i>Licensing Law</i>
HKM3252	3,2	Hukum Administrasi Pemerintahan / <i>Government Administration Law</i>
HKM3253	3,2	Hukum Keuangan Negara / <i>State Finance Law</i>
HKM3254	1,6	Hukum Kesehatan Publik / <i>Public Health Law</i>
		State Administrative Law Department Elective Courses
HKM3255	3,2	Hukum dan Kebijakan Publik / <i>Law and Public Policy</i>
HKM3256	3,2	Hukum Kepegawaian / <i>Employment Law</i>
HKM3257	3,2	Hukum Kependudukan / <i>Population Law</i>
HKM3258	3,2	Perbuatan Melawan Hukum Pemerintah / <i>Government Tortious Act</i>
		Agrarian Law Department Elective Courses
HKM3259	3,2	Hukum Tata Ruang / <i>Spatial Layout Law</i>
HKM3260	3,2	Hak Tanggungan dan Pendaftaran Tanah / <i>Security Rights and Land Registration</i>
HKM3261	3,2	Perumahan dan Pemukiman / <i>Housing and Settlements</i>
HKM3262	3,2	Bank Tanah / <i>Land Bank</i>
		Agrarian Law Department Elective Courses
HKM3263	3,2	Praktek Pembuatan Akta Tanah / <i>Drawing Up a Land Deed Practice</i>
HKM3264	3,2	Pengadaan Tanah / <i>Land Procurement</i>
HKM3265	3,2	Bagi Hasil / <i>Profit Sharing</i>
HKM3266	3,2	Ruang Bawah Tanah / <i>Basement</i>
		Labor Law Department Compulsory Courses
HKM3267	3,2	Kapsel Hukum Perburuhan / <i>Capita Selecta of Labor Law</i>
HKM3268	3,2	Sistem Jaminan Sosial Buruh / <i>Workers' Social Security System</i>
HKM3269	3,2	Hubungan Industrial / <i>Industrial Relations</i>
HKM3270	1,6	Penyelesaian Perselisihan Hubungan Industrial / <i>Settlement of Industrial Relations Disputes</i>
		Labor Law Department Elective Courses
HKM3271	3,2	Tenaga Kerja Asing dan Pekerja Migran Indonesia / <i>Expatriate Workers and Indonesian Migrants Workers</i>
HKM3272	3,2	Sosiologi Industri / <i>Industrial Sociology</i>
HKM3273	3,2	Hukum Pengupahan / <i>Wages Law</i>
HKM3274	3,2	Organisasi Perburuhan / <i>Labor Organization</i>
		International Law Department Compulsory Courses
HKM3275	3,2	Hukum Laut Internasional / <i>International Law of the Sea</i>
HKM3276	1,6	Hukum Organisasi Internasional / <i>International Organization Law</i>
HKM3277	3,2	Hukum Lingkungan Internasional / <i>International Environmental Law</i>
HKM3278	1,6	Hukum Diplomatik / <i>Diplomatic Law</i>
HKM3279	1,6	Kapita Selektta Hukum Internasional / <i>Capita Selecta of International Law</i>

			International Law Department Elective Courses
	HKM3280	3,2	Penyelesaian Sengketa Internasional / <i>International Dispute Resolution</i>
	HKM3281	3,2	Hukum Perjanjian Internasional / <i>International Treaty Law</i>
	HKM3282	3,2	Hukum Udara dan Ruang Angkasa / <i>Air and Space Law</i>
	HKM3283	3,2	Hukum Ekonomi Internasional / <i>International Economic Law</i>
	HKM3284	3,2	Studi Kasus Internasional / <i>International Case Studies</i>
	HKM3285	3,2	Hukum Perburuhan Internasional / <i>International Labor Law</i>
	HKM3286	3,2	Hukum ASEAN / <i>ASEAN law</i>
	HKM3287	3,2	Hukum Internasional Hak Kekayaan Intelektual (HKI) / <i>International Law of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)</i>
	HKM3288	3,2	Hukum Investasi Internasional / <i>International Investment Law</i>
	HKM3289	3,2	Hukum HAM Internasional / <i>International Human Rights Law</i>
			Economic Law Department Compulsory Courses
	HKM3290	3,2	Hukum Pasar Modal / <i>Capital Market Law</i>
	HKM3291	3,2	Hukum Organisasi Perusahaan / <i>Corporate Organizational Law</i>
	HKM3292	3,2	Hukum Kepailitan / <i>Bankruptcy Law</i>
	HKM3293	1,6	Hukum Investasi / <i>Investment Law</i>
			Economic Law Department Elective Courses
	HKM3294	3,2	Hukum Kontrak Bisnis / <i>Business Contract Law</i>
	HKM3295	3,2	Hukum Transaksi Bisnis Internasional / <i>International Business Transaction Law</i>
	HKM3296	3,2	Akuntansi Untuk Ahli Hukum / <i>Accounting For Legal Experts</i>
	HKM3297	3,2	Hukum Lembaga Keuangan / <i>Financial Institution Law</i>
	HKM3298	3,2	Hukum Persaingan Usaha / <i>Business Competition Law</i>
	HKM3299	3,2	Hukum Ekonomi Sosial / <i>Social Economic Law</i>
VIII	M8		Study Program Elective Course
	HKM4101	3,2	Teknik Pembuatan Akta/ <i>Drawing Up a Deed Technique</i>
	HKM4102	3,2	Teknik Penulisan Hukum/ <i>Legal Writing Technique</i>
	HKM4103	3,2	Teknik Negosiasi/ <i>Negotiation Technique</i>
	HKM4104	3,2	Teknik Investigasi / <i>Investigation Technique</i>
	HKM4105	3,2	Klinik Hukum Perdata/ <i>Civil Law Clinic</i>
	HKM4106	3,2	Klinik Hukum Pidana / <i>Criminal Law Clinic</i>
	HKM4107	3,2	Klinik Perlindungan Anak dan Perempuan/ <i>Women and Child Protection Clinic</i>
	HKM4108	3,2	Klinik Anti Korupsi/ <i>Anti Corruption Clinic</i>
	HKM4109	3,2	Hukum Telematika / <i>Cyber Law</i>
	HKM4110	3,2	Hukum Kesehatan / <i>Health Law</i>
	HKM4111	3,2	Politik Hukum / <i>Political Law</i>
VIII	M9		Study Program Compulsory Course
	HKM4297	1,6	Seminar Proposal/Seminar of Proposal
	HKM4298	1,6	Seminar Hasil/Seminar of Result
	HKM4299	6,4	Skripsi / Thesis

Bachelor of Communication Science

To graduate as a Bachelor of Communication Science, students are required to complete 146 SKS credits. The subject groups are divided into compulsory curriculum subjects (11 SKS credits), compulsory university subjects (11 SKS credits), study programme scientific character courses (91 SKS credits), and study programme elective courses (12 SKS credits) offered semesters five and six.

The study programme ensures that preparation of study programme courses meets job market requirements by taking surveys and focus group discussions conducted with stakeholders, employers, and alumni into account.

Table 5: Curriculum overview Bachelor of Communication Science

	Course Code	ECTS credits	Course Name
I	University courses		
	USU1101	3,2	Religious Education/Religion
	USU1109	3,2	Civic Education
	MAT1100	4,8	Mathematics for the Social Humanities / Mathematics for the Social Humanities
	Study programme courses		
	KOM1101	3,2	Innovative and Creative Communication
	KOM1102	4,8	Introduction to Communication Science
	KOM1103	4,8	Communication Skills 1 (Reading and Listening Skills)
	KOM1104	3,2	Philosophy of Communication
	KOM1105	4,8	Communication and Information Technology
II	University courses		
		3,2	Internationalization 1
	USU1108	3,2	Pancasila Education
	USU1110	3,2	Indonesian Language
	Study programme courses		
	KOM1201	4,8	Communication Skills 2 (Public Speaking and Writing Skills)
	KOM1202	4,8	Communication Theory
	KOM1203	4,8	Public Relations Basics
	KOM1204	4,8	Journalistic Basics
	KOM1205	4,8	Advertising Basics
III	Study programme courses		
	KOM2101	4,8	Communication Research Methodology 1 (Quantitative)
	KOM2102	4,8	Communication Psychology
	KOM2103	4,8	Mass Communication
	KOM2104	4,8	Interpersonal Communication
	KOM2105	4,8	Organizational Communication
	KOM2106	4,8	Political Communication
IV	University courses		
		3,2	Local Wisdom
	Study programme courses		
	KOM2201	4,8	Integrated Marketing Communication (IMC)

	KOM2202	4,8	Digital Media Literacy
	KOM2203	4,8	Digital Media Engagement
	KOM2204	4,8	Intercultural Communication
	KOM2205	4,8	Disaster Communication
	KOM2206	4,8	Communications Planning and Audit
V	University courses		
		3,2	Internationalization 2
		3,2	Art and Fitness
	Study programme courses		
	KOM3101	4,8	Lobbying and Negotiation
	KOM3102	4,8	Photography
	KOM3103	4,8	Media Mapping and Monitoring
	KOM3104	4,8	Publicity
	KOM3105	4,8	Digital Media Production
	KOM3106	4,8	Mass Media Management
	KOM3107	4,8	Advertising Research
	KOM3108	4,8	Advertising Management
VI	University course		
		4,8	Literacy Skills
	Study programme course		
	KOM3201	4,8	Event Organizer
	KOM3202	4,8	Communication Policy and Regulation
	KOM3203	4,8	Media and Stakeholder Relations
	KOM3204	4,8	Practicum in Communication Science (Public Relations)
	KOM3205	4,8	Data Journalism
	KOM3206	4,8	Practicum in Communication Science (Journalism)
VII	Study programme course		
	KOM4101	4,8	Sociology of Communication
	KOM4102	4,8	Film Studies
	KOM4103	4,8	Internship (Public Relations Field Work Practice)
	KOM4104	4,8	Program Planning and Public Relations Governance
	KOM4105	4,8	Public Relations Techniques
	KOM4106	4,8	Internship (Journalistic Field Work Practice)
	KOM4107	4,8	Investigative Journalism
	KOM4108	4,8	Feature and Editorial Writing
	KOM4109	4,8	Internship (Advertising Field Work Practice)
	KOM4110	4,8	Consumer Behavior
	KOM4111	4,8	Advertising Creative Strategy
VIII	Study programme course		
	KOM4297	3,2	Proposal Seminar
	KOM4299	6,4	Thesis / Journal SINTA 2 / National PKM Winner

Bachelor of Political Science

To graduate as a Bachelor of Political Science, students are required to complete 144 SKS credits out of 152 SKS credits offered. The courses are divided into compulsory curriculum courses and compulsory university courses totalling 15 SKS credits, scientific courses in the study programme (107 SKS credits), elective courses in the study programme (30 SKS credits).

Table 6: Curriculum overview Bachelor of Political Science

Semester	ECTS credit	Course Name
I		University course
	3,2	Religion
	3,2	Civil Education
		Study programme course
	4,8	Introduction to Political Science
	4,8	Introduction to Social Science
	3,2	Politics and Law
	3,2	Introduction to Social Statistics
	4,8	Logic and Philosophy of Political Science
	4,8	Anthropology and Political Sociology
II		University course
	3,2	Pancasila Education
	3,2	Indonesian Language
	4,8	Mathematics for Social Sciences
		Study programme course
	3,2	Scientific Writing Techniques
	3,2	Village Government
	4,8	Indonesian Political System
	4,8	Political Theory
	4,8	Indonesian Political Thought
III		University course
	3,2	<i>internationalization</i>
		Study programme course
	4,8	Political Development
	4,8	Political Ethics
	4,8	Public Policy
	4,8	Political Communication
	4,8	International Relations Theory
	4,8	Western Political Thought
IV		University course
	3,2	<i>Art and Fitness</i>
		Study programme course
	4,8	Politic International
	4,8	Political Comparison
	4,8	Methodology of Political Science
	4,8	Multiculturalism and Identity Politics
	4,8	Political Parties and Elections
	4,8	Islamic Political Thought

V	Study programme course	
	4,8	Digital Democracy
	4,8	Local Politics and Regional Autonomy
	4,8	Political Process and Legislative Techniques
	4,8	Political Representation System
	4,8	ASEAN dan Regionalism
	4,8	The Political Forces of Indonesia
VI	Study programme course	
	4,8	Political Behaviour
	4,8	Election Governance
	4,8	International Administrative Organization
	4,8	Defence and Security Policy
	4,8	Agrarian Policy
	4,8	Nationalism, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights
	Elective courses	
	3,2	Islamic Politics in Indonesia
	3,2	Geopolitics and Geostrategy
	3,2	Politics in the Middle East
VII	Elective courses	
	4,8	Field Work Program (Internship)
	4,8	Financial and Budgetary Policy
	4,8	Environmental and Natural Resources Politics
	4,8	Mini Research
	4,8	Global Political Issues
	4,8	Politics in America
	3,2	Political Victory Strategy
	3,2	Diplomacy and International Cooperation
	3,2	Labor Politics
VIII	Study programme course	
	9,6	Thesis

Rationale for degree and programme name (Asterisk Criterion)

Bachelor of Law

The full name of the study programme is the Bachelor of Laws study programme at the USU Faculty of Law. The degree given to graduates is Bachelor of Law (*S.H.*). The naming of study programmes and degrees is regulated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology.³⁵

Bachelor of Communication Science

When it was founded in 2003, the programme was named Department of Communication Sciences. Due to the change of status of USU, the department was turned into a study

³⁵ Regulation No. 32/2021 concerning the Naming of Study Programmes in Higher Education in conjunction with the Decree of the Director General of Higher Education, Research and Technology of the Ministry No. 163/E/KPT/2022, concerning names of study programmes in types of academic education and professional education.

programme.³⁶ Since 2010 Communication Science graduates gain the academic title Bachelor of Communication Sciences (*S.I.Kom.*).

Bachelor of Political Science

Initially, this programme was called the Department of Political Science when it was founded in 2001. However, along with the change in USU's status to PT BHMN, the name of the programme was changed to the Bachelor of Political Science programme. The undergraduate degree awarded by this programme from 2014 until now is Bachelor of Social Affairs (*S.Sos.*).³⁷

Integration of theory and practice (Asterisk Criterion)

Bachelor of Law

The courses taught at the study programme link theory and practical examples, lecturers provide case examples to be analysed and discussed based on the theories that have been studied. In addition, the study programme involves practitioners and law enforcement officers in providing lecture material, as well as judges, lawyers/advocates, and notaries.

The study programme includes a Moot Court Practice course, enabling students to simulate courtroom trials for civil, criminal, and state administrative cases. Additionally, it offers a Legal Clinic course, which incorporates street law methods both in offline and online formats. This course also involves social campaigns using video media, allowing students to acquire practical legal knowledge while applying it directly within the community.

Faculty of Social Science and Political Science

In general, the learning outcomes of each course state which practical skills are expected from class participants at the end of the semester. This integration of theory and practice is outlined in OBE guidelines for all lecturers in the two programmes.

Further, to meet students' needs for practical experience, the study programmes employ practitioners and teachers from the industrial world. The study programmes also encourage permanent lecturers to be directly involved in collaborations with industry as researchers and experts.

To bring students closer to practical experience in industry and society, the Faculty actively encourages students to take part in the MBKM programme initiated by the government, especially the certified internship and independent study programme. In this programme, students can gain experience working with industry.

Bachelor of Communication Science

The study programme offers courses that lay a focus on practice, including Photography, Investigative Journalism, Lobbying and Negotiation, Feature and Editorial Writing, Communication Planning and Auditing, and Event Organizer.

³⁶ In accordance with government regulation No. 56/2003 concerning the application of state-owned legal entities for the Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) as contained in government regulation No. 16/2014 concerning the statutes of the University.

³⁷ The nomenclature of study programmes and undergraduate degrees follows the Decree of the Director General of Higher Education, Research and Technology of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia No. 163/E/KPT/2022 concerning Names of Study Programmes in Types of Academic Education and Professional Education.

Bachelor of Political Science

Several courses in this study programme incorporate a practicum-based approach, allowing students to engage directly with real-world settings related to their lecture topics. For instance, in the Village Government course, students visit a village in North Sumatra to observe firsthand how village meetings for development planning are conducted. They also interview village officials to gather information and interact with villagers to understand their participation and involvement in local governance. Similar practical methods are applied in other courses, such as Public Policy, Political Science Methodology, Political Behaviour, and Financial Politics and Budgeting. Students are required to present their field observations and discuss their findings in class, creating a dynamic learning experience that bridges theory and practice.

Interdisciplinary thinking

USU provides Compulsory Curriculum Courses (MKWK) to ensure students have a basic understanding of the field of study.³⁸ MKWK is managed by the Basic and General Science Laboratory. It covers basic concepts, practical skills, and preparation for advanced courses. The subjects included in the MKWK are Religion, Pancasila (National Ideology), Civics, and Indonesian.

Bachelor of Law

The Bachelor of Law provides courses that can be taken by students from other study programmes, such as International Law and Customary Law courses. Law students can also choose courses in other study programmes for the literacy skills and arts and fitness groups.

As part of the general University courses, students of the study programme also take part in the courses Mathematics for Social Humanities and Dutch.

Table 7: Overview courses fostering interdisciplinary thinking in Bachelor of Law

Course	SKS	Interdisciplinary aspect
Mathematics for Social Humanities	2 credits	Mastering basic scientific concepts and statistical analysis methods that can be applied to the social humanities field.
Dutch	2 credits	Understand vocabulary and grammar in Dutch, especially related to scientific legal language.

Bachelor of Communication Science

The field of communication science is a cross-disciplinary science; therefore, the core subjects of communication science are influenced by other fields of science such as psychology, politics, sociology and management. Courses that directly relate to cross-scientific disciplines are:

Table 8: Overview courses fostering interdisciplinary thinking in Bachelor of Communication Science

Course	SKS	Interdisciplinary aspect
Psychological Communication	3 credits	Students learn about basic psychological concepts through individual behavioural patterns in the communication process and psychological factors that influence it including sensation, perception, self-concept, memory and attraction.

³⁸ Universities are obliged to provide these courses in accordance with the mandate of Law No. 12/2012.

Political Communication	3 credits	Students understand the function and contribution of communication factors in the political process as well as the reciprocal relationship between political interests and the communication process.
Intercultural Communication	3 credits	The course explains the complexity of differences in communication patterns that must be observed in cultural symbols, norms and expectations to increase mutual understanding between various races, ethnicities and nations.
Disaster Communication	3 credits	The course discusses various aspects related to disasters, starting from the concept of disaster communication, to effective message delivery models in disaster management, selecting the most effective media in spreading messages when a disaster occurs.
Sociology of Communication	3 credits	The course teaches how humans interact with media, the effects of media as a result of these interactions, changes and consequences that occur in society and how sociological views influence it.
Digital Media Engagement	3 credits	The course teaches how to analyse the results of content distributed on social media.
Mass Media Management	3 credits	Students understand and can explain how mass media institutions, in print, broadcast and online, carry out their management activities.
Advertising Management	3 credits	Students prepare advertising concepts, including patterns of production management and distribution management for conventional and digital advertising, paying attention to every element in production and distribution management and being able to formulate effective and efficient strategies.

The programme offers three concentrations in which cross-disciplinary concepts are implemented as well. The study programme provides 15 SKS credits of elective courses for each concentration. Students concentrating on journalism can take 15 SKS credits of public relations and advertising courses, and vice versa. Students are required to take at least nine SKS credits.

Bachelor of Political Science

In the study programme, interdisciplinary thinking skills are implemented in a number of courses. By nature, the discipline of political science is related to other scientific disciplines, so that it has influence from other fields of science such as law, anthropology, sociology, and international relations. The following are courses that intersect with other sciences:

- Politics and Law (2 SKS credits)
- Anthropology and Political Sociology (3 SKS credits)
- Mathematics for Social Humanities (3 SKS credits)
- International Relations Theory (3 SKS credits)
- Political Process and Legislative Techniques (3 SKS credits)
- ASEAN and Regionalism (3 SKS credits)
- Geopolitics and Geostrategy (2 SKS credits)

Ethical aspects

Ethical aspects are included in several courses on the University level, such as Religious Education, Citizenship Education, and Pancasila Education.

Bachelor of Law

The study programme specifically discusses ethical aspects in the Legal Professional Ethics course.

Bachelor of Communication Science

General ethics in communication science is outlined in the Ethics and Philosophy of Communication course. Professional ethics are outlined in concentration courses such as:

- Journalism Concentration: Basics of Journalism, Investigative Journalism, Communication Policy and Regulation, and Mass Media Management.
- Public Relations Concentration: Basics of Public Relations, Communication Planning and Auditing, and Public Relations Planning and Governance.
- Advertising Concentration: Advertising Basics and Advertising Management.

Incorporating ethical aspects into the courses aims to ensure that students not only develop competence in their respective fields of study but also uphold professional ethics when pursuing careers in journalism, public relations, and advertising.

Bachelor of Political Science

The Political Science programme emphasizes the importance of ethics which must be studied and implemented by students in social and state life. This ethical aspect is differentiated from the political reality which studies the political behaviour and reality of actors in the realm of society and the state. In fact, this ethical aspect is reflected in all designed courses, but some that specifically discuss the ethical aspect are the Logic, Philosophy of Science and Politics courses, Indonesian Political Thought, Political Ethics, Western Political Thought, and Islamic Political Thought.

Methods and scientific practice (Asterisk Criterion)

Bachelor of Law

The programme trains students' academic skills by providing courses in Procedural Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Contract Drafting, Legislation Drafting, and Deed Making Techniques. Further, a Moot Court Practice course is provided, where students simulate the case process based on real court decisions, starting from the initial stages of the trial to the decision stage. This Moot Court Practice course is given for three court environments, namely civil, criminal and state administration.

In order to prepare students to write their final thesis, the programme provides Legal Research Methods and Writing courses, which provide students with knowledge on how to conduct scientific research and writing. At the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to compose a simple research proposal. When preparing a thesis, the supervisor must ensure that the thesis prepared by the student is in accordance with the scientific qualifications for the undergraduate programme.

Bachelor of Communication Science

In order to ensure graduates have sound methodological skills and scientific practices, the study programme provides several courses that focus on research skills, namely Mathematics for Social Humanities, Communication Planning and Auditing, Communication Research Methodology I, Communication Research Methodology II, and Data Journalism. The output of these courses is varied, such as mini research, data processing with data processing applications, and data-based journalistic work. These courses with methodological content strengthen students' skills and enable them to write their final thesis.

The study programme also actively encourages lecturers to involve students in research schemes funded at university level (TALENTA Research), grant schemes from third parties and lecturers' independent research projects. In the TALENTA Research scheme, students involved as a research team receive recognition for 20 SKS credits.

Bachelor of Political Science

To improve scientific skills the study programme has designed several courses starting with Scientific Writing Techniques, Political Science Methodology, and Mini Research. The first course is designed to provide an understanding of the basics of scientific writing and the second course is designed to introduce the various methods used in political science. The Mini Research course is designed as a tool for students to conduct research exercises before they work on the research in their undergraduate thesis. In this course, students are asked to prepare a thesis topic plan and draft a proposal, which will then be discussed in depth with the lecturer and other class participants. In the next section, students will also be asked to practice data collection techniques, such as conducting in-depth interviews, making observations, or conducting surveys. So, in this course, students are trained up to the data collection stage and optionally also include the stage of organising the data before writing it into a research report.

Examination and final thesis (Asterisk Criterion)

Bachelor of Law

All courses in this study programme use a written exam as their examination format (mid-semester exam and final semester exam). This form of exam was chosen to assess students' understanding of lecture material and fulfilment of learning outcomes. In the majority of courses this is supplemented by project - or group paper presentations. Final grades from the lecture process are uploaded by each lecturer to an online portal.³⁹ Students are provided with a one-week rebuttal period following the grade submission deadline to raise any objections to the grades assigned by their lecturers.

In the eighth semester, students complete their studies by writing a thesis (4 SKS credits). Additionally, students participate in a Proposal Seminar totalling one SKS credit, and a Results Seminar totalling one SKS credit. Students are asked to prepare a publication manuscript and are encouraged to submit the manuscript to a journal of their choosing.

Bachelor of Communication Science and Bachelor of Political Science

Assessment of learning outcomes in the bachelor programmes **Communication Science** and **Political Science** is carried out continuously by monitoring the process, progress and improvement of learning outcomes in the form of quizzes, assignments, mid-semester and final semester exams. In carrying out assessment of learning outcomes, it is necessary to pay attention to the existing principles regulated in the curriculum. Lecturers can carry out various kinds of assessment techniques that complement each other according to the competencies being assessed and the specifics of each course. Freedom to use assessment techniques must be in accordance with the objectives and standards set out in the Semester Learning Implementation Plan (RPS).

The assignment method is adjusted to the Graduate Learning Achievements (ILO).⁴⁰ In general, study programmes use the following main techniques in assessment:

1. Observation is an effort to find out things that happen in the field related to the learning process in the classroom,
2. Tests in the form of written tests or oral tests,

³⁹ satu.usu.ac.id, last accessed November 28, 2024.

⁴⁰ See chapter 1.1.

3. Practical exams for practicum-based courses,
4. Performance in report format, printed portfolio or digital portfolio,
5. Project based aims to produce collaboration among class participants,
6. Case studies aim to encourage collaborative discussions among class participants for problem solving

Generally, the assessment method used by the programmes is an exam consisting of a mid-semester exam and final semester exam, daily quizzes, structured assignments carried out in groups or individually, and field practice observations. Similar to the procedure in Bachelor of Law, the students have one week to raise objections to their grades after assignment by the lecturer.

In both study programmes a thesis is used as a method for assessing students' final achievement.⁴¹ Final assignment writing guidelines are contained in the thesis writing guidelines that have been prepared by the study programmes. The final assignment exam is carried out as an assembly in a closed forum attended by the examiner team. Students can take the final exam after completing the administrative requirements in the form of study load requirements (number of credits) that have been obtained and the minimum GPA permitted (2.00), as well as approval from the supervisor of the final assignment draft.

The assessment of final exam results for undergraduate programmes is determined by the ability to think in the context of development and implementation, understand the implications of science and technology logically, critically, systematically and innovatively, and describe the results of research, as well as be able to analyse information and data by paying attention to and applying values. Selected final assignments will usually be published in journals or included in national conferences.

Appraisal:

The curriculum adequately reflects the qualification objectives of the study programmes **Bachelor of Law**, **Bachelor of Communication Science**, and **Bachelor of Political Science**. The contents of the courses are well-balanced, logically connected and oriented towards the intended learning outcomes. The areas of specialisation and optional electives enable students to acquire additional competences and skills.

The degree and programme names correspond to the contents of the curriculum and the programme objectives.

Theoretical questions are, where possible, explained by means of practical examples. Practice is further integrated in some specific courses. In the **Bachelor of Law** programme, for example, students practice their skills in a Moot Court. Courses like Photography and Investigative Journalism in the **Bachelor of Communication Science** give students the opportunity to practice their skills in these areas hands-on.

⁴¹ Final thesis examinations and assessments are carried out based on the Regulation of the Rector of Universitas Sumatera Utara No. 10/2021 concerning Academic Regulations for Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Programmes at Universitas Sumatera Utara, and Guidelines for Exams and Theses for Study Programmes.

There is evidence that the programmes qualify for interdisciplinary thinking. The **Bachelor of Communication Science** as well as the **Bachelor of Political Science** are by nature cross-disciplinary fields and the programmes offer their students insights in other scientific disciplines in various courses. **Bachelor of Law** students at USU take Mathematics and Dutch for example.

Ethical implications (for example those of economical or juridical ways of thinking and acting) are appropriately communicated. There is a specified course for ethical implications in the respective fields offered for **Bachelor of Law** and **Bachelor of Political Science**. The programme discusses professional ethics in some of the concentration courses offered.

Students acquire methodological competences in Research Methods courses and are enabled to do scientific work on the required level.

All exams, as they are defined for the courses, are suited in format and content to ascertain the intended learning outcomes. The requirements are in accordance with the desired qualification level. The exams are characterised by a wide variety of test formats including written and oral examinations, reports, and individual and group presentations. The final theses are evaluated based on previously published and coherently applied criteria, rules, and procedures.

The students prove, especially in their thesis, their ability to do scientific work and the achievement of the study programme's qualification objectives.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.1 Contents					
3.1.1* Logic and conceptual coherence (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.2* Rationale for degree and programme name (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.3* Integration of theory and practice (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.4 Interdisciplinary thinking			X		
3.1.5 Ethical aspects			X		
3.1.6* Methods and scientific practice (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.7* Examination and final thesis (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

3.2 Structure

Modular structure of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)

Table 9: Modular Structure

	Bachelor of Law	Bachelor of Communication Science	Bachelor of Political Science
Projected study time	8 semesters	8 semesters	8 semesters
Number of credits (national credits and ECTS credits)	146 SKS credits /233,6 ECTS credits	146 SKS credits /233,6 ECTS credits	144 SKS credits /230,4 ECTS credits
Workload per credit	170 minutes (60 minutes independent study, 60 minutes assignment, 50 minutes contact hours)		
Number of modules/courses	126	62	55
Time required for processing the final thesis and awarded credits	6 months 4 SKS credits for thesis, 2 credits SKS for seminar proposal	6 months 4 SKS credits for thesis, 2 SKS credits for seminar proposal	6 months 6 SKS credits for thesis
Number of contact hours	1920 contact hours		

Following national regulations, the total number of credits for the undergraduate education level is 144-148 SKS credits distributed over eight semesters.

The Semester Credit Unit System (SKS) can be equated with ECTS in accordance with a Decree of the Rector of Universitas Sumatera Utara.⁴² For undergraduate programmes, conversion of credits to ECTS is as follows:

Table 10: Conversion SKS credits to ECTS credits

Amount SKS credits	Conversion Calculation	Information
1 SKS credit	$= 170 \text{ minutes/week/semester}$ $= 170 \text{ minutes} \times 14 \text{ weeks}$ $= 2,380 \text{ minutes}$ $= 39.7 \text{ hours}$	1. One SKS credit consists of: a. 50 learning process activities minutes per week per semester; b. structured assignment activities 60 minutes per week per semester; and c. 60 minutes independent activity per week per semester 2. One semester = 16 weeks including two weeks for midterms and exams end of semester.
	$= 39.7 \text{ hours/ 25 hours}$ $= 1.6 \text{ ECTS credits}$	
144 SKS credits	$= 144 \times 1.6 \text{ ECTS credits}$ $= 230.4 \text{ ECTS credits}$	Minimum curricular activities = 144 SKS credits/ 230.4 ECTS credits

Study and exam regulations (Asterisk Criterion)

The distribution of assessments refers to the Rector's Regulation of the Universitas Sumatera Utara Number 13 of 2022 concerning the Academic Regulations for Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral programmes at Universitas Sumatera Utara, which utilises the Benchmark Assessment System (*Penilaian Acuan Patokan* or PAP) following the type of curricular activities. The study programme implements this assessment system based on the academic regulations of the study programme and the Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) for learning assessments, which is part of the Quality Assurance System (SPMI). Moreover, the Internal Quality Assurance Document, which includes policies, standards, manuals and forms determines the Learning Assessment Standards. The faculties conduct periodic briefings for all lecturers to implement the

⁴² No. UN5.1.R/SK/SPB/2023 concerning Guidelines for Calculating the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) Conversion of Student Study Loads at USU.

PAP assessment system through circulars on final exams for each semester. It is also detailed in the student handbook of the respective faculty. The graduation standards for students in the study programmes follow the Academic Regulations of Undergraduate Programmes at the Universitas Sumatera Utara.⁴³ The study programmes also implement the graduation standards based on the Standard Operational Procedures (SOP). A diploma supplement is issued to the student at the time of graduation.

The study programmes provide opportunities for students to pursue various educational developments through the Independent Campus Learning Programme, such as internship activities that align with the study programme's independent curriculum. The programme, which is based on Outcome Based Education (OBE), places these activities in the seventh semester. The recognition of prior learning processes aligns with the university's regulations⁴⁴ and is documented in the study programme's recognition report.

Feasibility of study workload (Asterisk Criterion)

USU uses the SKS system, with student study loads and teaching staff workloads expressed in credits. This system is regulated in a USU Rector's Decree.⁴⁵ Every even semester, the University sends an evaluation of student SKS achievements to both the study programme and the student concerned. Evaluation is given to students who have not obtained at least 22 SKS credits at the end of semester two who pass; at least 45 SKS credits at the end of semester four; at least 72 SKS credits at the end of semester six and at least 96 SKS credits at the end of semester eight. The evaluation letter is followed up by the study programmes by providing academic advice through the student's academic advisor. For students who have not yet taken a thesis, the guidance process is intensively handled by the study programme. This is done to make it easier and ensure that the students concerned complete the series of final assignments according to the specified deadline.

In general, the student study workload each semester is 20 SKS credits (semesters 1–7). However, according to academic regulations, students can take a maximum study load of 24 SKS credits, if their semester GPA is more than 3.00. To determine how much the study load should be and what courses to choose, students must consult with the academic supervisor, so that a plan can be prepared from the start so that students can graduate on time. Apart from that, students can also consult with the academic supervisor if they experience problems in the lecture process. USU also opens Intermediate Semester classes which are held during the even semester holidays every academic year, so that students can immediately improve if there are unsatisfactory course grades.

To monitor study workload further, USU conducts an evaluation on students learning load including questions on time spend on independent work as well as time allocation for assignments.⁴⁶

⁴³ As stipulated by the Rector's Regulation No. 13/2023.

⁴⁴ Rector's Decree No. 459/UN5.1.R/SK/SPB/2023.

⁴⁵ No. 2325/UN5.1.R/SK/SPB/2022.

⁴⁶ Survey accessible for students at: <https://akademik.usu.ac.id/>.

Equality of opportunity

The educational process at the USU prioritizes equality regardless of students' differences in religion, race, gender, social or economic status.

1. The selection process for new students is carried out openly, where prospective students can take part in the admissions process at USU without distinguishing between religion, race or gender of prospective students.
2. To ensure that all economic strata can study at the Universitas Sumatera Utara, USU implements a Single Tuition Fee (UKT) system in accordance with regulations set by the government. The UKT amount is determined by considering the economic capacity of the student, parents or other party paying the tuition.

USU also provides a portion of new student admissions to prospective students who come from remote (disadvantaged, frontier and outermost) areas.

For people with disabilities, there are several policies that are tailored to the needs of each study programme. Republic of Indonesia Government Regulation No. 13/2020 concerning Appropriate Accommodations for Students with Disabilities is a reference for handling disabilities at the national level. The Universitas Sumatera Utara is committed to providing access and empowering people with disabilities. This commitment was marked by the signing of an MoU with the National Disability Commission. To realize this commitment, USU provides a Disability Services Office in the USU Integrated Services Unit.

At the study programme level, lecture activities for students with disabilities are fully carried out on the first floor. The construction process of the new building conforms to the standards regulated nationally.⁴⁷ This regulation (although the articles do not specifically mention disabilities), contains building reliability including safety, health, comfort and convenience.

For the **Bachelor of Law** programme in accordance with the field of work that alumni are involved in, the policy taken is not to accept prospective students who are deaf and speech impaired (mute). For example, in 2016 the study programme accepted a student with visual impairments (blind). Currently the person concerned is studying at the master's level at the Faculty of Law. Apart from that, there are three further study programme students with disabilities.

For handling sexual violence, USU has followed the guidelines of Minister of Education and Culture Regulation No.31/2021 concerning the prevention and handling of sexual violence in higher education environments. This was marked by the formation of the PPKS task force at the University and faculty levels. For complaints, USU provides a Whistle Blower System (WBS) service, where victims of sexual violence can report cases of harassment they experienced to the site, to be processed by the university through the Sexual Violence and Protection Task Force.⁴⁸

Appraisal:

The structure of the three programmes supports the smooth implementation of the curriculum and helps students to reach the defined learning outcomes. The programme consists of courses and assigns credits per course on the basis of the necessary student workload. Practical components,

⁴⁷ Regulated in Government Regulation No. 16/2010.

⁴⁸ <https://wbs.usu.ac.id/>, last accessed November 28, 2024.

if existent, are designed and integrated in such a way that credits can be acquired. Course descriptions provide detailed descriptions of intended learning outcomes, and the information defined in the ECTS Users' Guide.

There are legally binding study and exam regulations which contain all necessary rules and procedures and take into account, where applicable, national requirements. The study programmes are designed so that students can study for a certain time at other HEIs or do internships without any extension of their overall study time. The recognition of degrees and periods of study at other HEIs is regulated analogous to the Lisbon Recognition Convention⁴⁹, the recognition of periods of practical work is also clearly defined. However, the Diploma Supplement that is issued to the graduates does not contain a grading table with a relative grade, so that the panel recommends the following **condition**:

The University supplies the Diploma Supplement with a grade distribution table in accordance with the ECTS User's Guide 2015.⁵⁰

The feasibility of the workload in the study programmes is ensured by a suitable curriculum design, by a plausible calculation of workload, by an adequate number and frequency of examinations, by appropriate support services as well as academic and general student counselling. Each student has an academic advisor helping them to select courses for the upcoming term in accordance with their current GPA.

USU ensures gender equality and non-discrimination. Students with disabilities are provided with affirmative actions concerning time and formal standards/requirements throughout the programme and examinations. Students in special circumstances, such as single parents, foreign students, students with a migration background and/or from so-called non-academic backgrounds, are particularly assisted. USU provides a variety of student organizations dedicated to different religious groups, a feature that is valued by the student body. These organizations create an environment where students can express their beliefs and participate in community-building activities. The expert panel commends USU's commitment to fostering inclusivity and ensuring that the university remains accessible and welcoming to individuals of all faiths. To further enhance these efforts, the panel **suggests** that USU actively promote its inclusive initiatives, making them more visible to stakeholders and prospective students.

⁴⁹ List of countries that ratified the Lisbon Recognition Convention:
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=165>.

⁵⁰ See [ECTS User's Guide 2015](#) (pages 39-41) for an explanation of grade distribution tables.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.2	Structure					
3.2.1*	Modular structure of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.2*	Study and exam regulations (Asterisk Criterion)				Condition	
3.2.3*	Feasibility of study workload (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.4	Equality of opportunity			X		

3.3 Didactical concept

Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (Asterisk Criterion)

The learning process uses an active learning strategy that places lecturers as facilitators and students as learning subjects. In line with MBKM⁵¹, the learning process places students as subjects who have the freedom to explore student interests to learn creatively and independently. Learning does not only occur in the classroom but is developed using a learning model outside the classroom by utilizing all learning resources in the surrounding environment. Some programmes from the MBKM that have been established are Teaching Campus⁵², MSIB Internship⁵³, MSIB Independent Study, Independent Student Exchange, Independent Entrepreneurship, Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA)⁵⁴, Teaching Practitioner⁵⁵, Bangkit (Build Indonesian Human Quality)⁵⁶, and GERILYA (Solar Electricity Initiative Movement)⁵⁷.

⁵¹ In 2020, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (Mendikbud) introduced the Merdeka Belajar-Kampus Merdeka programme (MBKM programme, Independent Learning-Independent Campus programme). It aims to give undergraduate students the right to learn outside the home university and the study programme for up to three semesters with the following core elements: (1) internship, (2) project in a village, (3) student exchange, (4) research, (5) entrepreneurial activities, (6) independent study or project, (7) humanitarian project, and (8) teaching in school. The list of activities can be taken from the programmes determined by the government.

⁵² Students learn through teaching assistance in educational units such as elementary, middle, and high schools. Teaching practices can be located in schools in urban or remote areas.

⁵³ Internships and Certified Independent Study (MSIB—Magang dan Studi Independen Bersertifikat) are designed to provide students with practical learning experiences outside the campus environment through cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek) and various industry partners, organizations, and educational institutions.

1. Independent Student Exchange, which consists of:

- a. Student exchange between study programmes at the same university.
- b. Student exchange within the same study programme at different universities.
- c. Student Exchange between Study Programmes at different universities.

2. Independent Entrepreneurship

The objectives of the entrepreneurial activities programme include: 1) to provide students interested in entrepreneurship to develop their businesses early and guided, and 2) to deal with unemployment problems that produce intellectual unemployment among graduates.

⁵⁴ IISMA is a government-funded flagship scholarship programme centrally managed by the Directorate General of Higher Education, Research, and Technology, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, to fund Indonesian undergraduate students for mobility programmes at top partner universities overseas.

⁵⁵ This programme involves practitioners or experts from work teaching or sharing direct experiences with students. This activity aims to bridge academic theory with practice in the world of work, for example, through guest lectures, practice-based projects, or specialized skills training. Students benefit from practical insights, real-world experience, and professional networking opportunities.

⁵⁶ The Bangkit programme is also part of the MSIB program offered to students. It is a collaborative initiative between the Ministry and technology companies such as Google, Gojek, Tokopedia, and Traveloka. It aims to improve student competencies in technology, particularly in machine learning, Android development, and cloud computing. The programme is expected to produce digital talents who can accelerate Indonesia's digital economy.

⁵⁷ The programme, which is part of MSIB, is an initiative of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) that aims to improve the competence of student human resources through technical and practical briefings and experiences that include planning, commercialization, and installation of solar power plants that are currently in demand by the business world and the industrial sector. This programme is called the Solar Electricity Initiative Movement (Gerakan Inisiatif Listrik Tenaga Surya – GERILYA).

Bachelor of Law

The didactic concept in the study programme includes teaching and learning approaches that are in accordance with the characteristics of legal science. The programme uses a student-centred learning approach.

The learning methods applied in the programme generally consist of the following activities:

1. Lectures (small class lectures, large class lectures, and expert lectures).
2. Court Simulation, namely organizing court simulations to provide direct experience in the justice system.
3. Problem-based learning by presenting complex legal problems and encouraging students to find legal solutions by applying the knowledge they have learned, as well as stimulating students' critical and analytical thinking.
4. Case studies to illustrate the application of legal concepts in a practical context so that students can analyse legal facts, identify legal issues, and formulate legal arguments.

The application of these methods can create diverse, challenging and relevant learning experiences for Law students, while improving their practical skills in applying legal concepts in real-life contexts.

Bachelor of Communication Science

The Communication Science programme also applies a student-centred learning approach, including:

1. Group discussion;
2. Simulation;
3. Case studies;
4. Collaborative learning methods;
5. Participatory learning methods;
6. Cooperative learning methods;
7. Project-based learning method;
8. Problem-based learning method.

The project-based learning method is applied, for example, in the Publicity course, which is designed for 5th-semester students. The project begins with students being divided into several groups, with each group forming a publishing company. This involves determining the company name, logo, vision and mission, organizational structure, client selection, and media choice. All these components are documented in a publicity proposal, which serves as the project's output for the mid-term exam. Following presentations and reviews, the proposal is used by the publishers during media outreach. The proposal provides written information about the publisher and its clients, serving as a reference for media consideration. After the mid-term exams, the students fully engage in negotiations and lobbying as publishers, progressing to the news production phase with media outlets. In addition to communicating via WhatsApp, updates on the media realization process are monitored and shared through each publisher's social media platforms. Towards the end of the semester, all groups are tasked with creating a final report detailing media realization and evaluating their publishing performance. The next stage involves interviews aimed at exploring and validating the entire publishing process, from formation to final report preparation. These interviews also serve as a medium for evaluating the course based on the publishers' experiences in the field. Consequently, the course outputs include the publicity proposal, final report, and digital archives on each publisher's social media.

Bachelor of Political Science

The learning process is directed at forming class participants as active learners by providing opportunities for students to design their learning and development agenda through the MBKM programme. Furthermore, the learning process is also carried out collaboratively with various partners where the lecturer acts as a facilitator. With a learning process like this, the study programme hopes to create an ecosystem that can encourage students to hone their critical, creative, innovative, and adaptive thinking skills.

The learning methods applied in the Political Science programme consist of: Lectures (small class lectures, large class lectures, and expert lectures), Tutorials (reading journals, presentations and discussions), Practices (demonstrations, guided practice and independent practice), e-learning methods, Internships or field work practices, Project based learning, Problem based learning and case method learning.

The study programme applies various learning methods in applying Student-Centred Learning (SCL) in almost all courses. The study programme defines SCL as the freedom of students to choose and determine the material of the courses they study in class. For example, in the Political Representation System course, which applies a case study-based learning method, it gives students the freedom to study how political parties select candidates for legislative elections. The lecturers allow the students to decide which political party and which electoral district they will use as a case study location. The lecturers also tell students what theories they can use. The students themselves chose the theory they use to analyse the data from the case study, because they have to adjust to the context of the problems and issues according to the choice of case study. In another example, in the Multiculturalism and Identity Politics course, which applies project-based learning methods, the lecturer asks students in groups to go to a village in North Sumatra, where they themselves decide which village they chose. The students do field work to study the practice of multiculturalism in the village. They were given a guide to study how diverse villagers express politics and interact each other. In other courses, such as the Political Communication course, lecturers provide examples of documentary-themed films and political-themed dramas, to be used as teaching materials. Students are asked to watch and then review the film, then the results of the review are discussed in class. The aim is to learn how communication patterns are commonly practised by actors in various sectors.

Course materials (Asterisk Criterion)

To take part in classes, students must enter the USU e-learning system, for attendance and to obtain lecture materials. USU's e-learning system can be accessed online.⁵⁸

Bachelor of Law

The material provided by lecturers in the Law study programme is described in the course contract at the start of the first lecture meeting and can also be accessed online. The lecture contract includes a Semester Learning Plan (RPS), namely 14 meetings in a semester, Lecture Teaching Unit (SAP), assessment rubric, teaching materials and syllabus. The following are some types of material that may be provided by the teacher:

1. Legal Theory Material
 - a. Basic legal concepts, such as legal norms, legal subjects, legal objects, and legal systems,

⁵⁸ satu.usu.ac.id, last accessed December 2, 2024.

- b. History of the development of the legal system in Indonesia and the world,
 - c. Legal theories that underlie modern legal thought.
- 2. Substantive Legal Material, namely an in-depth study of various branches of law, such as criminal law, civil law, constitutional law, state administrative law, and international law as well as analysis of statutory regulations and court decisions relevant to each branch of law.
- 3. Legal Case Studies, namely analysis of real case studies involving certain legal problems and the application of legal concepts in resolving these cases.

These materials are distributed to students via USU's Digital Classroom or Google Classroom.

Bachelor of Communication Science

The detailed lecture material is contained in the RPS for each course. Apart from the lecture material, the RPS also contains intended learning outcomes, indicators and assessment criteria and techniques, learning methods and assessment weights.

Lecture materials or teaching materials are distributed to students through various media, including the USU Digital Class, e-mail, and class groups on WhatsApp. The distribution of teaching materials is carried out by lecturers before and after the meeting.

For example, in the Communication Skills 1 course (Reading and Listening Skills), students learn the most basic communication skills that must be mastered in listening, reading, writing, and speaking. This course presents material about listening and reading, including techniques that must be learned and obstacles to achieving effective listening and reading skills. As an outcome of the course, students are expected to be able to listen and read effectively and efficiently.

Bachelor of Political Science

Like in the other study programmes, students of Political Science receive an RPS. The RPS is determined and developed independently by the lecturers and is designed in groups of expertise in certain fields of science in the study programme. A summary of lecture material from the RPS is delivered to students at the beginning of the lecture meeting. Ultimately, the RPS is reviewed and adjusted periodically following developments in science. The RPS must include Learning Outcomes (ILO), Course Learning Outcomes (CPMK), course descriptions, study materials, and literature used in the learning process.

Some of the learning media used are printed teaching materials, multimedia teaching materials, video conferencing (Google Meet, Zoom, Webex), presentation slides (PPT, Prezi, Mentimeter), screen recording, video hosting (YouTube), and video editing.

Guest lecturers

Bachelor of Law

The main goal of guest lectures is to enhance students' knowledge of the legal field, equipping them to thrive in an era of globalization and heightened competition in the job market. To achieve this, the topics covered in guest lectures are carefully selected to deepen students' understanding and sharpen their skills in the field of law. Some guest lecturers who spoke in courses in the study programme were, for example, in 2023, an expert of the Singapore Management University spoke about "The Basic of Common Law Contract and Singaporean Contract Law". Further in 2023, a postdoc from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia held a lecture with the topic "The Constitutional Approach to Judicial Review in Malaysia and Indonesia". Another example is the

lecture about “Foundations of International Refugee Law” by an assistant professor from Jindal Global University, India in 2024.

Bachelor of Communication Science

The Communication Science programme invites guest lecturers from various universities, institutes, and the public and private sectors to seminars, workshops, or join classes to share experiences. Some invited lecturers were, for example, an expert from Greenpeace South East Asia teaching about Disaster Communication as Global Issues in 2023 and a professor from Universitas Padjajaran speaking about Community Radio in Indonesia in 2024. A further example is a professor from the School of Communication University of Technology Sydney, Australia speaking about Different Global Journalisms: Contexts and Cultures in 2024.

Bachelor of Political Science

To support the achievement of learning outcomes, the Political Science programme invites guest lecturers from various universities, institutes, and the public and private sectors to seminars, workshops, or join classes to share their work experiences with students. In 2024, a professor from Universitas Andalas spoke about “The Future of Indonesian Political Policy in the Era of Prabowo Subianto's Government”. Other examples include a postdoctoral lecturer from the Northern University of Malaysia, a speaker from the Indonesian Institute, a speaker from the Indonesian Innovation Research Agency, and professors in the field of political science from other Indonesian universities.

Appraisal:

The didactical concept of the study programmes is described, plausible, and oriented towards the programme objectives. It allows for the application of different teaching and learning methods, such as, for instance, case studies or practical projects. Students are encouraged to take an active role in creating the learning process.

The accompanying course materials are oriented towards the intended learning outcomes and correspond to the required qualification level. All courses provide students with a Semester Learning Plan including detailed lecture material. They are up to date and digitally accessible for the students. They are user-friendly and encourage students to engage in further independent studies.

Guest lecturers are invited and contribute to the students’ qualification process with their special experience, either from professional practice or scientific work, but also from culture and politics.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.3 Didactical concept					
3.3.1* Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.2* Course materials (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.3 Guest lecturers			X		
3.3.4 Lecturing tutors					X

3.4 International outlook

International contents and intercultural aspects (Asterisk Criterion)

Bachelor of Law

The activities to realize internationalization carried out by the law study programme are the following:

1. Organizing a Summer Course Programme in 2022 and 2023 attended by several part-time foreign students,
2. Organizing a Guest Lecturer Programme in 2022 and 2023 filled with foreign lecturers from several top universities in the world;
3. Organizing the 2023 International Collaborative Research Programme with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UITM), Malaysia;
4. Implementing of the 2023 USAID Integrity Research Programme;
5. Organizing the 2023 International Collaborative Service Programme with O.P. Jindal Global University, India;
6. Organizing the 2024 Adjunct Professor Programme filled by teachers from O.P. Jindal Global University, India and American University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia;
7. Implementation of the 2023 EQUITY Project Joint Research Programme with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UITM), Malaysia and O.P. Jindal Global University, India;
8. Organizing the 2024 International Mobility Staff Programme with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UITM), Malaysia;
9. Organizing a Student Exchange (Outbound Mobility) Programme in 2022 with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UITM), Malaysia;
10. Implementation of the Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA) Programme in 2022 and 2023, attended by students from USU's Bachelor of Laws Study Programme at Middle East Technical University, Turkey, Palacky University Olomouc, Czech, University of Warsaw, Poland, Radboud University, Netherlands, and National University of Science and Technology, Taiwan.

The activities of students in the Student Exchange (Outbound Mobility) Programme and the Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA) Programme can be recognized or converted in accordance with Faculty regulations.⁵⁹

Further, the study programme has opened a group of internationalization courses which includes English courses which provide students with foreign language skills, especially English. The group of internationalization courses includes courses that can be chosen by students at the Faculty of Law, namely: English (Conversation) (2 SKS credits), Mandarin (Conversation) (2 SKS credits), Arabic (Conversation) (2 SKS credit), Japanese (Conversation) (2 SKS CREDIT), TOEFL Preparation (2 SKS credits), IELTS Preparation (2 SKS credits), Business English (2 SKS), Academic English (2 SKS credits), International Trade (2 SKS credits), International Relations (3 SKS credits), International Law (3 SKS credits), International Maritime Law (2 SKS credits), Humanitarian Law (2 SKS credits), International Environmental Law (2 SKS credits), International Business (3 SKS credits), Global Marketing (3 SKS credits), and Environmental Science (2 SKS

⁵⁹ USU Law Faculty Dean's Circular Letter No. 808/UN5.2.1.2/SPB/2023 concerning Guidelines for Conversion and Recognition of MBKM Activities and/or Achievements of Undergraduate Study Programme Students into Semester Credit Units (CREDIT) at the USU Faculty of Law.

credits). Apart from that, the Law Faculty has also agreed on many collaborations in the field of education with various leading universities in the world which facilitates USU Law Faculty students to be able to study at universities abroad.

Faculty of Social Science and Political Science

At the Faculty level, international activities of an intercultural nature are reflected in the international programmes that have been held, namely summer courses, international seminars and conferences such as ICOSOP (International Conference on Social and Political Development) 4, ICOPOSDEV (International Conference on Public Policy, Social Computing and Development), outbound student exchange to UiTM, IISMA⁶⁰, inbound Swiss participants, World Class University (WCU) research, international service, ISO, and sabbatical leave. The study programme members are involved in these activities both as committee members and participants.

Bachelor of Communication Science

The Communication Science programme is pioneering an internationalization programme by carrying out several activities, namely:

1. Summer Course with theme: Glocalizing Development in North Sumatera
2. Outbound Programme with the University Teknologi Mara, Malaysia. This activity can be converted into course credit taken by the student concerned in the current semester. The maximum number of recognitions is 20 credits.
3. Preparation for international learning by carrying out Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) training for lecturers in communication science study programmes.
4. Availability of international courses that address worldwide scientific and industrial developments, namely Communication and Information Technology courses (3 SKS credits), Mass Communication (3 SKS credits), Publicity (3 SKS credits), Film Studies (3 SKS credits), Communication Skills I (3 SKS credits), Communication Skills II (3 SKS credits), Digital Media Literacy (3 SKS credits), Communication Theory (3 SKS credits), Disaster Communication (3 SKS credits), and Intercultural Communication (3 SKS credits)

Bachelor of Political Science

The study programme provides several courses aimed at providing capital for students to work in international institutions and companies, namely International Politics (3 SKS), ASEAN and Regionalism (3 SKS credits), International Administrative Organizations (3 SKS credits), Political Issues Global (3 SKS credits), and Diplomacy and International Cooperation (2 SKS credits). The Political Science programme introduced an internationalization programme including:

1. Independent student exchange programme with Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Malaysia. This programme is part of the MBKM implementation and can be recognized for up to 20 SKS credits.
2. Preparation for international learning by carrying out MOOCs training for Political Science Programme lecturers.
3. Offering several courses with intercultural content, namely Anthropology and Political Sociology (3 SKS credits), Multiculturalism and Identity Politics (3 SKS credits), and Nationalism, Conflict Resolution and Human Rights (3 SKS credits).

⁶⁰ Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards

Internationality of the student body

Bachelor of Law

Currently, there are no foreign students enrolled in the undergraduate law programme. However, the study programme has accepted several foreign students who have taken part in the summer course programme. 37 foreign students took part in the summer course programme in 2022 and 2023 who come from Malaysia, India, the Philippines and Malagasy. Through this summer course programme, USU Bachelor of Law study programme students get the opportunity to interact and hold discussions with foreign students.

Additionally, to promote the internationality of the Bachelor of Laws, USU is also preparing to open international classes and prepare a developing country partnership scholarship programme.

Bachelor of Communication Science

Currently, there are no foreign students enrolled in the Communication Science programme. Nonetheless, the programme involves students in several international activities, namely student exchange which is part of the sister city activities between Medan City and Gwangju City in South Korea and the Summer Course Programme which is organized on Faculty level and includes participants from various countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, and Africa. Lastly, students take part in an outbound programme at University Teknologi Mara (UITM) for one semester.

Bachelor of Political Science

Similar to the other programmes, there are currently no foreign students enrolled in the Political Science programme. The programme involves its students in several international activities, such as the Summer Course Programme mentioned above and student exchange in the outbound programme at UITM for one semester.

Internationality of faculty

Bachelor of Law

There are nine lecturers teaching in the programme who have received their education from abroad. The nine lecturers include the following:

- two master's degrees from Georgetown University Wisconsin, USA,
- a master's degree in Legal Anthropology at Rijksuniversiteit Leiden/Landbouw Universiteit Wageningen, Netherlands and the University of Indonesia in Jakarta,
- a master's degree from Rijks Universiteit Groningen, Netherlands,
- a doctorate from the Universite de Lille Paris, France,
- a master's degree from the University of Kent, UK
- a master's degree from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in Selangor Malaysia,
- a master's degree from Michigan State University College of Law, USA, and
- a master's degree from the University of Malaya, Malaysia.

The experiences possessed by these lecturers, both guest lecturers and study programme lecturers who study abroad help students to gain insights regarding legal material and practices that take place in other countries.

Bachelor of Communication Science

One lecturer of the study programme teaches Digital Literacy in Indonesia abroad at Universiti Sains Malaysia. Five study programme lecturers are members of the International Communication Association (ICA). Apart from that, lecturers in the Communication Science programme also actively participate in international scientific meetings both as participants and committee members, including: IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science, International Conference on Social and Political Development, ASPIKOM International Communication Conference, The 4th TALENTA Conference on Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST)-2021.

Further, nine lecturers have published articles in international journals, for example, in the World Journal of English Language, the International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning, the Journal of Xi'an Shiyou University, and the Multidisciplinary Science Journal.

Lastly, six lecturers are graduates of Universiti Sains Malaysia and one graduated from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Bachelor of Political Science

One lecturer from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia teaches 2–3 class meetings in the Comparative Politics course (3 SKS credits). The lecturers of the study programme itself are involved in international collaboration. One postdoctoral lecturer has been a speaker, keynote speaker and presenter at several campuses in Malaysia, the United States and Italy. Further, six faculty members have published international journals articles. Lastly, seven lecturers graduated abroad, including USM – Malaysia, Nagoya University – Japan, and Bhimrao Ambedkar University – India.

Foreign language contents

Bachelor of Law

Currently, the language of instruction used in the undergraduate programme is Indonesian, although students are given lectures in English (2 SKS credits) and Dutch (2 SKS credits). Currently the lecturers are improving their English skills to support the International Class programme being prepared by USU, where English will be used.

Bachelor of Communication Science

Communication Science programme students have the opportunity to study foreign languages through the Internationalization course (2 SKS credits) given in the second semester. Students can choose one of the Internationalization courses offered including: English (Conversation), Mandarin (Conversation), Arabic (Conversation), Japanese (Conversation), TOEFL Preparation, IELTS Preparation, Business English, and Academic English.

Bachelor of Political Science

The main language of instruction used is Indonesian. Even though Indonesian is used, teaching materials can be used in English. In the programme, students are given the opportunity to take internationalization courses for two credits in other study programmes in the third semester. The courses offered are English (business or academic), Mandarin, or Japanese.

Appraisal:

International contents are an integral part of the curriculum. Students are thus prepared for the challenges in an international working environment. Through practical examples, students are enabled to act in an intercultural environment. To strengthen the intercultural aspect of **the three study programmes** further, the expert panel **recommends** exposing students more to an international environment. The University could introduce initiatives that promote "internationality at home." This could include offering workshops on intercultural communication, where students can learn to navigate cultural differences and develop global competencies. Additionally, the programmes could organize more international lectures or webinars via platforms like Zoom, inviting speakers from around the world to share diverse perspectives. Collaborating with international institutions could also provide students with valuable opportunities to engage with global academic communities. Creating dedicated spaces for interaction, such as multicultural discussion forums or virtual exchange programs, would further enhance students' exposure to international settings, preparing them for success in a globally connected world.

In their statement on the report, the study programmes recognize this recommendation and outline that a performance contract between the faculties and the university has been drafted as a commitment to addressing it. The contract outlines various efforts to expand opportunities for international interaction among students.

Additionally, for the **Bachelor of Political Science**, the panel **recommends** implementing courses dealing with international matters such as a course on International Organisations or International Public Law. These courses could be taught by international faculty in English. This approach would enrich students' learning experiences, broaden their global perspectives, and help them develop the ability to engage in discussions within an international academic environment.

In their statement on the report, the study programme states that international courses such as ASEAN and Regionalism, International Relations Theory, International Organizations and Administration, Politics in America, Politics in East Asia, Politics in the Middle East, Politics in Australia, Geopolitics and Geostrategy, Global Political Issues, and Foreign Policy have been developed. Each course applies project-based learning (PBL) methods to provide practical experience, such as in the ASEAN course which illustrates the role of the regional organization. In addition, the Politics in America course allows students to compare Indonesia's political conditions with the world's largest democracy. International Organization and Administration and Global Political Issues courses are also taught to introduce the role of non-state actors and global political cases, so that students can understand the dynamics of solving political problems at the international level. The study programme is considering FIBAA's recommendation to include courses on International Organizations and International Public Law.

The international composition of the student body does not correspond to the programme concepts. However, the panel recognises that the internationalisation plan of USU is currently in its first stages. They **recommend** intensifying measures to promote internationality which are goal oriented.

The international composition of the faculty (teachers from different countries, teachers with international academic and professional experience) promotes the acquisition of international competences and skills. The measures taken are goal oriented. While the current number of teaching staff with international backgrounds is sufficient to meet programme goals, the panel **recommends** further efforts to recruit lecturers from abroad and/or lectures with an international background in both, the **Faculty of Law** (for the specialisation in international law) and the **Faculty of Social Science and Political Sciences**. This initiative would not only enrich the academic environment but also support the University in realizing its vision of becoming a globally competitive institution.

In their statement on the report, USU explains that thus far the lecturer recruitment process at the University has required Indonesian citizenship, which has not allowed foreign lecturers to become permanent faculty members. Therefore, the common mechanisms used to involve international lecturers has been either as adjunct professor, through sabbatical leave, or top scientist webinars. Currently, USU is in the process of finalizing regulations that will establish the recruitment mechanism for foreign lecturers as permanent faculty members. In the meantime, as a step to increase the number of lecturers with international backgrounds, USU has established a policy that requires young lecturers (under the age of 40) to pursue further education abroad.

The proportion of foreign language courses and required foreign language materials corresponds with the qualification objectives of the three study programmes.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.4 Internationality					
3.4.1* International contents and intercultural aspects (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.4.2 Internationality of the student body				X	
3.4.3 Internationality of faculty			X		
3.4.4 Foreign language contents			X		

3.5 Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)

Students achieve multidisciplinary competencies and skills through elective courses outside the study programmes at Universitas Sumatera Utara and opportunities for learning beyond the study programmes through the Independent Learning-Campus Independent (MBKM) approach. In semesters 1-5, students have the opportunity to take elective courses outside the study programmes within the faculty and Universitas Sumatera Utara. In semester 6, students can engage in MBKM learning, including internships or industrial practices, village projects, student exchanges, research or studies, entrepreneurship, independent studies or projects, humanitarian projects, or teaching in schools, as per the study programme's policies. This multidisciplinary learning also provides experiences in effective teamwork, leadership skills, public speaking, group dynamics, negotiation skills, conflict resolution skills and exposure to the international arena.

Bachelor of Law

Apart from these university wide possibilities, there are also several courses aimed at multidisciplinary skills within the Bachelor of Law programme, namely: Moot Court Practice in the Civil Sector, Moot Court Practice in the Criminal Sector, Moot Court Practice in the State Administration Sector and so on. Further, Faculty of Law students gain scientific competency through various scientific disciplines, including Criminal Law, Civil Law, Islamic Law, Customary Law, Commercial Law, Economic Law, State Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, International Law, Agrarian Law and Labor Law.

Bachelor of Communication Science

Aspects of multidisciplinary competence and skills are implemented in the study program's specialization courses such as Photography, Investigative Journalism, Lobbying and Negotiation, Feature and Editorial Writing, Communication Planning and Auditing, and Event Organizer. These courses enrich students' knowledge in the context of scientific, cultural and industrial collaboration.

Table 11: Examples of courses and the multidisciplinary competencies expected in Bachelor of Communication Science

Course	Multidisciplinary Skills/Competencies
Photography	Engineering, art, creativity
Investigative Journalism	Analytical and critical thinking skills, writing techniques
Lobbying and Negotiations	Diplomacy, network development, persuasiveness
Feature Writing and Editorial	Writing techniques, creativity, analytical skills and critical thinking
Audit Communication and Planning	Problem solving, surveys, campaign message planning, public speaking
Event Organizer	Working in a team, leadership, developing work networks

In order to develop and strengthen the position of the Communication Science programme in scientific fields across disciplines, the study programme also participates in summer course activities carried out by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

Bachelor of Political Science

Aspects of multidisciplinary competence and skills are provided starting from mandatory courses such as Introduction to Social Sciences, Politics and Law, and Anthropology and Political Sociology. This provides students with an understanding of the intersection and relationship between political science and related social sciences. With this foundation, the study programme then designs elective courses that relate to International Relations, such as ASEAN and Regionalism, International Administrative Organizations, Geopolitics and Geostrategy, and Diplomacy and International Cooperation.

Table 12: Examples of courses and the multidisciplinary competencies expected in Bachelor of Political Science

Courses	Competency
Introduction to Social Science	Mastering concepts in social sciences and identifying social problems.
Politics and Law	Analyse roles and actors in the local and national political arena and criticize development dynamics and processes.

Anthropology and Politic Sociology	Examining the political system and changes in political life.
ASEAN and Regionalism	Explain the dynamics of regional politics.
Organizations of International Administration	Explain the role of international organizations in international relations.
Geopolitics dan Geostrategy	Explains international political phenomena through two foreign policy tools, namely diplomacy and war.
International Cooperation and Diplomacy	Putting forward constructive arguments, ideas and political ideas.

Appraisal:

The students acquire communication and public-speaking skills as well as cooperation and conflict handling skills in accordance with the course descriptions. This is supported by means of suitable didactical and methodological measures. The acquisition of further multidisciplinary competences, such as leadership skills and broad contextual knowledge, is ensured.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.5* Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

3.6 Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)

As mentioned above, the study programmes provide students with the opportunity to do internships in the MBKM programme. Further, each programme imparts further skills for employment to its students.

Bachelor of Law

The Faculty of Law collaborates with the Indonesian Advocates Association and various companies. The study programme also carries out training to increase students' knowledge and skills, such as training in contract preparation, legal opinions, and legal memorandums. This can increase the experience, skills and competence of Law Faculty students in the field of legal science and legal practice, introduce a real work culture, and obtain input and feedback for adapting the curriculum to suit the demands of industry.

Based on the results of the tracer study regarding the time required for graduates to get a job and the suitability of the graduates' field of work, it shows that more than half of the graduates who were tracked got jobs no more than six months after completing their studies. Based on a survey conducted on graduates in 2022, 59.7% of graduates were tracked to have worked in fields of work that were in accordance with the graduate profile and competencies as formulated in the curriculum and continued their education at postgraduate level in the field of law.

Bachelor of Communication Science

Students' professional skills are developed through the Communication Science Practice course (3 SKS credits) and Field Work Practice course (3 SKS credits). The Communication Science Practice course is offered in the sixth semester and is mandatory for the three concentrations within the programme: Public Relations, Journalism, and Advertising. In the first week, students attend a sharing session with alumni experienced in photography, broadcasting, and audiovisual production, during which alumni share insights from their professional journeys. Subsequently, students are divided into small groups and guided by alumni or senior students to create projects relevant to their chosen concentration. For example, Advertising students collaborate with MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) owners as clients, conducting research to identify their promotional needs. Under supervision, they develop creative concepts and execute projects, such as product photography, advertising jingles, or promotional videos.

The Field Work Practice course, taken in the seventh semester, provides students with hands-on experience at institutions or companies aligned with their concentration. Internships last between one and a half and six months, offering opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills in real-world settings. For instance:

- **Advertising students** may intern at agencies like Top Advertising, participating in client pitches and working on client projects as if they were professional team members.
- **Journalism students** collaborate with partner institutions such as DAAI TV, Tribunnews, or Detik Sumut, gaining experience in journalistic coverage, program filming, and video editing.
- **Public Relations students** intern at organizations like Telkomsel or state-owned enterprises (e.g., PTPN), where they engage in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, publicity events, and technical PR tasks akin to those of Junior Public Relations Officers.

This combination of coursework and internships equips students with both theoretical knowledge and practical expertise, fostering readiness for their future careers.

Tracer studies and focus group discussions (FGDs) help the study programme to understand which specific skills (soft skills) and general abilities (hard skills) alumni find beneficial when entering the job market.

1. Specific skills include graphic design, photography, investigative journalism, lobbying and negotiation, feature and editorial writing, scientific writing, campaign message planning, public speaking, and surveys.
2. General skills include working in a team, diplomacy, self-evaluation, analytical and critical thinking skills, leadership, working independently, creativity, network development and problem-solving.

These specific and general skills are implemented the following courses: Photography, Investigative Journalism, Lobbying and Negotiations, Feature and Editorial Writing, Communication Planning and Audit, Event Organizer. The results of the graduate waiting time survey show that more than half of the graduates who were tracked were able to get a job within six months after graduation. This proves that the curriculum implemented by the Communication Science programme can meet the needs of graduates as capital to enter the world of work. regarding the suitability of graduates' fields of work, based on a survey conducted in the 2021-2022 period, there were 68.67% of graduates who were tracked to have worked in fields of work that were in accordance with the graduate profile and competencies that had been formulated in the curriculum.

Bachelor of Political Science

Practical work skills are given to students through a number of courses that apply practical work learning methods such as Field Work Practices (PKL), and other courses that assign students to go into the field to study politics in society and the country directly. Some examples are Political Parties and Elections and the Local Politics and Regional Autonomy courses. In the Political Parties and Elections course, students are asked to visit political party offices. They are asked to observe how political parties play a role in the political process by interviewing party administrators. Students are asked to provide an overview of the function of political parties to understand the role and contribution of parties in the system and government. The results of the interviews they conducted are presented in class. This field work practices aims for students to be critical and analytical in understanding political dynamics. In the Local Politics and Regional Autonomy course, students are asked to visit villages in North Sumatra for three days. Students gain first-hand experience in understanding the dynamics of politics and government at the local level. Students see how regional autonomy is applied at the village level, including in terms of resource management, development planning and local policies taken by village governments. With field visits, students gain a deeper understanding of local politics, village government and the implementation of regional autonomy which will enrich their perspective on politics.

The graduates who were successfully tracked by the curriculum development team provided several answers to questions about general skills and specific skills that are useful for them in the world of work.

1. Specific skills: Utilizing information technology, critical thinking, working together in teams, leading, communicating interpersonally, self-management in doing work, communicating aspirations and ideas.
2. General skills: logical, systematic, critical and innovative thinking, working independently, measurable quality, making appropriate decisions, developing work networks and being responsible for achieving results, self-evaluating.

The results of the graduate waiting time survey show that more than half of the graduates tracked were able to get a job within six months after being declared a Bachelor of Social Sciences (in the field of Political Science). This shows that the curriculum implemented by the Political Science programme can meet the needs of graduates as capital to enter the world of work.

Appraisal:

The promotion of employability – for instance through the integration of theory and practice and through the promotion of multidisciplinary competences and skills – runs as a common thread of the study programmes through all their courses. This is shown by the fact that more than half of the students find employment six month after graduating.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.6*	Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

4. Academic environment and framework conditions

4.1 Faculty

Structure and quantity of faculty in relation to curricular requirements (Asterisk Criterion)

The table below shows how many faculty members the three study programmes at USU have.

Table 13: Structure of faculty

	Bachelor of Law	Bachelor of Communication Science	Bachelor of Political Science
Full-time teaching staff	98	25	20
Part-time teaching staff incl. visiting/adjunct lecturers	11	-	-
Total number of teaching staff	109	25	20
Among them:			
Teaching staff with professional experience	12	10	10
Teaching staff with international experience	8	3	4
Number of professors	14	4	2
Number of associate professors	15	8	3
Number of assistant professors	11	7	10
Number of senior lecturers	34	4	3
Number of lecturers	27	2	2
PhD holders	55	10	12
Master's degree holders	41	15	8
Guest lecturers	21	5	5

Academic qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)

National regulations state that lecturers are professional educators and scientists with the main task of transforming, developing and disseminating science, technology and art through education, research and community service.⁶¹ In addition, lecturers are required to have academic qualifications, competencies, educational certificates, be physically and mentally healthy, and have the ability to realize national education goals. Additionally, they need to meet the qualifications required by the higher education unit where they work. Based on this, lecturers teaching in undergraduate programmes must have the minimum academic qualifications of being graduates of Master's programmes, and lecturers in postgraduate programmes must be graduates of doctoral programmes.

Therefore, the requirements to becoming a lecturer in the Bachelor programmes at USU are:

1. Having academic qualifications of a master's degree which must be in line with the Bachelor and obtained from a university with a minimum B accreditation according to the area of expertise/competence,
2. Cumulative Assessment Index (GPA) of at least 3.00 (scale 4) for domestic graduates.

The lecturer recruitment process begins with the University writing to the Faculty regarding the needs of lecturers in the study programmes. The Faculty then conducts a meeting with the study programme to determine the required number of lecturers. Subsequently, the study programme completes a form provided by the University outlining these needs.

⁶¹ Based on Law No. 14/2005.

The recruitment process is announced through official platforms.⁶² Results of the selection process are published online as well.⁶³ The selection process for teaching staff includes multiple stages: Administrative Screening, Academic Potential Test, Field Competency Test, Psychological Assessment, Interview, and Teaching Demonstration.

Lecturers who are recruited for the needs of the study programme, are placed in the study programme and undergo a trial period for a minimum of one and a maximum of two years and participate in pre-service before becoming civil servant lecturers. Apart from that, Permanent Lecturers at USU are also given the opportunity and support to continue their education with study assistance and scholarships, especially for lecturers who wish to continue their Doctoral education.

Pedagogical / didactical qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)

The criteria for pedagogical and didactical qualifications required to become teaching staff at USU are detailed online. The recruitment process varies between permanent lecturers and practitioner lecturers. Information on recruiting permanent study programme lecturers is available on the website, while practitioner lecturers are recruited through a Dean's Circular.

Pedagogic qualifications pertain to the essential skills lecturers must acquire to effectively facilitate student learning. These qualifications are enhanced through programmes such as Basic Instructional Engineering Skills (PEKERTI) and Applied Approach (AA) Training, conducted by the Education Development Unit (UPP). Additionally, coaching clinics are organized by the Scientific Writing Innovation and Intellectual Property Right Board (LPHKI) to support article writing, while training sessions on preparing research proposals for funding are provided by the Research Institute (LP) at USU and other higher education institutions.

At the **Faculty of Social Science and Political Science (FISIP)**, lecturer development is carried out through curriculum training, SPSS training, Data visualization training using Tableau. The Faculty also provides funding assistance for lecturers who want to participate in training on making research proposals funded by the ministry. The Faculty helps with the funding in terms of ticket purchases, accommodation, etc. Similar funding also applies to seminars, conferences, and workshops which are conducted both domestically and abroad. Young lecturers also receive advice, direction, and guidance to take the lecturer certification exam. FISIP aims for all lecturers to obtain certification as soon as possible to ensure the highest level of qualification and competence among its teaching staff.

Practical business experience of faculty

Bachelor of Law

The Faculty of Law encourages the lecturer to gain practical experience by becoming an expert in court proceedings. One member of the staff acts as an expert witness for criminal cases, while another acts as an expert witness in corporate cases. Additionally, multiple members of the faculty are certified as mediators. Aside from the practical experiences of lecturers, the faculty is supported by several practitioner lecturers, who are, for example, diplomat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, judge of Administrative Court, Jakarta, judge of Constitutional Court, or lawyers.

⁶² <https://rekrutmen.usu.ac.id/> and <https://casn.kemdikbud.go.id/cpns/cpns2023>.

⁶³ <https://www.usu.ac.id/id/pengumuman/seleksi-penerimaan-dosen-tetap-di-lingungan-universitas-sumatera-utara-tahun-2023>.

Lastly, several lecturers own businesses relevant to the subject taught, such as a public notary office or a law firm.

Bachelor of Communication Science and Bachelor of Political Science

Lecturers at FISIP are trusted to cooperate with the government or companies, both as experts to make academic studies, resource persons, and facilitators of activities. To stay up to date and to get closer to the industry, FISIP involves practitioners from companies and government agencies to become practitioner lecturers. In addition to teaching, practitioner lecturers have the responsibility to help develop networks at the national and international levels, to build cooperative relationships for student practicum networks and work networks for graduates, and to be involved in seminars, conferences, and training for students.

Some examples of practical experience of faculty are listed below:

1. Guest speaker at national and international scientific events,
2. National Social expert or observer panellist of the 2024 Indonesian presidential candidate debate organized by the General Election Commission,
3. Planning research experts related to government programmes,
4. Resource speakers at national events,
5. Guest researcher at the National Research Institute,
6. Team of monitoring experts on government national programmes,
7. Planning research experts related to government programmes,
8. Selection team of Election Supervisory Board BAWASLU,
9. Research field controller organized by the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission Centre,
10. National-level research expert informant organized by the central Indonesian Broadcasting Commission,
11. Research experts related to government programmes,
12. Government and private programme consultants,
13. Chairman and a member of the association at the national level (ASPIKOM and ISKI),

Internal cooperation (Asterisk Criterion)

The *Tridharma* of Higher Education consists of three main entities: teaching, research, and community service. The academic community is required to collaborate in the implementation of these activities. Below is a brief explanation of the processes applied at the University of North Sumatra.

1. Teaching Collaboration

Some parts of the teaching and learning process is conducted in a team-teaching format. This means that a course is taught by two or more lecturers. Lecturers who are members of the teaching team can design the RPS, SAP (syllabus), lecture contracts and teaching materials together. Then, the teaching team can implement their teaching and evaluate the students. In addition, teaching collaboration can also involve inviting practitioners or alumni from relevant fields.

2. Research Collaboration

The research programmes are divided into several categories, including internal university grants and national grants from the Ministry of Higher Education. For internal university research,

lecturers are required to collaborate in teams of at least two to four people, while national grants consist of teams of three.

University internal research comprises various schemes that can be followed by all lecturers at USU, allowing collaboration not only within USU but also with government agencies, as well as national and international university partners. For instance, in the basic and applied research scheme, lecturers can collaborate with fellow USU lecturers either within the same or across different study programmes. Similarly, in the reputable research scheme, lecturers may choose a collaboration model such as government collaboration, where lecturers partner with government institutions.

Moreover, there is the Higher Education Collaboration Research scheme, which allows lecturers to collaborate with peers from other universities in Indonesia, and the International Affiliation Research scheme, which opens opportunities for lecturers to collaborate globally. The mandatory outcome of such collaborative research is the publication of scholarly articles in both national and internationally reputable journals.

The **Faculty of Law** has four journals, namely: Jurnal Mahadi⁶⁴, Acta Law Journal⁶⁵, Ultimate Journal of Legal Study⁶⁶ and Neoclassical Legal Review⁶⁷. These journals are used as a means of developing the potential for collaboration in research by a number of lecturers who have both practitioner and researcher backgrounds.

3. Community Service Collaboration

Community service activities include various schemes such as Economic and Social Services, Disaster Mitigation, Health Services, as well as National and International Collaborative Services. As with teaching and research, community service also requires lecturers to collaborate in teams of two to four members, both within USU and on a national or international scale.

The members of the study programmes also cooperate in the general organisation of the programmes:

Bachelor of Law

Regular meetings are carried out in the study programme before starting the first lecture, before the midterm exam, before the final exam, and a final assessment meeting. Further, there are weekly regular meetings every Monday. All permanent lecturers of the study programme participate in the regular meeting. In the regular meetings, there is an exchange of information on important matters related to the latest information from the manager of the programme

Bachelor of Communication Science and Bachelor of Political Science

At the faculty level, annual meetings are conducted to facilitate development planning and Faculty Work Meetings, serving as a platform for exchanging information, networking, and sharing practical experiences. The outcomes of these deliberations and meetings are further refined at the study programme level, where they are translated into actionable operational activities. Additionally, the faculty organizes a "Coffee Morning" programme, providing an informal setting

⁶⁴ <https://talenta.usu.ac.id/Mahadi>.

⁶⁵ <https://talenta.usu.ac.id/ALJ>.

⁶⁶ <https://talenta.usu.ac.id/uljls>.

⁶⁷ <https://talenta.usu.ac.id/nlr>.

for lecturers to connect and engage with one another following the morning ceremony. Coffee mornings are held in commemoration of national holidays, such as Education Day, Pancasila Day, and Independence Day.

Student support by the faculty (Asterisk Criterion)

To ensure the learning process runs smoothly, the study programme provides an Academic Advisor for each student who will monitor study progress from the beginning of the semester until the student completes their education. Academic Advisors help students choose courses through the student academic information system, provide consultation on fieldwork practices, or provide consultation on the title of their final project. Academic advisors can monitor the progress of student studies each semester. Monitoring is done through WhatsApp, as well as face-to-face meetings.

If there are students who have problems in learning and show psychological conditions that interfere with the learning process, the students can be referred to the Polyclinic of Universitas Sumatera Utara.⁶⁸

Forms of support are also provided in the form of scholarships for outstanding students and scholarships for students who come from underprivileged families, as well as open opportunities for cross-institutional cooperation for student scholarship programmes. In addition, support is also provided to students in the form of financial support for activities organized by internal campus organizations, as well as financial assistance for individuals who participate in national and international competitions.

Appraisal:

The structure and number of the faculty correspond to the requirements of the three study programmes and ensure that the students reach the intended qualification objectives. The faculty's composition, consisting of full-time and part-time (visiting) lecturers in the **Bachelor of Law** and full-time lecturers in the **Bachelor of Communication Science** and **Bachelor of Political Science**, guarantees that both the academic standards and the requirements of professional practice are fully satisfied.

The academic qualification of the faculty corresponds to the requirements and objectives of the study programmes. USU follows national regulations and verifies the qualifications of the faculty members by means of an established procedure. Specific measures for the further qualification of the faculty members are implemented.

The pedagogical and didactical qualification of the faculty correspond to the requirements and objectives of the study programmes. USU verifies the qualifications of the faculty members by means of an established procedure. USU ensures that assessors are familiar with existing testing and examination methods and receive support in developing their own skills in this field. During the on-boarding process, new faculty members are shown how teaching and testing materials are developed. Specific measures for the further qualification of the faculty members are implemented. USU offers, for example, Basic Instructional Engineering Skills and Applied Approach Training.

⁶⁸ <https://poliklinik.usu.ac.id/id/layanan/poli-konseling>.

The practical business experience of the faculty corresponds to the requirement of the programmes to integrate theory and practice. Some lecturers in the **Bachelor of Law** programme, for example, own a law firm and can bring this experience into the classroom. In the **Bachelor of Communication Science**, one faculty member is involved in research of the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission Centre. Lastly, members of the faculty teaching in the **Bachelor of Political Science** are monitoring experts on government national programmes, among others.

The faculty members cooperate with each other for the purpose of tuning the courses towards the overall qualification objectives. Meetings of all those teaching in the programme take place regularly. In addition, courses are conducted cooperatively.

Student support is an integral part of the services provided by the faculty. It is offered on a regular basis and serves to help students study successfully.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.1 Faculty					
4.1.1* Structure and quantity of faculty in relation to curricular requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.2* Academic qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.3* Pedagogical / didactical qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.4 Practical business experience of faculty			X		
4.1.5* Internal cooperation (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.1.6* Student support by the faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.7(*) Student support in distance learning (only relevant and an Asterisk Criterion for blended-learning/distance learning programmes)					X

4.2 Programme management

Programme Director (Asterisk Criterion)

Bachelor of Law

The study programme is led by the head of the programme and assisted by the secretary and several academic staff. The programme director provides a work report to the Dean of the Faculty of Law.

Bachelor of Communication Science and Bachelor of Political Science

FISIP institutionally has a Strategic Plan 2020-2024, which is still valid with most of its programmes, activities and achievements having been successfully realized. Following national regulations⁶⁹ the Faculty is led by the highest leadership, namely the Dean, assisted by three Vice Deans, namely Vice Deans I, II and III. Then, there is the Administration Division and several head of programmes for each study programme of FISIP each with a quality assurance unit.

1. The Dean has the task of leading and managing the implementation of education in accordance with the rector's policy. In carrying out the duties of the Dean assisted by three vice deans. The vice deans consist of:
 - a. Vice dean for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Alumni who is responsible for assisting the Dean in the implementation of academic education, student affairs and alumni.
 - b. Vice Dean for Financial Administration, Human Resources and assets who is responsible for assisting the Dean in the implementation of activities in the field of planning and budget execution, accounting, and financial reporting, facility and infrastructure management, human resources, and assets.
 - c. Vice dean for Research, Community Service and Cooperation who is responsible for assisting the Dean in the implementation of activities in the field of Research, Community Service and Cooperation, and
2. A study programme is led by the Head, under and responsible to the Dean. The study programme is responsible for running its programme in one discipline of science.
3. Administration is led by the Head of Division, under and responsible to the Dean. The administration section has the task of carrying out general administrative services.
4. FISIP also has Academic, Student Finance and equipment sections. Each sub-section also has a Head (Kasubbag).

FISIP ensures that the organization and work procedures run in accordance with the job description and functions consistently to achieve the expected results in accordance with the planning that has been done, as evidenced by evaluating the work procedures and main tasks and functions of each field at the end of each month to develop FISIP USU.

Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty

Various useful information systems for students and alumni to facilitate academic activities. Information System of Universitas Sumatera Utara consists of administrative, academic, and academic fields. Administratively, all study programmes use the SATU website in providing information related to lectures, lecture schedules and also mid-semester evaluation and semester

⁶⁹ Based on Article 42 of Government Regulation No. 16/2014 concerning the statute of Universitas Sumatera Utara.

evaluation. In addition, Satu USU is also a medium for registration of final assignments for each study programme, registration for graduation, filling out documents and also related to tuition payment reports. Universitas Sumatera Utara also provides an Accessible Information System Guide to facilitate the use of available information systems, as follows:

Table 14: Information systems USU

Information System	Types of Information	Links
Academic Information System	USU directory	https://direktori.usu.ac.id/
	Academic Portal	https://portal.usu.ac.id/login/login.php
	USU repository	https://repositori.usu.ac.id/
	ASA USU	https://asa.usu.ac.id/
	SATU USU	https://satu.usu.ac.id/
	E-learning	https://elearning2.usu.ac.id/
Research Information System	SIMPEL USU	https://simpl.usu.ac.id/
	SIPUSTAHA	https://sipustaha.usu.ac.id/
	Talent Publisher	https://talentapublisher.usu.ac.id/
	Library Catalog	https://digilib.usu.ac.id/
	Electronic Journals	https://library.usu.ac.id/e-journals/
	Electronic Books	http://buku-el.usu.ac.id/
Alumni Information System	USU Green Campus	https://greencampus.usu.ac.id/index.php/id/
	IKA USU	https://ikausu.or.id/
	World Class University	https://wcu.usu.ac.id/en/
	SDGs Centre	https://sdqs.usu.ac.id/
Lecturer Information System	SIMSDM USU	https://simsdm.usu.ac.id/
	USU presence	https://presensi.usu.ac.id/#/

Most of the services have been implemented through an information system so that students and lecturers can get services from anywhere. Additionally, students and lecturers can come to the office or workspace related systems to get further services.

The programme is supported by 75 administrative staff, and the Faculty of Social Science and Political Science employs 56 administrative staff supporting the two study programmes Bachelor of Communication Science and Political Science.

Appraisal:

Each of the three programmes has a director who coordinates the activities of everyone involved in the programme and ensures that the programme runs smoothly.

Faculty members and students are supported by the administration in the organisation of the study programmes. Sufficient administrative staff is available. Decision-making processes, authority, and responsibilities are clearly defined. Teachers and students are included in the decision-making processes where their areas of work are involved.

The opportunities of electronic service-support are used and supplement personal one-to-one counselling. The administrative staff acts as a service provider for students and faculty. Additionally, USU offers the administrative staff opportunities for continuous professional development.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.2 Programme management					
4.2.1* Programme Director (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.2.2 Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty		X			

4.3 Cooperation and partnerships

Cooperation with HEIs and other academic institutions or networks

Universitas Sumatera Utara has consistently carried out cooperation with national-level universities including, for example, Gadjah Mada University, University of Indonesia, Padjadjaran University, and Jakarta State University.

Universitas Sumatera Utara has also collaborated with international educational institutions such as, Chiba University of Commerce Japan, University of Warsaw, Republic of Poland, University of Nicosia, Cyprus, National University of Singapore and many more.

All cooperative relationships are part of efforts to achieve the vision and mission of Universitas Sumatera Utara and the responsibility of achieving key performance indicators. The establishment of cooperation provides opportunities for scientific development, facilities and

infrastructure, and networks. The benefits received by the study programmes include becoming a guest lecturer, resource person, summer course participant, exchange student, etc.

Bachelor of Law

To accelerate the internationalization programme, the Faculty of Law has established collaborations with foreign universities and international institutions and organizations. The cooperation is in the form of MoUs and MoAs. Among others, the Faculty collaborates with Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Malaysia, and Faculty of Law Universiti Kebangsaan, Malaysia. These cooperations take various forms including collaborative research, international classes, and student exchanges. This is managed by the Vice Dean 3 of the Faculty of Law.

Bachelor of Communication Science

Several collaborative activities conducted by the study programme at the national level include:

1. Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPI): Research on the quality index of television broadcast programs. This research collaboration has been ongoing since 2014.
2. The study programme also collaborates with universities at the national level, such as Padjadjaran University (Bandung) and Brawijaya University (Malang), to organize activities such as public lectures.
3. The study programme is also actively involved in the management of the Association of Higher Education in Communication Sciences (ASPIKOM) at the national level. At the provincial level, the study program has been elected as the chair of ASPIKOM North Sumatra.
4. International collaborations are carried out with institutions like Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) through public lectures and study visits. Additionally, through the Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) or Freedom to Learn, Independent Campus program, the study programme collaborates with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), where students are sent to study for one semester at UiTM.
5. The study programme further collaborates with the International Communication Association (ICA) headquarters to serve as a regional hub for the implementation of the international conference organized by ICA in 2024

Bachelor of Political Science

At the national level, the Bachelor of Political Science has cooperations with some universities, such as:

1. UPN Veteran
2. Univesitas Syiah Kuala
3. University Bangka Belitung
4. State Islamic University of Sumatera Utara
5. Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic Univeristy
6. University of Padjajaran

The programme joined the association of Political Science study programmes in Indonesia (APSIPOL). Various collaborations are carried out every year such as seminars, public lectures, and collaborative research.

On the international level, the Political Science programme collaborates with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UITM).

Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations

Bachelor of Law

The study programme has established cooperations with 16 companies like Unilever Oleochemical Indonesia, bank SUMUT, and PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia. The students benefit from these cooperations in the form of recruitment by those companies. Two examples are the employee recruitment for Bachelor of Law graduates was conducted by PT Bank Rakyat Indonesia as well as from PT Unilever Oleochemical Indonesia in 2023. Additionally, these cooperations benefit students in internship programmes where they can intern at several partner companies and organizations.

Bachelor of Communication Science

The study programme is collaborating with five enterprises and organisations such as international working group Australia, PTPos Indonesia, and PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia. The programme also has cooperations with Media companies, such as Narasi and Indozone. These partnerships include training sessions and internship programmes for students.

Bachelor of Political Science

The Political Science programme has cooperations with 14 businesses and organisations. Examples include International Model United Nations.

Appraisal:

The scope and nature of cooperations with HEI, other academic institutions and networks relevant for the programmes are plausibly presented. The agreements forming the basis of the cooperations are documented. The cooperations are actively pursued and have a clear impact on the conception and implementation of the study programmes. All such activities contribute to the development of the students' qualification and skills.

The scope and nature of cooperations with business enterprises and other institutions relevant to the programmes are plausibly presented. The MoUs and MoAs forming the basis of the cooperations are documented. The cooperations are actively pursued and have a clear impact on the conception and implementation of the study programmes. All such activities contribute to the development of the students' qualification and skills.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.3 Cooperation and partnerships					
4.3.1(*) Cooperation with HEIs and other academic institutions or networks (Asterisk Criterion for cooperation programmes)			X		
4.3.2(*) Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations (Asterisk Criterion for educational and vocational programmes, franchise programmes)			X		

4.4 Facilities and equipment

Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (Asterisk Criterion)

To support the student learning process, USU provides public facilities that can be used primarily by students and the academic community, to support learning activities and as a means of supporting other non-academic activities. As for public facilities in the USU neighbourhood, they are USU parking lot, USU Pancasila building, USU Park, USU student dormitory, USU Auditorium, USU Mini Stadium and Disability Services Office. All student services provided by Universitas Sumatera Utara can be easily accessed by all active students of USU by showing an active Student Identity Card (KTM) and for alumni by showing an alumni letter from their study programme. All students have free access to the internet.

In addition to these facilities, USU offers student services that can be accessed by students at the University.

1. Interest and Talent

Reasoning, interest and talent services can be accessed by students through Student Activity Units (UKM) spread across the Universitas Sumatera Utara, among others:

- Sports, namely USU Archery UKM and USU Field Tennis UKM,
- Field of Martial Arts, namely USU Taekwondo UKM,
- In the field of spirituality, namely Buddhist UKM, Christian Student Service UKM USU and Islamic UKM in the form of Islamic student activity units (UKMI),
- Organizational Field, namely Kopas UKM, USU Gamadiksi UKM, Sharia Economics UKM, USU Menwa UKM, SAHIVA Volunteer UKM,
- Debate and Language Field, namely UKM Debate and Public Speaking,
- Music and Literature, namely UKM Theater "O", UKM USU Choir, UKM USU Marching Band,
- The field of press and journalism, namely UKM student press Suara USU, UKM Photography.

2. Welfare (Guidance and Counselling, Scholarship Services, and Health Services).

- Guidance and Counselling Services are provided by the Bureau of Guidance and Counselling Psychology of the Universitas Sumatera Utara and can be accessed by all active students.
- Scholarship Services⁷⁰ within the Universitas Sumatera Utara can be accessed through the USU website.

3. Health Services (accessible for all students)

- USU Polyclinic,
- Dental and Oral hospital,
- USU hospital.

Bachelor of Law

⁷⁰ <https://ditmawalumni.usu.ac.id/>

The Faculty of Law has used instructional media that support the teaching and learning process between lecturers and students by using digital classes.⁷¹ In digital classes, lecturers can give assignments and quizzes, discuss topics, and send teaching materials in the form of files and folders. Physical classrooms have audio and projectors. The Faculty of Law has a Moot Court Building⁷² with several rooms on the first floor that are equipped with furnishings from court rooms intended for the implementation of judicial practice held for sixth semester students.

Bachelor of Communication Science and Bachelor of Political Science

The Faculty of Social Science and Political Science (FISIP) offers a variety of facilities to the students of its study programmes. Facilities have adopted international standards and safety. Classes are equipped with chairs, tables, TV, projectors, whiteboards to support learning activities. Internet access, APAR, evacuation routes, sign board facilities, disabled friendly facilities, public spaces, places of worship, sports venues, canteens, media labs etc are provided. The Faculty facilities can also be used for the purposes of extracurricular activities of students. Rooms, projectors, computers, fans, air conditioners and all existing facilities can be used by students for various activities such as writing competitions, response lectures, FGDs, leadership training, friendly meetings with alumni, and seminars.

The continuous improvement of the facilities is part of the Faculty Strategic plan. In the last three years, FISIP has made investments by adding, renewing, and revitalizing facilities used for learning purposes in lecture halls, public facilities, lecturer rooms and administrative rooms that support academically as well as support research and community services. The Faculty is following the needs of online learning and the need for international standard classes. FISIP has provided facilities in the lecture room that can facilitate learning in a hybrid or synchronous/asynchronous manner.

Access to literature (Asterisk Criterion)

USU's Main Library occupies an area of 6,090 m² located in the middle of the USU Padang Bulan campus. Since 2006, the library has opened several branches located in the faculties. As of 2017, there have been 13 University libraries, faculty branches, and USU Hospital Branches that have been opened by implementing an integrated service system with the University library. This is possible with the support of available information technology infrastructure to develop an integrated library system with service point locations spread across campus. The opening of a branch library not only aims to bring services closer to users but also to overcome the limited space capacity of University libraries. In 2012, USU library was accredited with an "A" category by the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia. The USU Library operates from Monday to Friday, offering extended hours on Tuesdays to Fridays. The library opens at 8:00 AM on Mondays, 7:30 AM on Tuesdays to Thursdays, and 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Fridays.

Information about the resources owned by the University Library can be accessed through the library's website.⁷³ On this site, there are several links to various information sources and learning resources provided by the library and other units within the USU environment, such as the online library catalogue (OPAC), scientific e-journals, scientific e-books, USU Institutional Repository,

⁷¹ <https://kelas.usu.ac.id/>.

⁷² [Moot Court Building | Faculty of Law Universitas Sumatera Utara](#), last accessed December 16, 2024.

⁷³ <https://library.usu.ac.id/>, last access November 25, 2024.

Resource Guides and USU e-learning. The University library has 82 public-access computer units for users to search electronic information resources.

USU library has a variety of information resources in both print and electronic collections, and also subscribes to a number of online journal databases. More than 80 % of the library's collection is electronic. The total volume of USU Library collection is 2,231,194 items. The total printed book collection is 492,252 items consisting of 139,012. titles with an average increase of about 13,000 items per year. Electronic books (E-books) are 10,479 titles, electronic journals (e-journals) are 53,616 titles, proceedings (e-Proceedings) are 3,902 titles, theses are 750,000 and dissertations are 800,000 titles in all subject areas managed by USU.

Table 15: Resources of the USU library

Sources	All study programmes
Book Catalogue	492,252
E-Book	10,479
E-Journal	53,616
Proceedings	3,902
Theses	750,000
Dissertations	800,000
Total	2,231,194 items

Table 16: Selection of journals/databases⁷⁴

Springer Link
ScienceDirect
SAGE Journals
ProQuest
JSTOR
SAGE research methods
Taylor & Francis Online
Emerald insight
Westlaw

The University library can be accessed using the USU Proxy application. Members of the USU academic community can access all e-journals and e-books databases from outside the campus network without requiring an ID and password. This can be done by accessing the website⁷⁵ and then logging in using the Single Sign-On (SSO) provided by USU.

Both the **Faculty of Law**⁷⁶ as well as the **Faculty of Social Science and Political Science** has a library branch located in their facilities. All literature listed in the Semester Lecture Plan (RPS) is made available through the Universitas Sumatera Utara library. Each year, the study programmes follow a mechanism to request any necessary book data to ensure that the literature remains up to date.

⁷⁴ [E-Journals – USU Library](#), last accessed December 5, 2024.

⁷⁵ <http://usuproxy.usu.ac.id>, last access November 25, 2024.

⁷⁶ [Perpustakaan Cabang FH – USU Library](#), last accessed December 5, 2024.

Appraisal:

The quantity, quality, media and IT facilities of the teaching rooms meet the standards required for the programme, even taking into account the resource needs of other study programmes. The rooms are properly equipped for disabled students and give them barrier-free access. Access to the internet via wireless LAN is provided free of charge. A sufficient number of group rooms is available. The teaching rooms and labs are equipped with state-of-the-art technology. For special contents of the curriculum, USU possesses appropriate rooms which possess the specific technical components needed. One example of this is the Moot Court Building of the **Law Faculty** in which is used for judicial practice. Although the experts are really impressed by the facilities, they hope the faculties ensure that all facilities (Labs etc.) for students are made fully accessible.

The opening hours of the library take students' needs sufficiently into account. Access to the literature and journals as well as to digital media (e.g. electronic media, databases) is ensured. The literature expressly required for the study programmes is available in the library and kept up to date.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.4 Facilities and equipment					
4.4.1* Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.4.2* Access to literature (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

4.4 Additional services

Career counselling and placement service

Student Services for career guidance and entrepreneurship is provided by USU through Cikal unit and Entrepreneurship Incubator that trains students for entrepreneurship and business training such as product, packaging, and marketing. Career guidance can be accessed by students through PJK USU (Labor Service Provider of USU) which provides information on job vacancies and training to alumni of Labor candidates in accordance with market demand.

The USU Career Expo⁷⁷ is organized by several companies and held at USU Pancasila building as a recruitment activity for USU students. There are exhibitions related to work, access to information and walk interviews that can be attended by students.

Alumni Activities

Bachelor of Law

Alumni of the Faculty of Law of USU are members of the FH USU Alumni Association (IKA USU). Various activities have been carried out by IKA FH USU, among others, the implementation of dies natalis FH USU every year and also the event initiated by IKA FH USU in cooperation with

⁷⁷ [USU Career Expo and Car Boot Sale 2024 | Universitas Sumatera utara](#), last accessed December 5, 2024.

Bank Rakyat Indonesia (BRI) and PT. Unilever. In addition, there are other activities such as teaching alumni at FH USU, giving public lectures and national seminars. One of the examples showing alumni dedication is the donation and support by the alumni for infrastructure renovations. The support from the alumni can be seen in several infrastructures, such as:

1. The donation and support to renovate the classes according to the international standard, e.g., Classroom of Alumni 88, Classroom of Alumni 92, and Classroom of Alumni 98.
2. The donation and support for building the podcast room by the Alumni of 2000.
3. The donation and support to renovate the thesis defence room by the Alumni of 1989.

Bachelor of Communication Science and Bachelor of Political Science

To improve the role of alumni, various efforts were made, such as updating tracer alumni survey data, building a tracer system who uses software or ITC, and forming the alumni Association.

Alumni also participate in study programme development activities:

1. Alumni are involved as practitioner lecturers.
2. Alumni provide input on improving the competence of graduates including filling out tracer study questionnaires and alumni gathering activities.
3. Alumni are involved in the curriculum revision process through the curriculum revision FGD.
4. Alumni provide information about job openings.
5. Some alumni become partners in student activities such as PLP-KKN activities.
6. Alumni Gathering Activities.
7. Bazaars and Job fairs.
8. Provision of Fieldwork Practice Locations.
9. Provision of Research and Community Service Sites.
10. Provision of donations.

Alumni of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences have a forum to share experiences and information through an alumni organization called Ikatan Keluarga alumnus (Ika) FISIP USU. Each study programme also has its own alumni association, so that the relationship between alumni and their respective study programmes is maintained.

Appraisal:

Career counselling and placement services are offered to the students and graduates to promote their employability. Students have access to the university-wide corporate network (PJK USU). USU brings its graduates in contact with representatives from business enterprises at regular events such as the Career Expo. USU provides sufficient resources.

An alumni organisation has been set up with the aim of developing an alumni network for each study programme. The panel applauds the active engagement of alumni, evidenced by their contributions to funding and facilities, and their involvement as lecturers within the programmes.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.5 Additional services					

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.5.1	Career counselling and placement service			X		
4.5.2	Alumni Activities			X		

4.5 Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)

The Universitas Sumatera Utara has various streams of income. Funds are obtained from several sources such as state budget funds, PNBP (Non-Tax State Revenue) funds, BPPTN-BH (Legal Entity State University Funding Assistance), BOPTN (State University Operational Assistance), higher education research grants, education costs such as tuition fees, endowment Management, University Business, *Tridharma* collaboration, state property management provided by the central and local governments for the development of higher education, donations from non-binding third parties and other legitimate sources.

Universitas Sumatera Utara's annual budget is made of public funds with percentage of 32,7%, tuition fees 42,9%, third-party grants 7,2% and revenue generating activities 17,2%. Allocation of the public funds have been guaranteed by the central government as long as USU operates as state university whereas tuition fees, third-party grants and income from revenue generating activities are allocated based on USU ability to collect and generate annually. Based on data in the last ten years USU has increased its annual budget especially from the third-party grants and revenue generating activities and stable income from tuition fees.

The allocation of funds to organs and units within USU is determined by the rector and revenue planning is included in the Annual Work Plan and Budget. The management of funds originating from the Government is organized in an integrated manner with funds that do not originate from the Government in the USU Budget Ceiling.

Bachelor of Law

Financing is sourced from the University based on the RKA (Work Plan and Budget) which can be accessed online and is described in LAKIP Faculty of Law USU.

Bachelor of Communication Science and Bachelor of Political Science

The Faculty of Social Science and Political Science (FISIP) has a management unit in each study programme which conducts planning, expenditure and management of financial resources to support, maintain and improve the quality of study programme services.

Appraisal:

The income related to the programmes ensures that each cohort of students starting within the accreditation period can complete the study programmes.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.6* Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

5. Quality assurance and documentation

5.1 Quality assurance and quality development with respect to contents, processes and outcomes (Asterisk Criterion)

National regulations⁷⁸ mandate that all higher education units in Indonesia must implement the quality assurance system of Higher Education (SPM Dikti). USU follows this regulation⁷⁹ and established:

- a. USU organizes a quality assurance system in the form of systematic activities to improve the quality of USU in a planned and sustainable manner;
- b. Quality assurance is carried out through planning, implementation, evaluation, control and improvement of standards;
- c. Quality assurance is based on USU Quality Assurance System and national standards of Higher Education.

The implementation of the Internal Quality Assurance System (SPMI)⁸⁰ is carried out by USUs Quality Assurance Agency (BPM).⁸¹ Quality assurance is implemented at multiple levels, including the university, faculty, and study programme levels. This approach ensures that development within both the faculty and study programmes is conducted in a systematic, structured, and measurable manner. The agency carrying out quality assurance activities at the university level is BPM. At the faculty and graduate school level, the Quality Assurance Group, as well as at the Study Programme level is the quality control group are responsible.

Within each quality control cycle, multiple evaluations are conducted, including: (1) Monitoring and Evaluation (Monev) and (2) Internal Quality Audits. Monev encompasses various types of evaluations: formative evaluation, which is carried out while an activity is ongoing; diagnostic evaluation, which is conducted to identify the current condition; and summative evaluation, which assesses completed activities. USU has several quality auditors who have obtained certification from the Ministry. Those auditors can certify other staff members to be quality auditors for internal quality audits. Internal quality auditors are appointed through the Rector's decree which shows the independence and conflict-free interest of quality auditors. Academic activity units such as study programmes, faculties/Graduate Schools are audited by quality auditors, while non-academic activity units such as bureaus, directorates, agencies, and institutions are audited by internal supervisory bodies.

Internal Quality Audit is carried out through the stages of System Audit and Conformity Audit, namely:

1. System Audit

Review, assess the availability of documents, data and information presented by the Study Programme and/or faculty in the audit documents that have been previously submitted, before conducting a suitability audit (field assessment) to the study Program/faculty to be audited.

2. Compliance Audit or field assessment

⁷⁸ Law No.12/2012 on higher education system, Article 51-53.

⁷⁹ USU PP statute No. 16/2014, Article 61.

⁸⁰ Regulated in USU Rector's Regulation Number 4/2021, Article 13.

⁸¹ [Home | Quality Assurance Agency Universitas Sumatera Utara](#), last accessed December 9, 2024.

Examination and assessment in place (Study Program/faculty) conducted by the Auditorium to verify, validate, and complete the data and information presented by the Study Programme or faculty in the audit documents that have been previously submitted.

Quality assurance in the study programme is the responsibility of the head of the study programme assisted by the Quality Control Group (GKM) study programme. GKM coordinates with Quality Control Group (GJM) in the faculty. The entire series of phases of the quality cycle in the study programme is carried out by GKM of the study programme by always reporting it to the head of the study programme. In each cycle, statistical data from each study programme is checked. The data examined using internal quality audit instruments include those related to students, lecturers, curriculum and learning process.

The results of internal quality audits are documented in reports. Follow-up actions are implemented continuously as outlined in the follow-up plan for each cycle, based on findings from the internal quality audits.

5.2 Instruments of quality assurance

Evaluation by students

Students in the study programmes at USU participate in various evaluations, among others they assess their overall satisfaction with the education process, their courses, and their learning load. Further, a coordinated survey is conducted to check and evaluate key performance indicators periodically. The test results are announced to students and then followed by a follow-up plan by the study programme. In addition, the evaluation results are also listed on the website in connection with the achievement of key performance indicators, especially on student standards

The evaluation of courses is done with a questionnaire which is disseminated to students after their final semester exam. The study programme assists the GKM recap and analyses the results of this questionnaire. The examination related to the adequacy of the study load of each course is carried out by the curriculum team in the study programme. The results of this recapitulation are analysed by GKM and discussed at the study programme meeting.

Evaluation results are analysed by teams formed both at the study programme and faculty levels. At the study programme level, it is discussed in the study programme work meeting. As for the faculty level, a faculty working meeting is held attended by all heads and secretaries of study programmes as well as faculty heads. After the evaluation meeting at the faculty and study programme level decides on follow-up steps, the faculty leadership instructs the relevant parties to carry them out. Meanwhile, if the follow-up is on the level of the study programme, the head of the study programme instructs the secretary to coordinate the implementation of measures that must be taken. Students are notified regarding the results and the measures taken through announcements posted on the bulletin board on each study programme and uploaded on the website.

Evaluation by faculty

All lecturers can provide input in the form of corrections and suggestions at the evaluation meeting in each study programme held at the end of the semester. At the beginning of the semester the

study programme conducts preparatory meetings for the upcoming semester. On this occasion, all lecturers can also provide views and input on the implementation of the upcoming semester.

The minutes of the evaluation meeting at the end of the semester and the preparatory meeting at the beginning of the semester are studied by the head and secretary of the study programme to decide which proposals can be directly followed up at the study programme level and which proposals will be brought to the faculty work meeting to be discussed with the heads of the faculty. All follow-ups discussed in this meeting are sent back to the study programmes in the form of meeting minutes. These follow-ups are then displayed on the bulletin board in the lecturers' meeting room and uploaded to the website for wider accessibility.

External evaluation by alumni, employers and third parties

Through the Alumni Association of the study programme and meetings with alumni, which are usually held at least once a year, the study programme asks for input from alumni about all aspects of the study programme. If a faculty has a faculty alumni association, they usually ask for input from alumni through alumni meetings or when alumni are visiting the faculty. Partners at the level of study programmes and faculties are usually asked for input during meetings. The results of input from alumni and partners are recorded and will be brought to the faculty working meeting and study programme working meeting to be discussed and decided on the steps taken

For the follow-up of the proposal of alumni and partners, which includes the scope and authority of the study programme is directly decided by the head of the study programme. Through the secretary of the study programme, appropriate and coordinated steps will be taken. For the follow-up which is the scope and authority of the faculty, the faculty leaders and their staff will decide about necessary steps in the faculty work meeting.

The study programme and faculty will send a follow-up letter to the management of the Alumni Association of the study programme and the faculty alumni association and relevant partners. In addition, the results of the follow-up are uploaded on the website of the study programme and faculty.

5.3 Programme documentation

Programme description (Asterisk Criterion)

All information related to the study programme and faculty is accessible through their respective websites. Additionally, inquiries can be directed to relevant divisions at USU, such as the academic bureau or the integrated service centre, via phone or email.

Academic and programme-related information, as well as activities conducted by study programmes, are also available to the public through websites and social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok. If necessary, this information is documented and printed by USU Press, while the public relations department disseminates it through relevant print media.

Information on activities during the academic year

The University publishes an annual academic calendar to serve as a guideline for the entire academic community. This calendar outlines schedules for registration, semester exams, and other key activities at USU. Additionally, USU maintains social media accounts where up-to-date information is regularly shared.

Appraisal:

A quality assurance and development procedure, which systematically and continuously monitors and develops the quality of the programmes with respect to their contents, processes, and outcomes, has been set up. It takes into account the evaluation results and the analysis on student workload, success rate, and graduate employment as well as the profile of the student population. Faculty members and students participate in the respective committees to plan and assess the quality assurance and development procedures. Responsibilities are clearly defined.

Evaluation by the students is carried out on a regular basis at the end of each semester and in accordance with a prescribed procedure. The outcomes are communicated to the students via blackboard and website and provide input for the quality development process.

Quality control by the faculty is carried out on a regular basis as evaluation meetings at the end of each semester in accordance with a prescribed procedure. The outcomes are communicated and provide input for the quality development process.

External evaluations for alumni are carried out on a regular basis and in accordance with a prescribed procedure. The outcomes are communicated and provide input for the quality development process. The panel **recommends** establishing a regular basis for the evaluation of employers of graduates.

In their statement on the report, USU elaborates that in the national quality assurance system, there is an obligation to conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with graduate employers whenever a curriculum revision is to be carried out. This activity aims to gather input from graduate employers, which will later serve as a consideration for curriculum improvement in the next period. The university is considering conducting regular FGDs with graduate employers once a year as well as to involving them in the annual alumni gatherings in order to adapt to the rapid pace of change in the modern era.

The content, curriculum and examination scheme of the three programmes have been suitably documented and published (e.g. course plan and exam regulations).

USU regularly publishes current news and information – both quantitative and qualitative – about the study programmes.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
5.1* Quality assurance and quality development with respect to contents, processes and outcomes (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
5.2 Instruments of quality assurance					
5.2.1 Evaluation by students			X		
5.2.2 Evaluation by faculty			X		
5.2.3 External evaluation by alumni, employers and third parties			X		

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
5.3	Programme documentation					
5.3.1*	Programme description (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
5.3.2	Information on activities during the academic year			X		

Quality profile

HEI: Universitas Sumatera Utara

Bachelor programmes:

1. Bachelor of Law
2. Bachelor of Communication Science
3. Bachelor of Political Science

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1	Objectives					
1.1*	Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
1.2*	International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
1.3	Positioning of the study programme					
1.3.1	Positioning of the study programme in the educational market			x		
1.3.2	Positioning of the study programme on the job market for graduates ("Employability")			x		
1.3.3	Positioning of the study programme within the HEI's overall strategic concept			x		
2	Admission					
2.1*	Admission requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
2.2	Counselling for prospective students			x		
2.3*	Selection procedure (if relevant)			x		
2.4(*)	Professional experience (if relevant; Asterisk Criterion for master programmes that require professional experience)					x
2.5*	Ensuring foreign language proficiency (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
2.6*	Transparency and documentation of admission procedure and decision (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3	Contents, structure and didactical concept					
3.1	Contents					
3.1.1*	Logic and conceptual coherence (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.2*	Rationale for degree and programme name (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.3*	Integration of theory and practice (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.4	Interdisciplinary thinking			x		
3.1.5	Ethical aspects			x		
3.1.6*	Methods and scientific practice (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.7*	Examination and final thesis (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.2	Structure					

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.2.1*	Modular structure of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.2.2*	Study and exam regulations (Asterisk Criterion)				Condition	
3.2.3*	Feasibility of study workload (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.2.4	Equality of opportunity			x		
3.3	Didactical concept					
3.3.1*	Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.3.2*	Course materials (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.3.3	Guest lecturers			x		
3.3.4	Lecturing tutors					x
3.4	Internationality					
3.4.1*	International contents and intercultural aspects (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.4.2	Internationality of the student body				x	
3.4.3	Internationality of faculty			x		
3.4.4	Foreign language contents			x		
3.5*	Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.6*	Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.	Academic environment and framework conditions					
4.1	Faculty					
4.1.1*	Structure and quantity of faculty in relation to curricular requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.2*	Academic qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.3*	Pedagogical / didactical qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.4	Practical business experience of faculty			x		
4.1.5*	Internal cooperation (Asterisk Criterion)		x			
4.1.6*	Student support by the faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.7(*)	Student support in distance learning (only relevant and an Asterisk Criterion for blended-learning/distance learning programmes)					x
4.2	Programme management					
4.2.1*	Programme Director (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.2.2	Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty		x			
4.3	Cooperation and partnerships					

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.3.1(*)	Cooperation with HEIs and other academic institutions or networks (Asterisk Criterion for cooperation programmes)			x		
4.3.2(*)	Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations (Asterisk Criterion for educational and vocational programmes, franchise programmes)			x		
4.4	Facilities and equipment					
4.4.1*	Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (Asterisk Criterion)		x			
4.4.2*	Access to literature (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.5	Additional services					
4.5.1	Career counselling and placement service			x		
4.5.2	Alumni Activities			x		
4.6*	Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
5	Quality assurance and documentation					
5.1*	Quality assurance and quality development with respect to contents, processes and outcomes (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
5.2	Instruments of quality assurance					
5.2.1	Evaluation by students			x		
5.2.2	Evaluation by faculty			x		
5.2.3	External evaluation by alumni, employers and third parties			x		
5.3	Programme documentation					
5.3.1*	Programme description (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
5.3.2	Information on activities during the academic year			x		