



Bachelor's Degree in Canon Law

Institutional Identity

The Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an ecclesiastical institution of Christian-Catholic inspiration, committed to comprehensive formation in the light of the Gospel and the living tradition of the Church. UNICA integrates faith and reason, promotes spiritual life, and trains its students for academic, social, and pastoral service in contemporary society.

Mission

To train professionals in the field of Canon Law with solid legal and theological preparation, enabling them to exercise functions of advisory, teaching, research, and service in ecclesiastical tribunals and faith communities.

Vision

To be recognized as a Catholic university of reference in Canon Law education, offering bilingual, innovative, and academically excellent programs in the service of the Church and society.

Values

Truth, Charity, Excellence, Holiness, Unity, and Service.

Program Technical Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Bachelor's Degree in Canon Law
Academic Level	Undergraduate / Bachelor
Duration	8 semesters (curricular structure organized by semesters)
Total Credits	160 credits (average of 20 credits per semester)
Modality	Virtual and blended (synchronous/asynchronous classes, intensive in-person sessions, and ministerial and legal practices)
Language Offering	Spanish / English / Bilingual (according to student selection)
Location	State of Texas, USA

P.O. Box 16088, Houston Tx 77222
(correspondence), and 627 Rocky Mountain Dr.,
Houston, TX 77037
contacto@uca-virtual.us



Degree Awarded	Bachelor in Canon Law — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)
----------------	--

Admission Requirements (Profile and Documentation)

- Recognized High School Diploma or equivalent (GED).
- High school transcript / academic record.
- Personal essay (motivation and vocational discernment letter).
- Admission interview (academic and vocational).
- One pastoral or academic recommendation.
- Proof of language proficiency according to modality (see language section).
- For international students: compliance with current immigration and/or visa requirements.
- The university may include additional requirements according to institutional and accreditation regulations.

Educational

Purpose

To train canonists with solid legal and theological foundations, capable of interpreting, applying, and teaching Church Law, advising on matrimonial and ecclesiastical processes, and contributing to justice and ecclesial communion.

Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, the Bachelor in Canon Law will be able to:

1. Understand the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of Canon Law.
2. Interpret and apply the Code of Canon Law and other ecclesiastical norms.
3. Comprehend the organization of the Church and its legal system.
4. Advise on ecclesiastical processes (matrimonial, administrative, disciplinary).
5. Conduct academic research in the juridical-canonical field.
6. Integrate the pastoral dimension into the practice of Canon Law.
7. Contribute to the strengthening of justice, communion, and the mission of the Church.

Competencies

Generic: critical thinking, oral and written communication, leadership, digital skills, intercultural sensitivity, professional ethics.
Specific: knowledge of the Code of Canon Law, history of ecclesiastical law, matrimonial and judicial processes, administrative law of the Church, canonical penal law, legal research, pastoral and juridical counseling.

P.O. Box 16088, Houston Tx 77222
(correspondence), and 627 Rocky Mountain Dr.,
Houston, TX 77037
contacto@uca-virtual.us



Language Offering and Language Requirements
 The program is offered in three modalities: Spanish, English, and Bilingual. Language certification requirements are equivalent to those established for other bachelor's degrees.

Curriculum by Semesters (8 semesters — 160 credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Summary	Prerequisites
1	DCN-101	Introduction to Canon Law	6	History, nature, and sources of law in the Church.	None
	DCN-102	Theological Foundations for Canon Law	6	Biblical and theological bases of ecclesiastical law.	None
	DCN-103	History of the Church I: Antiquity and Patristics	4	Historical and legal context of the early Church.	None
	DCN-104	Academic Writing and Legal Communication	4	Development of writing and academic argumentation skills.	None
Total			20		
2	DCN-201	Code of Canon Law I	6	Systematic study of Books I–II of the CIC (general norms, People of God).	DCN-101
	DCN-202	Philosophy and Legal Anthropology	6	Philosophical foundations of the person and law.	None
	DCN-203	History of the Church II: Middle Ages and Modernity	4	Development of medieval and modern ecclesiastical law.	DCN-103

P.O. Box 16088, Houston Tx 77222
 (correspondence), and 627 Rocky Mountain Dr.,
 Houston, TX 77037
contacto@uca-virtual.us



	DCN-204	Digital Competencies for Legal Research	4	Digital tools applied to legal studies.	None
Total			20		
3	DCN-301	Code of Canon Law II	6	Study of Books III–IV of the CIC (teaching and sanctifying functions).	DCN-201
	DCN-302	Canonical Constitutional Law	6	Legal organization of the universal and particular Church.	DCN-101
	DCN-303	Legal and Canonical Latin	4	Introduction to the Latin vocabulary of canon law.	None
	DCN-304	Christian and Legal Ethics	4	Ethical principles applied to canon law.	DCN-102
Total			20		
4	DCN-401	Code of Canon Law III	6	Study of Books V–VI of the CIC (temporal goods, sanctions in the Church).	DCN-301
	DCN-402	Canonical Procedural Law I	6	General principles of ecclesiastical procedures.	DCN-201
	DCN-403	History of Canon Law	4	Historical development of the ecclesiastical legal system.	DCN-103
	DCN-404	General Elective I	4	Elective in humanities or social sciences.	According to elective
Total			20		
5	DCN-501	Code of Canon Law IV	6	Study of Book VII of the CIC (processes).	DCN-401
	DCN-502	Canonical Administrative Law	6	Rules of governance and administration in the Church.	DCN-302



	DCN-503	Canonical Matrimonial Law I	4	Theological and juridical foundations of marriage.	DCN-201
	DCN-504	Pastoral Legal Practice I	4	Initial experience in canonical counseling and assistance.	DCN-302
Total			20		
6	DCN-601	Canonical Penal Law	6	Study of sanctions and offenses in ecclesiastical law.	DCN-401
	DCN-602	Canonical Procedural Law II	6	Judicial procedures in the Church.	DCN-402
	DCN-603	Canonical Matrimonial Law II	4	Matrimonial processes and causes of nullity.	DCN-503
	DCN-604	Pastoral Legal Practice II	4	Advanced experience in canonical legal advising.	DCN-504
Total			20		
7	DCN-701	Church-State Relations	6	Legal framework of relations between the Church and civil society.	DCN-202
	DCN-702	Methods of Legal-Canonical Research	6	Principles and techniques of research in ecclesiastical law.	DCN-204
	DCN-703	Canonical Jurisprudence	4	Case study and practical application of canonical jurisprudence.	DCN-602
	DCN-704	Advanced Elective in Canon Law	4	Specialized course in a specific area of canon law.	According to elective
Total			20		
8	DCN-801	Integrative Seminar and Thesis	10	Preparation and defense of a final thesis in canon law.	DCN-702



UNICA
Universidad Católica Americana
- San Gregorio Magno -



	DCN-802	Eastern Law and Legal Ecumenism	6	Elements of Eastern Canon Law and its relation to ecumenism.	DCN-403
	DCN-803	Final Legal Practice	4	Final practical experience in ecclesiastical tribunals.	DCN-604
Total			20		

Methodology and Evaluation

- Mixed methodology: synchronous and asynchronous classes, intensive seminars, case analysis, supervised legal practices.
- Continuous evaluation: written exams, case studies, forensic practices, academic essays, research, and thesis defense.
- In the bilingual modality, legal linguistic competencies will be evaluated in both Spanish and English.

Institutional Observations and Regulatory Compliance

The university will adapt documents and admission requirements according to the regulations of the State of Texas and the current authorization and accreditation conditions for religious institutions and virtual/hybrid programs.

P.O. Box 16088, Houston Tx 77222
(correspondence), and 627 Rocky Mountain Dr.,
Houston, TX 77037
contacto@uca-virtual.us