

Master of Laws (LL.M) Program Special Rules

Adopted by the School of Law Faculty, December 15, 2004
Amended May 4, 2015

These special rules apply specifically to the LL.M. program and the students enrolled therein. In the absence of language in these special rules governing the program, the general Rules of the School of Law are presumed to apply either directly or by analogy, unless the subject of the general rule is not relevant to the LL.M. program or its students.

Article I — Admission

1. Admission

a. Graduate Admissions Committee. Admission to the LL.M. Program requires positive action by the Graduate Admissions Committee. The Graduate Admissions Committee shall consist of the Director of Graduate Legal Studies and two members appointed by the Dean. A fourth member of the Committee, who shall be a faculty member teaching in the health law and policy specialization, shall be appointed by the Dean to serve when the Committee considers applications to the LL.M. program with a specialization in Health Law and Policy.

b. J.D. or Equivalent. To be admitted as a candidate for the Master of Laws degree (LL.M), an applicant must hold a J.D. degree from an ABA accredited law school, or an equivalent degree from a law school located in an English-speaking country that follows the common law system.

Applicants who hold an equivalent degree from a law school located in a non-English speaking, non-common law country may be admitted only upon a showing of proficiency in English.¹

c. Academic and Other Achievement. Successful applicants will have a proven record of academic achievement, ordinarily having graduated in

1. Such proficiency will ordinarily be demonstrated by achieving a certain score on the TOEFL examination or proof of having successfully completed college level classes taught in English. A TOEFL score of 600 (250 on the computer based exam) was contemplated by the New Programs Committee in the development of the LL.M. and M.L.S. programs. This compares to a required score of 550 for admission to the SIUC Graduate School. Specific standards will be established and reviewed annually by the Graduate Admissions Committee.

the upper one-half of their graduating J.D. class. Professional experience after receipt of the J.D. degree which prepares the applicant for advanced study of law will be also considered.

- d. LSAC. Foreign trained lawyers who wish to apply to the LL.M. program are required to register with the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC). LSAC collects and authenticates the applicant's transcripts and TOEFL scores, and mails an evaluation of those documents to SIU School of Law.
- e. Fee. Applications for admission to the LL.M. program must be filed with an application fee payable by check or money order in U.S. currency. Candidates whose checks are drawn from banks outside of the United States should provide a money order or cashier's check in lieu of a personal check.

Article II — Academic Regulations

1. Degree Requirements

- a. Residence Requirements. A student must complete not less than two semesters of residence in the School of Law for full-time enrollment or three semesters for part-time enrollment.
- b. Credit Hour Requirement. Subject to the exceptions provided in Art. II, paragraph 3, a student must complete at least twenty-four semester hours of credits in law courses approved by the Director of Graduate Legal Studies.

For students pursuing a concentration in Health Law and Policy, at least twelve of these required credit hours must be completed in health law and policy courses. An SIU J.D. graduate may apply for up to six hours of credit earned in health law related courses in which a grade of "B" (2.7–2.9) or better was earned in the SIU J.D. program. These credits will satisfy only the menu requirement of health law courses needed for the LL.M. in Health Law and Policy and not the overall twenty-four credit hours needed for the degree. [amended 5/4/15]

- c. Grade Point Requirement. At the time of graduation, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better.
- d. Research. A student must earn a minimum of three credits in the LL.M. Writing Seminar (Law 599-1), which requires the production of a substantial research paper which in the judgment of the faculty member is of such quality that it is ready to be submitted for publication. The student

must earn a grade of 3.0 or better on the research paper. [amended 5/4/15]

- e. Externships. Students pursuing a concentration in Health Law and Policy must complete two externships, unless exempted by the Director of Graduate Legal Studies based on previous or contemporaneous employment in the health care field.
- f. Additional Requirements for Certain International Students. Students who are non-common law trained lawyers are required to successfully complete two courses: Introduction to Law and the Legal System and Introduction to Legal Research and Writing. These courses are required in addition to the 24 credit hours required for graduation.
- g. Time Limitation for Completion of LL.M. Students must complete all requirements for the LL.M. within five years of first matriculation in the LL.M. program.
- h. Enrollment Status. A student must be enrolled in at least nine credit hours per semester (not Summer term) for full-time enrollment. Less than nine hours is considered part-time enrollment. [added 5/4/15]

2. **Grades and Grading System**

- a. Scale. Grades at the School of Law shall be awarded on a scale of 0.0 to 4.0 (including the use of tenths). Students will not receive credit toward the 24 credit hours required for graduation in any course in which they receive a grade below 2.5.
- b. Academic Evaluation. Individual grading policies and course requirements may be established for LL.M. students by the faculty member for each course. For example, as a substitute for a comprehensive final exam, a paper of high quality could be utilized as a means to academically evaluate the student.
- c. Effect of LL.M. Grades Upon J.D. Students. LL.M. students' scores and grades shall not be utilized in determining the J.D. median or grade distribution for a course.

3. **Academic Good Standing, Probation, and Dismissal** [amended 5/4/15]

- a. Good Standing. Students with a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or above shall be considered in good standing.
- b. Course Credit. A student shall not receive credit toward the LL.M. degree in any course in which a grade of less than 2.8 is earned.

- c. Dismissal. A student whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.8 at the completion of any semester shall be dismissed and may not petition for re-admission.
- d. Withdrawal and Return. A student who has completed at least one full semester and who is in good standing at the time of withdrawal may voluntarily withdraw from the LL.M. program and return without petition if the student does so within 15 months following the date of withdrawal. If a student has not completed at least one full semester before withdrawal or if more than 15 months have elapsed since the student's withdrawal, the student may return only by petitioning the Dean, which petition shall be freely granted if justice so requires. [added 5/4/15]

4. **Credit for Courses Earned Outside the SIU School of Law**

- a. Up to six semester hours of credit for course work taken in the SIUC Graduate School or the SIU School of Medicine may be granted with the permission of the Director of Graduate Legal Studies and the appropriate official from the Graduate School or the School of Medicine. For these credits to count toward the fulfillment of the general twenty-four credit hour requirement, a grade of "B" or better must be earned.
- b. With the approval of the Graduate Admissions Committee, a student may transfer at the time of initial enrollment up to 6 credit hours for post J.D. course work taken at another ABA accredited law school or in a non-law graduate program. The student must have earned a grade of "B" or better in the post J.D. courses, and the courses must have been germane to the course of study the student wishes to pursue in the LL.M. program. Approved credit hours will be counted toward the twenty-four credit hour LL.M. requirement, but grades earned in such courses will not be used in calculating grade point average.
- c. A student may not have more than a total of six hours of transfer credit for courses taken outside the SIU School of Law. [added 5/4/15]

5. **Attendance**

- a. Faculty may not waive regular attendance policies for LL.M. students.

6. **Class Availability**

- a. LL.M. students may select any upper class course and, with the permission of the instructor, any senior seminar offered by the School of Law.

- b. LL.M. students will not be counted for the purpose of determining maximum enrollment in a specific class.