

ADD, CHANGE OR DELETE UNIT, PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, OR ACADEMIC POLICIES

Complete this form consistent with the instructions in Academic Policy 1622.20. Use the form to add, change, or delete a program or unit or to change program policies. Proposed additions and changes must be consistent with Academic Policies 1100.40 and 1621.10 and any other policies which apply.

SECTION I: Approvals

Department / Program Chair Date Submitted Graduate Council Chair Date
College Dean Date Faculty Senate Chair Date
Honors College Dean Date Provost Date
Core Curriculum Committee Date Board of Trustees Approval/Notification Date
University Course and Programs Committee Date Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Approval/Notification Date

SECTION II: Profile Data - Required Information and Name Change Information

Academic Unit: [X] Major/Field of Study [ ] Minor [ ] Other Unit [ ] Policy
Level: [ ] Undergraduate [ ] Graduate [X] Law Effective Catalog Year 2014

Program changes are effective with the next available catalog. See Academic Policy Series 1622.20

Current Name LLM, Agricultural and Food Law

College, School, Division LAW Department Code LAWD

Current Code (6 digit Alpha) AGLWLM Proposed Code (6 digit Alpha)
Prior approval from the Office of the Registrar is required.

[ ] Interdisciplinary Program CIP Code 22.9999
Prior assignment from Office of Institutional Research is required.

Proposed Name Master of Laws -- General
When a program name is changed, enrollment of current students reflects the new name.

SECTION III: Add a New Program/Unit

[ ] For new program proposals, complete Sections II and VII and use as a cover sheet for a full program proposal as described in 'Criteria and Procedures for Preparing Proposals for New Programs in Arkansas.' ADHE
http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/academicaffairs/Pages/aa\_academicproposals.aspx

[ ] Program proposal uses courses offered by another academic college, and that college dean's office has been notified. The signature of the dean of that academic college is required here:

SECTION IV: Eliminate an Existing Program/Unit

Code/Name Effective Catalog Year
No new students admitted to program after Term: Year:
Allow students in program to complete under this program until Term: Year:

SECTION V: Proposed Changes to an Existing Program or Program Policies

Insert here a statement of the exact changes to be made: The School of Law currently offers a Master of Laws in Agricultural and Food Law. That program, as its name implies, specializes in agricultural and food law issues. We are not changing that program. This change would add a second option for students seeking a Master of Laws: A Master of Laws -- General.

**custom-design a course of study from a wide array of subjects across our entire curriculum. Like the current Master of Laws in Agricultural and Food Law, the new Master of Laws -- General would require 24 credit hours of study, including a substantial research and writing project. Admission requirements and procedures would be the same for both programs, except that the Master of Laws -- General would not require a statement of interest in Agricultural and Food Law.**

Check if either of these boxes apply and provide the necessary signature:

- Program change proposal adds courses offered by another academic college, and that college dean's office has been notified. The signature of the dean of that academic college is required here: \_\_\_\_\_
- Program change proposal deletes courses offered by another academic college, and that college dean's office has been notified. The signature of the dean of that academic college is required here: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all the boxes that apply and complete the required sections of the form:

- Change of Name and Code (Complete only sections I, II, V and VII.)
- Change Course Requirements: (Complete all sections of the form except "Proposed Name" in II, section III, and section IV.)
- Change Delivery Site/Method (Complete all sections of the form except "Proposed Name" in II, section III, and section IV.)
- Change Total Hours (Complete all sections of the form except "Proposed Name" in II, section III, and section IV.)
- Change in Program Policies

## **SECTION VI: Justification**

*Justify this change and state its likely effect on any other degree program (including those outside the school or college). Identify any program or program components (other than courses) to be eliminated if this program is implemented. (Program and course change forms must also be submitted for such related changes.)*

**The Master of Laws degree is widely recognized as the primary advanced credential beyond the entry-level Juris Doctor Degree. Master of Laws programs ("LL.M.") range in the extent of their specialization, from highly specialized (e.g., Admiralty, Federal Criminal Practice & Procedure, Securities and Financial Regulation, Sports Law), to somewhat broader but still specialized (e.g., Taxation, Business Law), to quite general.**

**As stated above in Section V., the University of Arkansas School of Law currently offers an LL.M. degree focused on Agricultural and Food Law. That program, originally titled the Graduate Program in Agricultural Law, admitted its first class in 1981. The program was renamed the LL.M. Program in Food and Agricultural Law in 2009 to reflect its expanded scope. It is the only LL.M. program of its kind in the nation. Since its inception, it has graduated 212 students. We will continue to offer that program.**

**Unlike many states, Arkansas does not currently offer a general Master of Laws program. Students seeking general advanced study in law or advanced study in any particular area of law other than Agricultural and Food Law must now go out of state. This proposal addresses that gap by offering a Master of Laws degree which is flexible enough to permit candidates, with a Faculty Advisor's guidance, to select their own areas of concentration from the School of Law's existing upper-level courses to best suit their career goals. Some students may concentrate in particular subject areas, such as Criminal Law, Civil Litigation, Business and Commercial Law, or International Law. Others may choose a more general course of study to acquire a broad-based advanced understanding of the law. And some foreign students may seek to take advantage of the laws of those states that allow a foreign-trained lawyer who graduates from an American LL.M. program meeting specified requirements to sit for the licensing examination.**

**This program is intended to serve several categories of candidates:**

**(1) Recent graduates of Juris Doctor programs: By the time a student in a standard J.D. program takes courses in those subjects tested on the bar examination and in legal research and writing, fulfills a legal skills requirement, and perhaps takes advantage of experiential learning placements, there is limited opportunity for advanced general or specialized study. This General LL.M. degree gives the recent graduate the time and flexibility to sample from across the upper-level curriculum or to focus on a specialty.**

**(2) More experienced lawyers: This General LL.M. degree gives more experienced lawyers the opportunity to enhance and update their knowledge in their particular area or to respecialize.**

**(3) Foreign-trained lawyers: Some foreign lawyers will seek a better general understanding of the American legal system; some will concentrate on a particular subject area, such as American commercial law. And some will seek eligibility to sit for an American bar examination, the requirements for which are specified by the respective jurisdictions (such as New York state).**

**1. Some candidates will seek a greater degree of specialized focus within a particular subject. They will be expected to acquire an advanced understanding of theoretical principles, legal doctrine (including applicable constitutional, statutory, and regulatory provisions, relevant case law, and pertinent sources of international law), and skills within their selected subject areas.**

**2. Some candidates who are graduates of foreign law programs will seek to enhance their general understanding of American law and practice. They will learn about the various professional roles and responsibilities of lawyers in the American legal system (as advocates, advisors, and evaluators) and obtain a grounding in a selection of American substantive law subjects such as constitutional law, administrative law, civil litigation, criminal law, commercial law, alternative dispute resolution, and real estate.**

**3. Some candidates who are graduates of foreign law programs will seek eligibility to sit for a state licensing examination, such as in New York. The objective for such students will be to satisfy the jurisdiction's eligibility requirements and to help prepare for the licensing examination. It is not possible, however, for a one-year program alone adequately to prepare a student to pass the licensing examination.**

## **SECTION VII: Catalog Text and Format**

*In the box below, insert the current catalog text which is to be changed, with changes highlighted with the color yellow. Include all proposed changes identified in Section V. Only changes explicitly stated in Section V will be considered for approval by the University Course and Programs Committee, the Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate. If you are proposing a new program, give proposed text with all of the elements listed below. If you are proposing modified text, include these elements as appropriate.*

**Include the following elements, in order, in the catalog text for proposed undergraduate program(s) or program changes:**

- State complete major/program name
- Briefly define or describe the major/program or discipline.
- Identify typical career goals or paths for graduates. (Optional)
- State admission requirements (if any) for entry or entry into upper/advanced level of major/program.
- Identify location in catalog of university, college/school, and department/program requirements which the student must meet in addition to hours in the major, but do not restate these requirements.
- State course requirements in the major and any allied areas, giving number of hours and specific courses; specify electives or elective areas and give numbers of hours and courses in elective pools or categories; identify any other course requirements.
- State any other requirements (required GPA, internship, exit exam, project, thesis, etc.).
- Identify name and requirements for each concentration (if any).
- Specify whether a minor or other program component is allowed or required and provide details.
- State eight-semester plan requirements

**For minors, state requirements in terms of hours, required courses, electives, etc.**

**For graduate program/units, include elements (as needed) parallel to those listed for undergraduate programs above.**

**For Law School program/units, prepare text consistent with current catalog style.**

**For centers, prepare text consistent with current catalog style.**

### **LL.M. – GENERAL**

The School of Law will offer a general LL.M. degree, beginning in the fall semester 2014, with concentration in a subject of the candidate's choice. Upon admission to the program, each candidate will be assigned a faculty advisor. The candidate and faculty advisor will review the candidate's career goals and map out a curriculum to meet those goals from among courses at the School of Law and other University departments. Admission is on a rolling basis, so the advising process can begin well before the candidate's arrival in Fayetteville for the start of the fall semester. Some candidates may choose a general course of study to acquire a broad-based understanding of the American legal system. Some may concentrate in particular subject areas, such as International Law, Business and Commercial Law, Criminal Law, or Civil Litigation. Graduates of foreign law schools will be expected to take the Introduction to the American Legal System course.

candidate's goals. That project shall result in a scholarly paper of publishable quality or other written product that demonstrates rigorous legal analysis, significant academic content, and quality legal writing skills. This requirement is flexible enough to allow candidates to design projects that both further their education and have practical utility in their careers.

Although under our academic policies LL.M. candidates have four years from matriculation to complete degree requirements, most will complete their work over two semesters. Typically, a candidate's first semester will consist of twelve credit hours of on-campus classes. The second semester will include independent study on the candidate's research project. For some candidates, it may also include an experiential learning component such as an externship placement. Candidates may substitute up to six credit hours of study from other departments on campus.

## LL.M. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for admission to the LL.M. – General program must have earned a J.D. or LL.B. degree from a fully accredited school in the United States or be admitted to a bar. Attorneys who have graduated from a law school in another country may be admitted upon the approval of the Graduate Admissions Committee

All applicants should demonstrate academic excellence and have identified their goals in seeking an LL.M. degree. A law school grade-point average of 2.50 or higher on a 4.00 scale is required; 3.00 or higher is preferred.

The following information is required for a complete application from a domestic applicant:

- A completed application form;
- An admission statement or letter explaining the applicant's goals in seeking an LL.M. degree;
- Official copies of transcripts from all post-secondary educational institutions attended (these must be sent from the school, directly to the Director of the LL.M. program);
- At least one letter of recommendation (two in the case of international students) from an individual who can attest to the applicant's academic and professional abilities (this should be sent directly to the Director of the LL.M. Program).

A writing sample is optional, but will be considered if submitted.

International candidates should refer to the application requirements as explained on the application form that can be downloaded from the School of Law website at <http://law.uark.edu/academics/llm/llm-admission-process/>.

The University of Arkansas School of Law's Graduate Admissions Committee will make all admissions decisions and in some cases may place conditions on a candidate's admission.

Applications for the 2014-2015 class will be accepted beginning October 1, 2014. The Program has a rolling admissions policy, and applications will continue to be accepted until all candidate positions are filled.

## NINE-HOUR J.D. STUDENTS

A School of Law student who is within nine hours of completing the total credit hours required to earn a J.D. degree may be admitted conditionally to the graduate law program. This allows students to begin their LL.M.

LL.M. program but cannot be counted toward both degrees. In order to be admitted to the nine-hour program, a J.D. student must:

1. obtain advance approval from the Graduate Legal Studies Committee;
2. obtain advance approval from the director of the Masters of Laws – General program for credits to be applied toward the LL.M. degree; and
3. earn a grade of 2.50 or higher in each course to be applied toward the LL.M. degree.

A student who satisfies these requirements and who is subsequently awarded a J.D. degree will be admitted to the graduate program as a degree candidate, unless the Graduate Legal Studies Committee determines that there are substantial grounds for revocation of the conditional admission.

## NON-DEGREE PROGRAM

The Graduate Legal Studies Committee may permit an applicant with a degree from an accredited law school to take graduate-level courses for credit without being admitted as a degree candidate. Credits so earned are recorded as non-degree credits. If the student earning non-degree credits is subsequently admitted as a degree candidate, the Graduate Legal Studies Committee shall, in its discretion, decide whether prior credits may be applied toward the LL.M. degree.

A graduate student at the University of Arkansas in a discipline other than law may enroll in the law school's graduate-level courses with the approval of the student's department, the dean of the university graduate school, and the director of the Masters of Laws – General program.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To receive an LL.M. – General degree, a candidate must:

1. complete a total of 24-credit hours pursuant to a course of study approved by the director of the graduate law program;
2. maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 2.50 or better (on a 4.00 scale); and
3. conduct research and produce a written product for graded credit. The required written product can be of the sort that is published in a law journal or, with the permission of the director of the graduate law program, a less traditional product that demonstrates rigorous legal analysis, significant academic content, and quality legal writing skills.

Graduate law students are expected to attend and actively participate in all of their LL.M. classes. Course grades may reflect classroom performance.

Candidates ordinarily enter the program at the beginning of the fall semester; however, mid-year admissions in January may be permitted.

Each degree candidate is expected to enroll in a minimum of eight semester hours during each semester in residence (excluding summer sessions) and may not enroll for more than 15 hours in any semester without the approval of the director of the graduate law program. Unless permission is granted by the Graduate Legal Studies Committee, all course work for the LL.M. degree, except for the research and writing requirement, should be completed within two semesters. All coursework, including completion of the writing requirement, must be completed within four years of matriculation

The LL.M. – General program is one of the most affordable LL.M. opportunities available.

For Arkansas residents, tuition for the program is approximately \$8,800 for the full year. LL.M. candidates from outside of Arkansas are charged a non-resident rate of approximately \$19,000 for the year. Additional fees are assessed by the University, with fees for the year totaling approximately \$1200. An additional health insurance charge of \$1,000 is assessed for international students.

The University provides tuition and fees information at <http://treasurer.uark.edu/Tuition.asp?pagestate=Calculate>.

#### SECTION VIII: Action Recorded by Registrar's Office

##### PROGRAM INVENTORY/DARS

PGRM \_\_\_\_\_ SUBJ \_\_\_\_\_ CIP \_\_\_\_\_ CRTS \_\_\_\_\_  
DGRE \_\_\_\_\_ PGCT \_\_\_\_\_ OFFC&CRTY VALID \_\_\_\_\_

##### REPORTING CODES

PROG. DEF. \_\_\_\_\_ REQ. DEF. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

##### Distribution

Notification to:

- (1) College (2) Department (3) Admissions (4) Institutional Research (5) Continuing Education (6) Graduate School  
(7) Treasurer (8) Undergraduate Program Committee

5/12/08