

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 13
EXISTING CERTIFICATE or DEGREE OFFERED via DISTANCE TECHNOLOGY

Institutions with at least one certificate or degree program approved for distance technology by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board must submit Letter of Notification-13 to request approval to offer additional existing (on-campus) certificates or degrees via distance technology.

The institution must submit to ADHE a copy of the e-mail notification to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) about the proposed distance technology program. If HLC requires a focused visit for the proposed distance technology program, please submit the scheduled review date.

Definitions

Distance technology (e-learning) – When technology is the primary mode of instruction for the course (50% of the course content is delivered electronically).

Distance instruction – When a course does not have any significant site attendance, but less than 50% of the course is delivered electronically, e.g., correspondence courses.

Distance program – When at least 50% of the major courses are delivered via distance technology.

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas School of Law
2. Contact person/title: Susan Schneider, Professor of Law, Director of the LL.M. Program in Agricultural & Food Law
3. Telephone number/e-mail address: (479) 575-4334
4. Name of Existing Certificate or Degree: LL.M. Program in Agricultural & Food Law
5. Proposed Effective Date for distance technology delivery: Fall 2014
6. CIP Code/Degree Code:

PROGRAM INFORMATION

7. Reason for offering program by distance technology:

There is increasing demand for distance education opportunities in the specialized LL.M. Program market. Many law schools are developing new LL.M Programs with online courses and expanding their face-to-face LL.M. Programs to incorporate distance education. We anticipate that the demand for distance education will continue to expand in the future.

The LL.M. Program in Agricultural & Food Law is the only LL.M. Program in the United States that offers the LL.M. degree in this area of study. As was reported by our external reviewers in our Program Review last year, "Agricultural and Food Law is a developing area of law and is needed not only locally and nationally, but globally as well. The University of Arkansas program is ideally positioned to be a leader in this field and currently has that status."

Because we draw our students from a national and international market, our Program is particularly affected by the demand for distance education. We are currently losing talented applicants because they cannot relocate to Fayetteville for our face-to-face classes. Distance education offers not only

growth opportunities, but will be necessary to maintain our leadership position in the developing marketplace.

We propose the development of a distance track for the LL.M Program in Agricultural & Food Law that will integrate our face-to-face delivery with distance education opportunities. This will allow us to increase the size of our enrollment while maintaining or increasing our high standards of admission. It will allow us to provide a greater range of classes and experiences to our students. And, it will allow our face-to-face students to interact and network with fellow-students throughout the U.S. and international countries who would not otherwise be able to attend our Program.

With the assistance of the UA Global Campus, our distance course offerings will offer a fully integrated classroom experience, taking advantage of state-of-the-art technology for synchronous video conferencing, blended course delivery, and the full range of interactive online educational experiences.

8. Provide the list of courses (course number/title) in the certificate or degree listed above currently offered by distance technology. Indicate which existing distance technology courses are taught by adjunct faculty.

We are currently offering one class with online student participation. It is taught by a tenured UA faculty member. The course is *Food Law & Policy*, LAWW 7863, and it is taught by UA Professor Susan Schneider. It is a face-to-face class with 2 online students participating through synchronous video conferencing.

9. List of new courses and course descriptions for distance technology courses for the degree listed above. Indicate which new distance technology courses will be taught by adjunct faculty.

List of New Distance Courses, Course Descriptions, and Faculty Status (Existing Faculty or Adjunct Faculty)

Note that each course listed below is under-development as an integrated distance/face-to-face course that can be offered to either a face-to-face or distance students.

Course Title	Course Description	Regular Faculty Or Adjunct
Introduction to the Law of Food & Agriculture LAWW 7511	Orientation course that provides an overview of the legal and policy issues presented by the production of food and fiber, including a discussion of structural changes in agriculture, sustainability issues, and trends in consumer interest.	Regular Faculty
Agriculture and the Environment LAWW 796V	Agriculture is increasingly criticized for its impact on the environment. This course examines the tensions between the desire to produce food and fiber efficiently and concern for sustainability and the protection of natural resources.	Regular Faculty
Food Law & Policy LAWW 786V	An introduction to the network of laws that govern our food system. An overview of regulation by both the Food & Drug Administration and the USDA is provided. Policy considerations are discussed in light of current issues.	Regular Faculty
Federal Farm Programs and Crop Insurance LAWW 740V	Survey of the complex network of federal farm programs and federal crop insurance programs that are available to U.S. producers.	Adjunct

Course Title	Course Description	Regular Faculty Or Adjunct
Agricultural Perspectives LAWW 7312	Agriculture has a rich and varied history, and today's issues are often best understood in the context of this history. This course examines a wide range of social and economic issues, considering their origin and how history is reflected in today's policies. The course includes a series of documentaries.	Regular Faculty
Administrative Process and Practice in Agricultural & Food Law LAWW 7721	Study of administrative law & practice in the specialized areas of agricultural and food law. Relevant regulatory agencies are introduced. Rulemaking, adjudication, and judicial review are covered.	Regular Faculty
Agricultural Bankruptcy LAWW 709vV	Examination of bankruptcy law as applied to agricultural operations, including Chapter 12 - Family Farmer Reorganization. No prior knowledge of bankruptcy is required.	Regular Faculty
Agricultural Biotechnology LAWW710V	Study of the regulation of agricultural biotechnology, including the approval process for new technologies, the patenting of new products and technologies, and the restrictions associated with their use.	Adjunct
Agricultural Cooperatives and Local Food Systems LAWW 7071	Introduction to the legal structure of a cooperative and examination of the recent use of the cooperative model in encouraging local and regional food systems	Adjunct
Agricultural Finance & Credit LAWW 776V	Study of the legal issues surrounding the financing of agricultural operations, including credit availability, agricultural security issues under the Uniform Commercial Code, and debt restructuring opportunities. Special focus is on lending options offered by the Farm Service Agency and the Farm Credit System.	Regular Faculty
Agricultural Labor Law LAWW 778V	Study of the legal, social, and economic issues that arise from the extensive use of migrant labor in U.S. agricultural operations. Topics include agricultural exemptions from labor laws, the Migrant & Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, and agriculture's reliance on undocumented alien workers.	Regular Faculty
Agricultural Water Law LAWW713V	Study of the basic legal principles applicable to water rights through consideration of water rights for agricultural use.	Adjunct
Energy Policy & Agriculture LAWW 7211	Survey of the legal dimensions of various energy issues occurring on agricultural lands and in rural areas, including wind power, solar power, ethanol production, power line transmission, and fracking	Adjunct
Environmental Regulation of Agriculture LAWW 7932	This course examines the major federal environmental statutes applicable to agricultural operations with attention to current cases and controversies under those laws. It also explores the regulatory authority and enforcement practices of the EPA and other agencies.	Regular Faculty
Farmed Animal Welfare Law & Policy LAWW7262	Examination of the legal issues involved in determining welfare standards for animals raised for food. In addition to introducing federal animal welfare and humane slaughter laws, state referenda, state law standards, and so-called "ag gag" laws are studied.	Regular Faculty
Federal Nutrition Law & Policy LAWW 785V	Study of federal nutrition policy, including the development of the federal nutrition standards, the framework for the food assistance programs, the federal school lunch program, and the government's efforts to encourage healthy eating.	Regular Faculty

Course Title	Course Description	Regular Faculty Or Adjunct
Federal Regulation of Food Labeling LAWW 7042	Study of the federal laws regarding the labeling of food, considering both FDA and USDA regulation. The course includes the study of nutrition labeling, health claims, advertising issues, and efforts to curb the obesity epidemic through educational labeling.	Regular Faculty
Federal Regulation of Food Safety LAWW 7872	Study of the federal laws that regulate food safety, considering the FDA authority under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, as expanded by the Food Safety Modernization Act and USDA authority to regulate meat and poultry safety. Current issues and concerns are addressed.	Regular Faculty
Food Justice: Law & Policy LAWW 782V	Survey of the legal and policy issues raised by the food justice movement. Topics covered include food insecurity and poverty, public health concerns such as obesity, the economics of healthy eating, food deserts, and food waste.	Regular Faculty
Food Safety Litigation 727V	Examination of food borne illness litigation with an initial introduction to food product liability followed by the study of actual cases brought against food manufacturers	Adjunct
Food, Farming & Sustainability LAWW 741V	Survey of the complex legal topics that make up the body of agricultural and food law focusing on current issues of significance.	Regular Faculty
Global Food Security LAWW 742V	Survey of the role of law and policy in affecting problems of global food security in the face of increasing population, changing diets, environmental pressures, and climate change.	Regular Faculty
Introduction to Agric. Income Taxation LAWW 7111	Overview of federal income tax law as applied to agricultural operations.	Adjunct
Legal Issues: Indigenous Food & Agriculture LAWW 762V	This course examines the complex interaction of tribal law, treaties, and federal agricultural and food laws, including property law applicable to tribal lands.	Regular Faculty
Specialized Legal Research and Writing LAWW 7231	Legal writing skill development, including training in plain-English legal writing, electronic research training, and publication strategies.	Regular Faculty
Local/Regional Food Systems & the Law LAWW 781V	This course examines recent efforts to re-establish local and regional food systems and explores the attendant legal and policy issues.	Adjunct
Regulated Markets in Agriculture LAWW 763V	Study of the economic regulation of specific sectors of the agricultural industry focusing on perishable agricultural commodities (fruits & vegetables), and dairy products. Included is the study of formal and informal administrative review.	Regular Faculty
Regulation of Livestock Marketing & Sales LAWW 7031	Study of the regulation of livestock and poultry sales under the Packers and Stockyards Act, with a particular focus on production contracting, mandatory price reporting, industry concentration, and anti-trust issues.	Adjunct
Urban Agriculture: Law & Policy LAWW 7741	Study of the legal issues raised by the rising interest in urban agricultural activities. Topics of study include land use and zoning issues, farmers market issues, and legal issues associated with community-sponsored agriculture.	Regular Faculty

10. Provide the course syllabus for each distance technology course for the program listed above and indicate the maximum class size for each distance course. Indicate the course delivery mode(s) and class interaction mode(s) for each distance technology course.

Course delivery modes

Online
Compressed-video (CIV)
Audio Conference
Video Conference
Web Conference
Blended delivery (identify components)

Class interaction modes

Electronic bulletin boards
E-mail
Telephone
Fax
Chat
Blog
Other (specify)

LL.M. Program course syllabi are provided as separate documents. These syllabi represent the face-to-face courses in the LL.M. Program that are being developed as integrated distance education courses through UA Global Campus.

Each distance course will be offered for blended delivery. Each will have all course materials available online, provide the opportunity for synchronous video-conferencing interaction, provide compressed video recordings for later viewing of class sessions as appropriate, and provide for online communication and assessment.

Each of the proposed courses is designed to be delivered to no more than 15 distance students.

Class interaction will be accomplished through live video-conferencing, electronic bulletin boards, blogs, email and chats. In addition, course activities will incorporate group assignments that require online collaboration. Distance and face-to-face students will take classes together and interact regularly.

11. Discuss the provisions for instructor-student and student-student interaction that are included in the program design and the course syllabus.

The program design incorporates an almost seamless integration of the face-to-face students, the distance students, and the instructors. All will work from an online platform on Blackboard where all course materials, presentations, exercises, and related course components are housed.

Face-to-face classes will bring together the Fayetteville students and the distance students using synchronous video-conference technology and a blended delivery mode. This technology provides for complete interactivity in the classroom. A “flipped” classroom model will offer an opportunity for high-level interaction during these conferencing periods. Additional opportunities for student-to-student interaction will include blogging, electronic bulletin boards, group assignments, and extra-curricular conferencing options.

Several special condensed courses will be offered each year on campus as electives to provide an opportunity for distance students to come to Fayetteville for several days and earn credits in in a face-to-face setting if they choose.

Some of our elective courses will only be offered with face-to-face delivery periodically, e.g., every other year. When a course is not offered, an updated online version will be available with interactive exercises and significant student-teacher interaction built into the course. This interaction will include video-conferenced discussion sessions with the professor and other students enrolled, online exercises with professor supervision and commentary, blogging and email exchanges, and interactive assessment. The offering of online electives will allow for expanded opportunities for both face-to-face and distance students.

In all classes, distance students will interact with their professors through video conferencing, phone calls, and emails, with additional interaction through commentary on assignments and examinations.

12. Provide a semester-by-semester degree plan/course schedule for student access to all courses necessary to complete the program.

All degree requirements will be the same for distance students and face-to-face students. The program plan for the distance program is based on almost complete integration of the face-to-face and distance tracks. With the exception of several condensed courses offered each year on campus, all LL.M. courses offered will be modified to accommodate distance students.

Twenty-four (24) credits from approved courses are required for the LL.M. degree. There are 6 courses (for a total of 8 credits) that are required courses. The remaining 16 credits can be earned through approved elective course credit.

The required courses are offered once each year face-to-face, with a distance option available. Four of these courses are offered in the Fall Semester (for a total of 5 credits), 1 course is offered in the Spring (2 credits) and 1 course consisting of an independent research article completed with professor supervision, is available at any time. These face-to-face required courses allow for distance student enrollment with participation through synchronous video-conferencing and blended distance education tools built into the face-to-face course.

In addition to the required courses that are offered each year, at least 16 credits of elective courses are offered face-to-face, with a distance option available. It is therefore possible for any full time student (face-to-face or distance) to complete the Program in 2 semesters. Both face-to-face and distance students, however, each have 4 years from matriculation within which to complete the Program. It is anticipated that most of our distance students will attend part time.

In addition to the required and elective courses that are offered face-to-face with a distance participation option, additional electives will be available. Courses that are not offered as face-to-face classes with synchronous video conferencing will be available as updated online courses offered with interactive exercises and significant student-teacher interaction built into the course.

The proposed degree plan/course schedule is illustrated in the following table.

LL.M. Program in Agricultural & Food Law Degree Plan/Course Schedule

Course Title	Credits	Course Description
Required Courses Offered Every Year (Face-to-face delivery with online option using synchronous video-conferencing and blended online delivery)		
Introduction to the Law of Food & Agriculture	1	Orientation course that provides an overview of the legal and policy issues presented by the production of food and fiber, including a discussion of structural changes in agriculture, sustainability issues, and trends in consumer interest.
Agriculture and the Environment	2	Agriculture is increasingly criticized for its impact on the environment. This course examines the tensions between the desire to produce food and fiber efficiently and concern for sustainability and the protection of natural resources.
Food Law & Policy	1	An introduction to the network of laws that govern our food system. An overview of regulation by both the Food & Drug Administration and the USDA is provided. Policy considerations are discussed in light of current issues.
Federal Farm Programs and Crop Insurance	1	Survey of the complex network of federal farm programs and federal crop insurance programs that are available to U.S. producers.
Agricultural Perspectives	2	Agriculture has a rich and varied history, and today's issues are often best understood in the context of this history. This course examines a wide range of social and economic issues, considering their origin and how history is reflected in today's policies. The course includes a series of documentaries.
Advanced Writing in Agricultural & Food Law	1-4	Research in a specialized area of agricultural or food law and development of a paper that demonstrates rigorous legal analysis and quality legal writing.
Elective Courses (to be available either as face-to-face courses with distance option or as an online course)		
Note: 24 total credits (16 elective credits) needed for degree; at least 16 elective credits offered each year		
Administrative Process and Practice in Agricultural & Food Law	1	Study of administrative law & practice in the specialized areas of agricultural and food law. Relevant regulatory agencies are introduced. Rulemaking, adjudication, and judicial review are covered.
Food, Farming & Sustainability	2	Survey of the complex legal topics that make up the body of agricultural and food law focusing on current issues of significance.
Specialized Legal Research and Writing	1	Legal writing skill development, including training in plain-English legal writing, electronic research training, and publication strategies.
Federal Regulation of Food Labeling	2	Study of the federal laws regarding the labeling of food, considering both FDA and USDA regulation. The course includes the study of nutrition labeling, health claims, advertising issues, and efforts to curb the obesity epidemic through educational labeling.
Federal Regulation of Food Safety	2	Study of the federal laws that regulate food safety, considering the FDA authority under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, as expanded by the Food Safety Modernization Act and USDA authority to regulate meat and poultry safety. Current issues and concerns are addressed.
Food Safety Litigation	2	Examination of food borne illness litigation with an initial introduction to food product liability followed by the study of actual cases brought against food manufacturers
Independent Research in Agricultural & Food Law	1-2	Independent research in agricultural and food law conducted under the supervision of a faculty member.

Agricultural Biotechnology	1-2	Study of the regulation of agricultural biotechnology, including the approval process for new technologies, the patenting of new products and technologies, and the restrictions associated with their use.
Regulation of Livestock Marketing & Sales	1	Study of the regulation of livestock and poultry sales under the Packers and Stockyards Act, with a particular focus on production contracting, mandatory price reporting, industry concentration, and anti-trust issues.
Agricultural Labor Law	1-2	Study of the legal, social, and economic issues that arise from the extensive use of migrant labor in U.S. agricultural operations. Topics include agricultural exemptions from labor laws, the Migrant & Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, and agriculture's reliance on undocumented alien workers.
Environmental Regulation of Agriculture	2	This course examines the major federal environmental statutes applicable to agricultural operations with attention to current cases and controversies under those laws. It also explores the regulatory authority and enforcement practices of the EPA and other agencies.
Agricultural Water Law	1-2	Study of the basic legal principles applicable to water rights through consideration of water rights for agricultural use.
Agricultural Bankruptcy	1-2	Examination of bankruptcy law as applied to agricultural operations, including Chapter 12 - Family Farmer Reorganization. No prior knowledge of bankruptcy is required.
Agricultural Cooperatives and Local Food Systems	1	Introduction to the legal structure of a cooperative and examination of the recent use of the cooperative model in encouraging local and regional food systems
Agricultural Finance & Credit	1-3	Study of the legal issues surrounding the financing of agricultural operations, including credit availability, agricultural security issues under the Uniform Commercial Code, and debt restructuring opportunities. Special focus is on lending options offered by the Farm Service Agency and the Farm Credit System.
Energy Policy & Agriculture	1	Survey of the legal dimensions of various energy issues occurring on agricultural lands and in rural areas, including wind power, solar power, ethanol production, power line transmission, and fracking
Farmed Animal Welfare Law & Policy	1-2	Examination of the legal issues involved in determining welfare standards for animals raised for food. In addition to introducing federal animal welfare and humane slaughter laws, state referenda, state law standards, and so-called "ag gag" laws are studied.
Federal Nutrition Law & Policy	1-2	Study of federal nutrition policy, including the development of the federal nutrition standards, the framework for the food assistance programs, the federal school lunch program, and the government's efforts to encourage healthy eating.
Food Justice: Law & Policy	1-2	Survey of the legal and policy issues raised by the food justice movement. Topics covered include food insecurity and poverty, public health concerns such as obesity, the economics of healthy eating, food deserts, and food waste.
Global Food Security	1-2	Survey of the role of law and policy in affecting problems of global food security in the face of increasing population, changing diets, environmental pressures, and climate change.
Introduction to Agricultural Income Taxation	1	Overview of federal income tax law as applied to agricultural operations.

Legal Issues: Indigenous Food & Agriculture	1-3	This course examines the complex interaction of tribal law, treaties, and federal agricultural and food laws, including property law applicable to tribal lands.
Local/Regional Food Systems & the Law	1-2	This course examines recent efforts to re-establish local and regional food systems and explores the attendant legal and policy issues.
Regulated Markets in Agriculture	1-2	Study of the economic regulation of specific sectors of the agricultural industry focusing on perishable agricultural commodities (fruits & vegetables), and dairy products. Included is the study of formal and informal administrative review.
Urban Agriculture: Law & Policy	1	Study of the legal issues raised by the rising interest in urban agricultural activities. Topics of study include land use and zoning issues, farmers market issues, and legal issues associated with community- sponsored agriculture.

13. Provide a list of services that will be supplied by consortia partners or outsourced to another organization (faculty/instructional support, course materials, course management and delivery, library-related services, bookstore services, services providing information to students, technical services, administrative services, online payment arrangements, student privacy consideration, services related to orientation, advising, counseling or tutoring, etc.) **Include the draft contract/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for each partner/organization offering faculty/instructional support for the program.** Submit final contract/MOU signed by partner institutions or organizations upon completion of ADHE proposal review.

All services to our students will be provided by University of Arkansas faculty, staff, and administration. The School of Law is receiving support from the UA Global Campus in developing the new distance track.

14. Estimate costs for the proposed distance technology program for the first 3 years. Include faculty release time costs for course/program planning and delivery.

The Program design anticipates the creation of a significant new revenue stream from distance enrollment. All development costs should be recouped from this revenue stream within a reasonable period of time. We anticipate that significant program development will occur throughout the current academic year (2013-2014). With ADHE approval, we would like to begin admitting degree students to the distance track Fall 2014. The first two years will be focused on continued course development and implementation. The Program should be fully implemented by Fall 2016.

Because the Program is an ongoing effort dependent upon existing faculty, assistance is needed to develop the distance courses without disrupting current delivery of the face-to-face courses. One additional faculty member (a recent graduate hired at an assistant professor level on a contract basis) has been assisting with the development of the new distance courses since May 2013. She is working closely with UA Global Campus course designers. Her contract will run through academic year 2014-2015 (two full years).

We have requested assistance from Global Campus in hiring a second temporary contract faculty member to help implement the distance track and assist with marketing, program development, and quality assurance during the first two years of implementation. That request is pending.

These two hires will allow our existing tenured faculty members to continue teaching without

any release time.

Once fully operational, we anticipate that the Program will need one full time faculty member to join the Program faculty, although this new position would be dependent upon revenue from new student enrollment.

Additional administrative costs will be associated with the increased enrollment in the Program. This will require a position upgrade for the administrative staff person that currently assists the Program Director.

Technology upgrades in the LL.M. classroom are anticipated for the Summer 2014, although the video conferencing licenses have already been purchased campus-wide.

Additional costs will be incurred to support adjunct course development as face-to-face courses are transitioned to a more suitable blended delivery mode. Adjunct teachers currently receive \$3,000 per credit for teaching with no travel allowance. We have a request pending with Global Campus for additional support for adjunct professors to be used in course development and teaching.

It is budgeted that within 5 years time, added tuition associated with the increased enrollment will generate sufficient income to make the Program profitable.

15. Provide institutional curriculum committee review/approval date for proposed distance technology program.

The Graduate Legal Studies Committee approved the proposed distance curriculum and degree track in August 2013. The curriculum and the proposed distance track were presented to the School of Law faculty and approved on September 2, 2013. The proposed distance track will be considered by the University Committee on Programs and Curriculum at their October meeting.

16. Provide documentation that proposed program has been reviewed/approved for distance technology delivery by licensure/certification board/agency, if required. [HLC review must follow ADHE review and AHECB program approval.]

There is no additional requirement for approval of the distance education track for this Program.

17. Provide additional program information if requested by ADHE staff.

INSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL

President/Chancellor Approval Date:

Board of Trustees Notification Date:

Chief Academic Officer:

Date:

LON-13