**Proposed Changes to the University Catalog:**

**Degree Requirements, Dual Degree Program, Course of Study, Costs and Funding, LL.M. Courses, and Journal of Food Law and Policy**

Most of the following changes correct minor errors and update the language. Deletions are shown as crossed out and insertions are indicated in red.

There is one substantive change to policy that adds mention of our three required courses. These courses have been required for decades, as reflected in UA Connect and on the law school website. However, they were never added to the catalog. The Graduate Legal Studies Committee and the law faculty approved this addition.

The Journal of Food Law & Policy, the last item in this section is not an LL.M. publication. It is for JD students only, so it should not be included in this LL.M. section of the catalog. It is listed elsewhere in the law school portions of the catalog.

**Degree Requirements**

To receive an LL.M. degree in agricultural and food law, 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~~ LL.M. program and including required courses Food Law & Policy, Agriculture and the Environment, and Agricultural Perspectives;
2. Maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 2.50 or better (on a 4.00 scale); and
3. Conduct research in a specialized area of agricultural and food law 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~~ LL.M. program, a less traditional product that demonstrates rigorous legal analysis, significant academic content, and quality legal writing skills.

Candidates may enroll on a full or part-time basis but may not enroll for more than 15 hours in any semester without the approval of the director of the ~~graduate law~~ LL.M. program. All coursework, including completion of the research requirement must be completed within four years of matriculation unless an extension for good cause is granted by the Graduate Legal Studies Committee.

All candidates are subject to the LL.M. Program Honor Code.

**Dual Degree Program**

The School of Law cooperates with the department of agricultural economics and agribusiness in the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences to offer a dual-degree program leading to the LL.M. in agricultural and food law and Master of Science in agricultural economics degrees.

Each program applies its own admission standards. For further information on the master’s in agricultural economics, visit [Dual MS LLM](https://agribusiness.uark.edu/academics/graduates/joint-llm-ms.php), Bumpers College Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness ~~contact the graduate program adviser at 479-575-2256~~.

**Course of Study**

The LL.M. program offers more than 24 credits of specialized agricultural ~~law~~ and food law courses each year. The director approves each student’s course selection. Three of these specialized courses are required: Food Law and Policy; Agriculture and the Environment, and Agricultural Perspectives. A final research project, Advanced Writing in Agricultural and Food Law is also required.

Most students take ~~all of the~~ 24 credits of these specialized courses to complete their degree. However, with the approval of the director, a student may substitute courses offered in the J.D. program (if not taken previously as a J.D. student) or courses offered for graduate credit elsewhere within the University of Arkansas provided that they are substantially related to agricultural or food law. ~~Given an increasingly globalized food system, some LL.M. students have taken international law classes offered in the J.D. curriculum. Graduate~~ LL.M. students may be allowed to earn up to six credits through alternative courses. An effort is made to accommodate each student’s particular areas of interest, and the director works closely with each student to develop their preferred curriculum. Credit may not be granted for courses taken at other law schools.

**Costs and Funding**

The LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law is one of the most affordable LL.M. opportunities available.

For on-campus students, t~~T~~he university provides an online calculator for tuition and fees information at the [Treasurer's website](http://treasurernet.uark.edu/Tuition.aspx?pagestate=Calculate). Distance students are given the in-state tuition rate regardless of their state of residency and also pay lower fees.

The Graduate School at the University of Arkansas and the School of Law provide for Graduate Assistantships to be awarded to a limited number of LL.M. candidates. These assistantships provide for a full tuition waiver plus a stipend of $5,000 less withholding per semester in exchange for the candidate’s work in a variety of legal and teaching capacities. Competition for the Graduate Assistantship positions is high, and the awards are primarily merit-based. ~~, although special consideration may also be given to particularly well qualified international candidates.~~

Graduate Assistantships awards are made by the Graduate Admissions Committee after a candidate has been admitted to the LL.M. Program.

**LL.M. Courses**

Each semester, the LL.M. Program offers an extensive curriculum of courses that have been developed specifically for the program. The courses that are offered each semester are tailored to student interest, with "selected topics" courses created each semester to address emerging issues and current trends. Experiential opportunities are provided through externships and practicums.

~~The courses offered as part of the LL.M. curriculum are specifically designed to address the most current legal issues involving the law of food and agriculture. The curriculum and the focus in each of the individual courses varies year to year as professors incorporate new issues.~~

~~Each year’s curriculum is based on candidate interest, professor availability, and current events.~~

**~~Journal of Food Law & Policy~~**

~~The~~[*~~Journal of Food Law & Policy~~*](https://law.uark.edu/jflp/about.php)~~was established in July 2005 as the country’s first J.D. student-edited legal journal devoted to the study of the relationships that exist among food, law, and society.  It is credited with helping to foster the development of the emerging food law and policy discipline in law schools across the country. The journal is published twice a year.  It features work by many prestigious authors, including renowned food law expert Peter Barton Hutt, agricultural law scholar Neil Hamilton, the director of UCLA's food law program, Michael Roberts, and many others.~~