

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 3
NEW OPTION, CONCENTRATION,
EMPHASIS

(Maximum 18 semester credit hours of theory courses and 6 credit hours of practicum courses)

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
2. Contact person/title: Dr. Sharon Gaber, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
3. Phone number/e-mail address:

479-575-2151

422 Administration Building

University of Arkansas

Fayetteville, AR 72701

sgaber@uark.edu

4. Proposed effective date: Fall, 2014
5. Title of existing degree program: Master of Laws in Agricultural and Food Law

(Indicate if the degree listed above is approved for distance delivery)

6. CIP Code: 22.9999

7. Degree Code: 5210

8. Proposed name of new option/concentration/emphasis: ~~General~~ Master of Laws - **General**

9. Reason for proposed action:

The Master of Laws degree is widely recognized as the primary advanced credential beyond the entry-level Juris Doctor Degree. Master of Laws programs 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.

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 or advanced study in any particular area other than Agricultural and Food Law must now go out of state. This proposal addresses that gap by offering a General Master of Laws degree which is flexible enough to permit candidates to select their own areas of concentration to best suit their career goals.

10. Provide the following:

a. Curriculum outline - List of courses in new option/concentration/emphasis – Underline required courses

With a faculty advisor's guidance, candidates will design their own curriculum from the School of Law's existing upper-level courses to suit their career goals as suggested below in Item 10.d. 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.

For example, the curriculum of a candidate seeking to develop expertise in International Law might include the following:

LAWW 500(3) International Business Transactions
LAWW 6943 Public International Law
LAWW 500(2) International Agricultural Trade
LAWW 500(3) Law of International Contracting
LAWW 500(2) International Commercial Arbitration
LAWW 5303 International and Domestic Sales and Leasing
LAWW 500(3) International Criminal Law
LAWW 500(3) International Human Rights Law
Research paper (one to four credits)

The curriculum of a candidate seeking to qualify to sit for the New York licensing examination might include courses from among the following:

LAWW 5013 Professional Responsibility*

LAWW ____	Introduction to the American Legal System*
LAWW 4013	Legal Research and Writing*
LAWW 4023	Contracts I**
LAWW 4033	Contracts II**
LAWW 5114	Constitutional Law**
LAWW 4053	Property I**
LAWW 4153	Property II**
LAWW 4073	Criminal Law**
LAWW 4144	Torts**
LAWW 6093	Basic Evidence**
LAWW 4294	Business Organizations**
LAWW 4173	Criminal Procedure**
LAWW 4103	Civil Procedure I**
LAWW 4203	Civil Procedure II**
LAWW 550(3)	Will, Trusts & Estates**
LAWW 5073	Domestic Relations**

*At least two credit hours required of each of these subjects

** At least six credit hours required from among these subjects

In addition, candidates may be able to participate in the School of Law's experiential learning opportunities. These include skills courses, such as Alternative Dispute Resolution, Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Workplace, Conflict Resolution, Mediation in Practice, Advanced Mediation Clinic, Negotiations, and Interviewing & Counseling Clients. Other opportunities include Judicial Externship placements with federal and state judges and Corporate Counsel Externship placements at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and Tyson Foods, Inc.

Foreign-trained lawyers will be required to take Introduction to the American Legal System.

All students will be required to complete a writing project. The writing project will be consistent with the student's career objectives, but must be: (1) a scholarly paper of such quality that it is publishable in a reputable law journal or (2) with advance approval of the director of the graduate law program, a written product that, while not adhering to traditional law review format, demonstrates rigorous legal analysis, significant academic content, and quality legal writing skills.

b. Total semester credit hours required for option/concentration/emphasis

(Option range: 9–24 semester credit hours):

24 credit hours

c. New courses and new course descriptions

Introduction to the American Legal System. This new course will provide an overview of the American legal system, including the United States Constitution, concepts of federalism, the structure and function of the federal and state court systems, and the nature and sources of legal authority (constitutional, legislative, administrative, and common law). It will be required for students whose legal training is from a country outside the United States.

This course is being developed for our J.D. curriculum. It will be taught by members of our current faculty.

d. Goals and objectives of program option

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).

e. Expected student learning outcomes

The Juris Doctor degree is the entry-level degree for the legal profession. A Mater of Laws degree offers a foundation in legal knowledge and skill beyond that of the generalist practitioner.

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.

f. Documentation that program option meets employer needs

To be provided.

g. Student demand (projected enrollment) for program option

The target enrollment for this program will be ten students per year.

h. Name of institutions offering similar program or program option and the institution(s) used as a model to develop the proposed program option

More than fifty law schools offer general Master of Laws degrees. The American Bar Association lists the following:

Alabama, University of, LL.M.; J.S.D.
American University, S.J.D.
Arizona State University, LL.M.
California-Berkeley, University of, LL.M.; J.S.D.
California-Hastings, University of, M.S.
Boston College, LL.M.
Buffalo, University at, LL.M.
Chapman University, LL.M.
Chicago, University of, D.C.L.; LL.M.; S.J.D.; M.C.L.
Cleveland State University, LL.M.
Colorado, University of, LL.M.
Columbia University, J.S.D.; LL.M.
Cornell Law School, J.S.D.; LL.M.
District of Columbia, University of, LL.M.
Drake University, LL.M.; M.J.
Emory University, LL.M.

Florida International University, LL.M.
Fordham University, LL.M.; S.J.D.
George Washington University, LL.M.; S.J.D.
Georgetown University, LL.M.; M.S.L.
Georgia, University of, LL.M.
Hamline University, LL.M.
Harvard University, LL.M.
Hawaii, University of, LL.M.
Illinois, University of, J.S.D.; LL.M.
Indiana University-Indianapolis, S.J.D.
Kansas, University of, S.J.D.
Loyola University-Chicago, LL.M.
Loyola Law School-Los Angeles, M.S.
Maryland, University of, LL.M.
Maine, University of, M.S.; LL.M.
Missouri-Kansas City, University of, LL.M.
New York University, LL.M.; J.S.D.
Northeastern University, LL.M.
Northwestern University, LL.M.
Penn State, The Dickinson School of Law, S.J.D.
Pittsburgh, University of, LL.M.
Ohio State University, LL.M.; M.S.L.
Samford University, LL.M.
San Diego, University of, LL.M.
Southern California, University of, LL.M.
Southern Illinois University, LL.M.; M.L.S.
Southern Methodist University, LL.M.; S.J.D.
Southwestern Law School, LL.M.
Suffolk Law Schools, LL.M.
Syracuse, University of, M.S.
Temple University, LL.M.
Texas, University of, LL.M.
Thomas M. Cooley Law School, LL.M.
Thomas Jefferson School of Law, J.S.D.
Toledo, University of, M.S.
Touro College, LL.M.
Tulane University, LL.M.; S.J.D.
Valparaiso University, LL.M.; S.J.D.
Virginia, University of, LL.M.; S.J.D.
Wake Forest University, M.S.L.; S.J.D.
William Mitchell College of Law, LL.M.
Yale University, LL.M.; J.S.D.
Yeshiva University, LL.M.

11. Institutional curriculum committee review/approval date:

12. Will the new option be offered via distance delivery? Indicate mode of distance delivery:

This General LL.M. degree will be based on the School of Law's upper-level curriculum, which currently is not offered via distance delivery.

13. Explain in detail the distance delivery methods/procedures to be used:

Not applicable.

14. Specify the amount of additional costs required for program implementation, the source of funds, and how funds will be used.

Because it is based on the School of Law's upper-level curriculum, this General LL.M. degree will not require additional faculty, instructional, or library resources. The one new course, Introduction to the American Legal System, will be taught by current faculty. This program will use existing administrative resources within the current Master of Laws program in Agricultural and Food Law to handle recruitment and admissions.

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

President/Chancellor Approval Date: Board of Trustees Notification Date:

Chief Academic Officer Date: