

LLM in Environmental Law Program Planning Guidelines

I. REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE

A) Requirements of the LLM Degree

- A minimum of 30 credits, including all required courses.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.20 for successful completion of the degree.
- Students have up to 5 years from the date of matriculation to complete the LLM.
- Students may start the LLM in the fall or summer semesters, but not in the spring.

B) Required Courses

You must fulfill all of the following required courses.

- Administrative Law *or* Administrative Procedure & the Environment
- Ecology and Environmental Science
- Environmental Law
- Federal Natural Resources Law
- LLM Graduate Seminar

The Director of the ELC may waive any of the above requirements, except for the Graduate Seminar, upon showing that the candidate has completed an equivalent course of study. See Academic Regulations §IV.A.1. for details.

C) Thesis, Teaching Project, or Research Project

You have the option of writing a 6-credit thesis, which must be a substantial piece of written work of publishable quality. In order to write a thesis, you must submit a 10-15 page thesis proposal to be approved by your faculty supervisor and the Director of the ELC.

You have the option of completing a 4-6 credit teaching practicum or a 4-6 credit research project. A 5 page project proposal must be approved by your faculty supervisor and the Director of the ELC.

II. CREDITS

A) Number of Credits

The minimum number of credits required for the LLM degree is 30; the maximum is 36 (after taking 36 credits, you will be charged additional tuition). The minimum course load for the fall and spring semesters is 6 credits per semester for full time students; 3 credits a semester for part time students. The maximum course load is 14 credits per fall and spring semester. In the summer, the maximum course load is 11 credits.

B) Transfer Credits

You may transfer up to 6 credits for courses satisfactorily completed in an LLM program at an ABA approved law school or at the graduate level of a comparable international academic institution with

the ELC Director's approval. Courses transferred must be relevant and important to the student's overall program and must have environmental content. Courses completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation will not transfer. Grades for transfer credits must be "B-" or better. The transferred grade is reflected on your transcript but is not used in computing your GPA. Vermont Law School post-JD MSEL graduates may also transfer a maximum of 6 credits of VLS environmental course work to the LLM degree with the ELC Director's approval.

III. ELECTIVES and INTERNSHIPS

A) Electives

LLM courses which are not required courses are considered electives. Under limited circumstances, VLS courses not included on the list of courses approved for LLM credits may be taken for LLM credit, with prior permission from the ELC Director.

B) Limited Enrollment Courses

Closure policies for limited enrollment courses apply to all students. If a course is under-enrolled in any term, it may be canceled.

C) Internships and Experiential Opportunities

LLM Internships are an option to further develop your skills. They are not required. Students may arrange an internship on their own or select from the many postings at the VLS Career Services Office. Internships may be local or worldwide. LLM students may enroll in the Conservation Law Foundation Internship or the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic in the fall or spring semester.

LLM students may not enroll in more than one internship. An internship must be completed in one semester; it cannot last for two semesters. LLM internships are 6 to 9 credits and may be taken in any semester. Forty-five hours of work is equal to one hour of internship credit.

You must receive Director's approval to do an LLM Internship. Any field placement approved for the JD Internship program or the MSEL Internship program will be approved for the LLM Internship program if the field supervisor is an attorney and the ELC Director determines that the field placement is appropriate for LLM candidates. To register for an internship, you must complete an Internship contract and file it with the Registrar's Office. See §VI of the Academic Regulations regarding who may serve as a faculty sponsor of an LL.M. Internship, and the respective duties of the student, field supervisor, and faculty sponsor.

Interns may not receive wages or salary for work done for academic credit. However, interns may be provided a stipend which is not to exceed expenses associated with the internship. Before beginning an internship, you must submit a contract executed by you, your on-site sponsor, and your faculty sponsor, and fill out the internship registration form in the MSEL/LLM Internship Handbook. LLM internships must be sponsored by a VLS faculty member. See the MSEL/LLM Internship Handbook (available at the ELC and at www.vermontlaw.edu/elc) for more details.

IV. TRACKING YOUR DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

It is the student's responsibility to ensure fulfillment of all degree requirements. Check with the Registrar if you have questions regarding your degree status. To assist you in confirming your degree status, the Registrar will notify you each semester of the degree requirements you have not yet met.

V. REGISTRATION AND TUITION BILLING

A) Withdrawing from a Course

During the Add/Drop period in the fall and spring semesters, students may drop a course with no enrollment limit during the first ten days of the semester. Limited enrollment courses and seminars must be dropped during the first five days. Courses may not be added after the sixth class day without the written permission of the professor. Add/Drop forms are available in the lobby of Abbott House, near the Registrar's office. After the Add/Drop period, you may withdraw from any course which is not required and/or has a limited enrollment. This withdrawal will be reflected on your transcript as "WD." You may not withdraw from a required course or limited enrollment course unless you obtain permission from the Committee on Standards. See the registrar regarding petitioning the Committee on Standards.

B) Auditing

Students may audit one course each semester at no charge. Any additional audits will be charged at the current audit fee. Inquire at the Registrar's Office to determine if space is available in the class you wish to audit. Students may not audit courses or seminars that have a wait list. If the Registrar determines that space is available, you will be given an Audit Form to obtain the professor's permission to audit. This form should be returned to the Registrar's Office once faculty approval has been obtained. Audited courses will appear on your transcript.

C) LLM Tuition

You are billed in three installments. Each installment covers a fall, spring, or summer semester, and is due in August, November and May. For further information, contact the Business Office.

VI. SUMMER SESSION

A) Registering for Summer Session

You have until May 1st to register. You may take a maximum of eleven credits. Anything beyond that requires a waiver from the ELC Director or Associate Director. You must take a minimum of 3 credits in the summer to be eligible for Financial Aid.

B) Summer Add/Drop Period

You have between the first and second meeting of the class to add or drop a course. If you miss the add/drop period and need to withdraw from a class, a tuition refund schedule is published in the Summer Session catalog and is also available from the Business Office.