

# **Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP)**

## **Program Planning Guidelines**

Please refer to the Academic Regulations for official regulations and policies.

### **REQUIRED COURSES**

#### **Requirements of the MFALP Degree**

- A minimum of 30 credits, including all required courses
- At least 24 credits must be taken as MFALP credits (not transferred in)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.2 for successful completion of the degree
- Students have up to 5 years from the date of matriculation to complete the MFALP
- Students may start the MFALP in the fall or summer semesters, but not in the spring

#### **Required Courses**

You must fulfill all of the following required courses. These requirements may be met by taking the course, transferring in credits, or by waiver.

- REQ7180 Public Law (3 credits)
- ENV5122 Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership (3 credits)
- ENV5108 Intro to the Law & Policy of Agriculture, Food & the Environment (3 credits)

#### **Food and Agriculture Electives**

You must take a minimum of nine credits from the following list.

- ENV5401 Agricultural Environmental Law (3)
- ENV5381 Ag/Food Entrepreneurial Law (3)
- ENV5478 Climate Change, Food Security and Environmental Justice (3, online)
- ENV5110 Ecology of Food & Agriculture (3)
- ENV5411 Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture (3, online)
- CLI9428 Food & Agriculture Clinic (4)
- ENV5380 Food Regulation & Policy (3)
- ENV5383 Food System Justice & Sustainability (2, summer)
- ENV5385 Global Food Security (2, summer)
- ENV5408 Law of Animals in Agriculture (3, summer)
- ENV5479 Law and Policy of Local Food Systems (3, online)
- ENV5410 Modern Farm Bill (2, summer)
- ENV5540 Public Health Implications of US Agriculture & Food Policy (2, summer)

#### **General Electives**

You must take a minimum of three credits from the following list.

- ENV5105 Administrative Law (3)
- ENV5125 Land Use Regulation (3)
- ENV5250 Watershed Management & Protection (3)
- ENV5246 Water Quality (3)
- ENV5245 Water Resources Law (3)

## **Project/Writing**

You must take a minimum of 2 credits from the following list.

- Independent Research Project or AWR (JD students only) on a food/ag topic (2-6)
- MFALP externship (4-10)
- SiP working on food/ag issues (JD students only) (13)
- CAFS Research Associate Program (2+)

## **Other Electives**

Your remaining MFALP credits may be additional credits from the above lists, or other environmental electives from an approved list of courses in the Academic Regulations.

## **CREDITS**

### **Number of Credits**

The minimum number of credits required to earn the MFALP is 30. Your tuition covers up to 36 credits; however, if you have reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.

### **Transfer Credits**

You may transfer in up to 6 credits from another law school or accredited graduate program. The course(s) transferred must be substantive environmental courses. Courses completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation will not transfer. Grades for transfer credits must be “C” or better. The transferred grade is reflected on the VLS transcript but is not used in computing the GPA.

## **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND EXTERNSHIPS**

### **Independent Research Project (IRP)**

Individual faculty members may be willing to work with you in pursuit of independent research topics. MFALP independent research is limited to a total of 6 credits, on a grade basis. To register for an IRP, you must provide the Registrar’s office with a completed IRP contract.

### **Masters Externships**

Externships are an option to further develop your skills. They are not required. Students may arrange a Masters Externship on their own or select from the many postings at the VLS Career Services Office. Externships may be local or worldwide. Externships may be designed for a minimum of 4 credits and a maximum of 10 credits. Students may pursue multiple externships as long as the total number of Masters Externship credits for all semesters does not exceed 10 credits. 45 hours of externship work equals one credit. An externship should be completed in one semester.

Before beginning an externship, you must submit a contract executed by you, your on-site mentor, and your faculty supervisor. Masters Externships must be sponsored by a VLS faculty member. The Masters Externship Handbook and contract form are available at [www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships).

## **ACADEMIC PLANNING**

During the registration process (during Masters Orientation), work with your academic advisor to establish a tentative schedule of courses you plan to take for your MFALP degree, subject to later modifications as your individual program planning requires. It is your 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 MFALP degree requirements you have not yet met.

## **REGISTRATION AND TUITION BILLING**

### **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. After the Add/Drop period, you may withdraw from any course which is not required or does not have 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. Contact registrar@vermontlaw.edu regarding petitioning the Committee.

### **Auditing**

Students may audit two courses each semester at no charge. Any additional audits will be charged at the current audit rate. Contact registrar@vermontlaw.edu to determine if space is available in the class. Students may not audit courses that have a wait list. If 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. Audited courses will appear on your transcript.

### **Tuition**

MFALPs are billed on a per-credit basis. For further information, contact the Business Office.

## **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 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.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING**

All of the MFALP required courses, as well as many electives, are available online. Online semesters are divided into two terms of seven weeks; each online class is worth three credits. Online classes are available to residential students on a space-available basis. Talk with your academic planning advisor to learn about the registration process.