

Notice of VLGS Amendment to the Academic Regulations

Effective: Friday, August 25, 2023

Students Effected: Effective immediately upon approval by faculty.

Amendment Type: Language addition.

Academic Regulation: IX, V, and IV

Amendment Description: Revised Master’s Degrees: the adopted text provides the academic regulations relating to the Master of Legal Studies (MLS), LLM in Animal Law, and JD/LLM in Animal Law.

The following text has been added to the Academic Regulations as section IX:

IX. MASTER OF LAWS (LLM) DEGREE PROGRAMS

I. MASTER OF LAWS IN ANIMAL LAW DEGREE (LLM)

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

- a. Each student must satisfactorily complete the following requirements as part of the requirements for the LLM degree:

Requirement	Courses that Satisfy Requirement
Required Courses	
ENV5105	Administrative Law (3)
ANM5307	Animals and the Law (3)
LLM9606	LLM Graduate Seminar (3)
Animal Law and Policy Electives (minimum of 6 credits)	
ANM5437	Animal Ethics (3)
JUR7333	Animal Law and Ethics (3)
ANM5425	Animal Law in Practice (3)
ANM5431	Animal Protection Policy (3)
ANM5406	Animal Rights Jurisprudence (2)
ANM5422	Animal Welfare Law (2)
ENV5412	Biodiversity Protection (2)
CLM5336	Climate Change, Extinction, and Adaptation (3)
ENV5480	Environmental Crimes (2)
CLI9321	Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic (4-12)
FAL5411	Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture (3)
ANM5435	International Animal Law (3)
FAL5108	Introduction to Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (3)
ENV5235	Natural Resources Law (3)
ENV5423	Ocean and Coastal Law (3)
ANM5433	Science of Animal Law and Policy (3)
FAL5410	The Farm Bill (2)
ANM5408	Law of Animals in Agriculture (3)
Project/Writing Requirement (at least one of the following; zero credit minimum)	
	LLM thesis or research project on an animal law topic (2-6)
	LLM externship in animal law (4-10)
	Teaching Practicum on animal law
CLI9321	Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic (4-12)
	Any other VLGS clinic working on an animal law matter (4-12)

- b. Any remaining electives may be chosen from the courses and experiential options listed above and from the list of approved courses in section IV.F.1.c.
- c. With the approval of the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee, an LLM candidate may waive any of the required courses if the candidate has successfully completed equivalent course work in a JD program at an ABA accredited law school or comparable international academic institution. Although requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

The Animal Law and Policy Electives requirement shall not be waived for courses completed prior to matriculation in the LLM program. All LLM candidates must take six credits of Animal Law and Policy Electives from the above list provided they do not duplicate prior course work. If an LLM candidate is unable to fulfill this requirement without duplicating prior coursework, the candidate must submit an alternative coursework plan to be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

The Project requirement shall not be waived because of prior completion of one of the listed options. LLM candidates who have completed one of the listed projects as part of a prior program must choose a different project to meet the LLM requirement.

2. LLM THESIS OR PROJECT

- (a) Thesis
The provisions of regulation E.2.a. apply.
- (b) Research Project
The provisions of regulation E.2.d. apply.
- (c) Teaching Practicum
The provisions of regulation E.2.b. apply.

3. EXTERNSHIPS

The LLM Externship Program provides students with a field experience to test and develop their animal law and policy knowledge and skills. LLM externships are by definition focused on animal law and policy issues, so students must assure that their work on-site relates to animal issues.

The following text has been added to the Academic Regulations as section V:

V. JOINT DEGREES

B. JOINT JD/LLM DEGREES

Vermont Law and Graduate School awards joint JD/LLM in Environmental Law, joint JD/LLM in Energy Law, joint JD/LLM in Food and Agricultural Law, and joint JD/LLM in Animal Law degrees. The requirements in regulation V.B.1. apply to all four joint degrees.

5. JOINT JD/LLM IN ANIMAL LAW

Joint JD/LLM in Animal Law degree students must satisfy all the requirements in section B.1. The Animal Law and Policy Electives requirement shall not be waived for courses completed prior to matriculation in the LLM program. All LLM candidates must take six credits of Animal Law and Policy Electives from the above list provided they do not duplicate prior course work. If an LLM candidate is unable to fulfill this requirement without duplicating prior coursework, the candidate must submit an alternative coursework plan to be approved by the Director of the Environmental Law Center or the Director's designee.

The Project requirement shall not be waived because of prior completion of one of the listed options. LLM candidates who have completed one of the listed projects as part of a prior program must choose a different project to meet the LLM requirement.

The following text has been added to the Academic Regulations as section IV:

IV. MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The provisions in regulations IV.A., IV.B., IV.C. and IV.D. apply to the EMEP, MCEP, MAPP, MELP, MERL, MFALP, MARJ, and MLS degrees.

4. TRANSFER OF CREDITS

A student enrolled in a master's program may be granted credit for summer or regular semester courses satisfactorily completed at an ABA-approved law school or at another accredited graduate school. A student may transfer a maximum of six such credits to the master's program with the approval of the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee. Students may not transfer credits to the Executive Master of Environmental Policy (EMEP) program. Before granting such approval, the Director or his or her designee must determine that the course is offered at the graduate level and that the course is relevant and important to the student's overall program of study. Courses eligible as transfer credit include only those courses with specific relevant substance. The Registrar must receive an official transcript showing that the course has been completed and that a grade of C or better (as defined in the Academic Regulations) has been awarded. Pass/Fail grades and grades for externships will not transfer. Transcripts from a foreign institution must be accompanied by a WES, ECE, or Spantran or AACRAO evaluation. Grades from transferred courses will not be used in computing the student's grade average. Once a student has enrolled as a degree candidate, prior approval must be obtained from the appropriate Program Director or the Director's designee to obtain credit for courses taken at another institution. No transfer credit will be given for a course completed more than five years prior to matriculation into the master's program.

M. MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (MLS)

1. REQUIRED CURRICULUM

- a. A minimum of 30 credits is required for the MLS degree.
- b. Each student must satisfactorily complete the following requirements as part of the requirements for the MLS degree:
- c.

Requirement	Courses that Satisfy Requirement
Required Courses	
POL5515	U.S. Law and Legal Analysis (3)
INT7407	Comparative Law: Comparative Legal Systems (3)
Core Courses (at least one of the following)	
BUS6235	Corporations (4)
ENV5115	Environmental Law (3)
ENV5235	Natural Resources Law (3)
INT7425	International Law (3)
REQ7102	Civil Procedure I (3)
REQ7112	Constitutional Law (4)
REQ7130	Contracts (4)
REQ7140	Criminal Law (3)
REQ7150	Torts (4)
REQ7160	Property (4)
REQ7185	Legislation and Regulation (3)
Project/Writing Requirement (at least one of the following; minimum of two credits)	
	An approved class with a final paper assessment

	An approved final paper written as part of the work of a clinic
WRI7900	Independent Research Project (2-4)
	Master's Externship (4-10)

- c. (1) Any JD student who is interested in the MLS degree must apply to this program.
 - (2) Any MLS student having completed the first year of a JD program, but no longer enrolled in a JD program, will be waived from the U.S. Law and Legal Analysis class.
 - (3) Any MLS student having completed some first-year JD courses, but no longer enrolled in a JD program, may either waive the Core Courses requirement or transfer in one class from the approved list to meet the Core Courses requirement.
 - (4) Under no circumstances can a student transfer more than 6 credits from a JD program.
- d. Any remaining electives should be chosen with guidance by the student's academic advisor.
- e. Students who complete classes in the MLS degree cannot transfer those classes or credits into the VLGS Juris Doctor degree. They can only be waived from the relevant degree requirement. There are no exceptions to this ABA regulation.

Approved by the Committee on Standards: Monday, August 7, 2023

Approved by the VLGS Faculty: Thursday, August 24, 2023