

LLM in Energy Law Program Planning Guidelines

These guidelines are for general planning purposes. Please refer to the Academic Regulations for official regulations and policies.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements of the Degree

- A minimum of 30 credits, including all required courses
- At least 24 credits must be taken as LLM 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 LLM
- Students may start the LLM 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.

- ENV5226 Energy Law & Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World (3)
- ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets and the Environment (3)
- ENV5105 Administrative Law (3)
- LLM9606 LLM Graduate Seminar (3)

Energy Electives (minimum of 4 credits)

- ENV5344 Alternative Fuels and Renewable Energy (3, online)
- ENV5498 America's Energy Crisis (2)
- ENV5375 Global Energy Justice (2)
- ENV5476 Nuclear Power and Public Policy (2)
- ENV5469 Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3, online)
- ENV5468 Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
- ENV5492 Renewable Energy Law & Policy (2)
- ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance & Development (2)
- ENV5510 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (1-3)

General Electives (minimum of 9 credits)

You must take a minimum of 9 credits from this list.

- ENV5205 Air Pollution Law and Policy (3)
- ENV5209 CERCLA Law and Policy (3)
- ENV5365 Climate Change: the Power of Taxes (2)
- BUS6235 Corporations (4)
- ENV5115 Environmental Law (3)
- ENV5125 Land Use Regulation (3)
- PUB7550 National Security Law (3)

Project/Writing Requirement

You must complete one project or course from this list.

- ENV5303 Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2)
- CLI9427 Energy Clinic (4)
- LLM Thesis (6)
- LLM Research Project (2–6)
- LLM externship (4–10)
- Institute for Energy and the Environment Research Team

CREDITS

Number of Credits

The minimum number of credits required to earn the LLM 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 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 institution with the ELC Director's approval. Courses transferred must be relevant to the student's overall program and must have environmental or energy 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.

EXTERNSHIPS

Externships and Experiential Opportunities

LLM Externships are an option to further develop your skills. They are not required. You may arrange an externship on your own or select from the many postings at the Career Services Office. Externships may be local or worldwide. LLMs may enroll in the Conservation Law Foundation Externship or the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic in the fall or spring semester.

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 LLM 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. LLM externships must be sponsored by a VLS faculty member. The Externship Handbook and contract form are available at www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships.

ACADEMIC PLANNING

During the registration process (which takes place during LLM orientation), work with your academic planning advisor to establish a tentative schedule of courses you plan to take for your LLM 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

(registrar@vermontlaw.edu) 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 LLM 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 on Standards.

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 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.

LLM Tuition

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

SUMMER SESSION

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.

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.

DISTANCE LEARNING

All of the LLM required courses, as well as many electives, are available online. Online semesters are divided into two terms of seven weeks; each online class is seven weeks long and 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.