

LLM in Food and Agriculture Law Program Planning Guidelines

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

REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE

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

Required Courses

You must fulfill all of the following required courses.

- LLM9606 LLM Graduate Seminar (3 credits)
- ENV5105 Administrative Law (3 credits)
- ENV5108 Introduction to the Law and Policy of Agriculture, Food and the Environment (3)
- ENV5401 Agricultural Environmental Law (3)
- ENV5380 Food Regulation & Policy (3)

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.

Food & Agriculture Electives

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

- ENV5381 Ag/Food Entrepreneurial Law (3)
- ENV5478 Climate Change, Food Security and Environmental Justice (3, online)
- 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.

- 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.

- LLM Thesis or Research Project on a food/ag topic (2-6)
- LLM externship (4-10)
- CAFS Research Associate Program (2+)

Electives

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

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 also have the option of completing a 4-6 credit teaching practicum or a 2-6 credit research project. A 5 page project proposal must be approved by your faculty supervisor and the Director of the ELC.

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 academic institution with the ELC Director's approval. Courses transferred must be relevant 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.

EXTERNSHIPS

Externships and Experiential Opportunities

LLM Externships are an option to further develop your skills. They are not required. Students may arrange an externship on their own or select from the many postings at the VLS Career Services Office. Externships may be local or worldwide. LLM students 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.

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.

LLM Tuition

LLMs 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 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 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.