

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Law Guide	2
Law School - School Wide	2
Law, J.D.	2
Law, LLM	3
Law: Course-Based, LLM	4
Law: Thesis, LLM	5
Law, SJD	6
Index	7

LAW GUIDE

The University of Wisconsin Law School is located on historic Bascom Hill in the heart of the beautiful UW–Madison campus. It boasts a renowned faculty, an extensive curriculum, and a dynamic student body. As part of a world-class university located in the state’s capital, the Law School also offers an unparalleled wealth of experiences beyond its walls.

Our curriculum emphasizes the dynamics of the law—how the law relates to social change and to society as a whole—while at the same time stressing skill development. In addition to nationally recognized programs in several substantive areas, we also have one of the largest clinical programs in the country.

With a focus on skills-based learning, our students graduate practice-ready and prepared for success. We also offer many dual-degree programs, certificate programs, and concentrations.

Our nationally recognized faculty and staff provide an outstanding learning environment for our students. They come from a wide range of backgrounds and bring varying experiences, views, and approaches to the Law School. Inspired by the UW’s distinctive law-in-action (<http://law.wisc.edu/law-in-action/>) approach, they are committed to helping students develop into confident, successful lawyers.

DEGREES/MAJORS

DEGREES/MAJORS

- Law, JD (p. 2)
- Law, LLM (p. 3)
- Law, SJD (p. 6)
- Law, Special (<http://guide.wisc.edu/law/law-school-wide/law-special/>)

PEOPLE

PEOPLE

A thriving community of innovative thinkers, the UW Law School is known for fostering an environment of rich, intellectual engagement. Our faculty, comprised of remarkable scholars, integrate the UW Law School’s hallmark law-in-action approach into their research and teaching, providing thought-provoking analysis on diverse legal topics. Visit the Law School’s directory (<https://secure.law.wisc.edu/directory/>) for information about our faculty and staff.

RESOURCES

RESOURCES

Visit this Law School webpage (<https://law.wisc.edu/academics/>) for such information as our schedule of courses, curriculum, experiential learning opportunities, co-curricular activities, and various administrative resources (e.g., Student Handbook, Law School Rules, etc.).

In compliance with American Bar Association Standard 509, information about UW Law School and its JD Program is provided to current and prospective students here (<https://law.wisc.edu/prospective/stats.html>).

LAW SCHOOL - SCHOOL WIDE

DEGREES/MAJORS

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- Law, JD (p. 2)
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LAW, JD

The University of Wisconsin Law School is a national law school that prepares students to practice wherever they choose, and our graduates have an excellent record for passing state bar exams across the country.

Moreover, graduates who complete specific course requirements and meet character standards are admitted to practice in Wisconsin without a bar examination, as part of Wisconsin Diploma Privilege, also qualifying to practice before the federal courts.

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS

Visit our webpage for more information about the JD Program and admissions requirements (<https://law.wisc.edu/prospective/>).

REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

Students in the JD program have the flexibility to design their education in a way that caters to their passions and fulfills their professional goals.

In the first year, students learn the fundamentals of legal analysis and reasoning, as well as legal research and writing. Topics include contracts, criminal law, civil procedure, property, torts, and more.

In the second and third years of the program students have the opportunity to explore the curriculum to determine where their interests lie, while also developing the lawyering skills needed after graduation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate competency in their knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law.
2. Demonstrate competency in legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication appropriate for a variety of legal contexts.
3. Demonstrate competency in their awareness of ethical dilemmas likely to arise in legal practice and in their capability to identify and use legal and other resources that will lead to effective resolution of these dilemmas.
4. Demonstrate competency in other professional skills needed as a member of the legal profession.
5. Understand the concept of the law-in-action, including the procedures and social forces that influence legal outcomes and that affect the ability of legal professionals to represent clients and to create effective law.

ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ([HTTPS://WWW.AMERICANBAR.ORG/GROUPS/LEGAL_EDUCATION/RESOURCES/ABA_APPROVED_LAW_SCHOOLS/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/aba_approved_law_schools/))¹

Accreditation Status: Accredited. Next Accreditation Review: 2032.

¹ Council of the Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the ABA, in conjunction with the Association of American Law Schools.

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LAW, LLM

The Master of Laws–Legal Institutions (LLM-LI) degree program is a course-based Master's degree program in law for students who have received a law degree, such as an LLB, from a university outside of the United States. The LLM-LI degree is a program for students who want to learn about American law and common law analysis.

Note: The LLM-LI Degree is in the process of transitioning to its name to simply LLM but will continue to be course-based and thus distinguishable from our research-based LLM.

Visit our webpage (<https://law.wisc.edu/grad/llm-sjd/>) for more information about the LLM-LI Degree Program and admissions requirements.

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS

The Master of Laws (LLM) admits students into two named options:

- Course-Based (p. 4)
- Thesis (p. 5)

REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Laws requires 24 credits of completed coursework.

NAMED OPTIONS

Select a named option for required coursework.

View as listView as grid

- **LAW: COURSE-BASED, LLM (P. 4)**
- **LAW: THESIS, LLM (P. 5)**

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand the institutions and chief participants in the American legal system.
2. Understand the government structure and protections afforded by the U.S. Constitution.
3. Know how to analyze and apply common law and statutory rules to resolve legal issues.
4. Know how to research American primary and secondary legal sources; and write a legal memorandum.
5. Be able to demonstrate understanding of core principles of several areas of substantive law.

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LAW: COURSE-BASED, LLM

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS

A Master of Laws (LLM): Course-Based provides an opportunity and an environment for the study of law for individuals trained in the law of a foreign country. The conditions of admission are:

1. A degree or diploma representing the study of law. This is usually shown by a bachelor's degree in law (LLB), but also may be shown by a master's or other graduate degree in law. The Graduate Admissions Committee will also consider an undergraduate major, such as in political science, that includes a significant number of law courses;
2. Generally, a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or a B average, from undergraduate work;
3. A TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or comparable examination score showing high proficiency in English if the prior study in law was not conducted in English. High proficiency will ordinarily be demonstrated by a TOEFL score of 100 (Internet-Based Test) or higher. Applicants with lower English competency scores may be required to satisfactorily complete an intensive English program before beginning the LLM program. Those with lower scores are normally required to take an English assessment test on campus before the beginning of their first semester, with a recommendation for a supplemental English language class, where appropriate;
4. A personal statement that includes a statement of objectives and a description of the likely courses to be taken and research to be pursued at the Law School;
5. Acceptance by the Graduate Admissions Committee.

REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
LAW 601	Introduction to American Law	3
LAW 602	Legal Sources	3
Additional elective coursework in LAW to reach 24 credits		18
Total Credits		24

An overall Law School C average (2.0) is needed for satisfactory completion of the Master of Laws: Law: Course-Based program. A course grade of D+ or below will be averaged into the GPA, but the course will not count towards the 24-credit course requirement.

POLICIES

CREDITS

- Satisfactory completion of at least 13 credits in residence while enrolled as an LLM student
- Students who are participating in an approved reciprocal exchange of credits agreement between their home university and the Law School at the master's level may apply up to 6 credits in law classes earned at their home university at the master's level towards the LLM degree. When an approved reciprocal exchange of credits agreement is not in place, students may petition the Graduate Programs Committee to

apply up to 6 credits in law classes earned at their home university at the master's level towards the LLM degree.

- Students may apply up to 11 credits in law classes earned through a Law School approved exchange program, the Visiting International Student Program Law Thematic Track, and University of Wisconsin Law School LLM Pathway Courses towards the LLM Degree.
- Any credits earned at the Law School or in any collaborative program must have been earned within 6 years of the completion of this program.
- Credits for courses taken in the Master of Laws: Law: Course-Based program may not transfer for students applying to the JD program at UW Law School.

GRADES

- Students in this program are graded using the Law School's grade scale, provided in Law School Rule 2.01. A grade of C- or higher in a Law School course or seminar will be deemed satisfactory completion of a course and will satisfy program standards. The grades for courses taken outside the Law School in other University departments must be BC or better to count towards the program. Law School Rule 2.01 should be relied on to determine the overall GPA of the student in the Master of Laws: Law: Course-Based program. An overall C (2.0) average is needed for satisfactory completion of this program. A course grade of D+ or below will be averaged into the GPA, but the course will not count towards the 24 credit course requirement. LAW 990 Directed Research and LAW 991 Directed Reading are graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (not by letter grades) and therefore are not used in calculating the GPA. The pass/fail option is not available to unless the course is offered only on a pass/fail basis.
- The candidate's program, including courses dropped or added after the initial consultation with the Law School (Master of Laws: Law: Course-Based program) academic adviser, is subject to the approval of the Law School academic adviser and the Graduate Admissions Committee.
- Courses taken outside of the LAW subject will not factor into the law GPA.

RESIDENCE

- Registration and physical presence as a student at the University of Wisconsin Law School for one academic year is required. The residence requirement may be reduced to one semester for students who have earned at least 11 credits through one or more of the following: a Law School approved exchange program, the Visiting International Student Program Law Thematic Track, University of Wisconsin Law School LLM Pathway courses, a reciprocal exchange of credits agreement between their home university and the Law School at the master's level.

TERM FOR COMPLETION OF PROGRAM

- The program is normally to be completed within the residence period. An extension for up to two semesters can be granted with the approval of the Graduate Programs Committee.
- Programs may include up to 36 credits, but no candidate for the Master of Laws: Law: Course-Based shall be permitted to continue after the semester in which the candidate earns 36 credits.

AWARD OF DEGREE

- The granting of the degree shall be recommended to the Law School Dean on the approval of the satisfactorily completed program by the Graduate Programs Office and the Graduate Programs Committee.

LAW: THESIS, LLM

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS

A Master of Laws (LLM): Thesis provides an opportunity and an environment for the further study of law for individuals holding a previous law degree or equivalent and are interested in pursuing a career in scholarly research, particularly those trained in the law of a foreign country. The conditions of admission are:

- A degree or diploma representing the study of law. This is usually shown by a bachelor's degree in law (LLB), but also may be shown by a master's or other graduate degree in law. The Graduate Programs Committee will also consider an undergraduate major, such as in political science, that includes a significant number of law courses;
- Generally, a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or a B average, from undergraduate work;
- A TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or comparable examination score showing high proficiency in English if the prior study in law was not conducted in English. High proficiency will ordinarily be demonstrated by a TOEFL score of 100 (Internet-Based Test) or 600 (Paper-Based Test) or higher. Applicants with lower English competency scores may be required to satisfactorily complete an intensive English program before beginning the LLM program. Those with lower scores are normally required to take an English assessment test on campus before the beginning of their first semester, with a recommendation for a supplemental English language class, where appropriate;
- A personal statement that includes a statement of objectives and a description of the likely courses to be taken and research to be pursued at the Law School;
- Acceptance by the Graduate Admissions Committee;
- Submit a research proposal outlining the proposed research project and receive the consent of a faculty member of the Law School to act as the candidate's adviser as assigned by the Graduate Programs Committee.

REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
LAW 601	Introduction to American Law	3
LAW 602	Legal Sources	3
LAW 990	Directed Research	6
Additional elective coursework in LAW to reach 24 credits		12
Total Credits		24

An overall Law School C average (2.0) is needed for satisfactory completion of the Master of Laws: Law: Course-Based program. A course

grade of D+ or below will be averaged into the GPA, but the course will not count towards the 24-credit course requirement.

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AWARD OF DEGREE

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LAW, SJD

The University of Wisconsin Law School's research-based degree programs are strictly designed for those who have received a law degree from an American law school, or an equivalent degree from a university outside of the United States (e.g., LLB).

Students are expected to complete the LLM/SJD degree program in four years total, and there is no direct entry into the SJD program. There is only Fall admission for the LLM/SJD degree program and admission is not rolling.

Visit our webpage (<https://law.wisc.edu/grad/llm-sjd/>) for more information about the LLM and SJD programs and admissions requirements.

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INDEX

Law Guide	2
Law, J.D.	2
Law, LLM	3
Law School - School Wide	2
Law, SJD	6
Law: Course-Based, LLM	4
Law: Thesis, LLM	5