Graduate Degree Programs

The LL.M. and J.S.D. programs of graduate study in law are designed for foreign law graduates who wish to pursue advanced study and conduct independent research under the direction of the College of Law faculty. Two advanced degrees are conferred by the College of Law: the Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree and the Doctor of Science of Law (J.S.D.). Overall coordination of the graduate program is the responsibility of the Office of Graduate and International Legal Studies, and individual inquiries should be addressed to this office. The M.S.L. is a one-year, nonprofessional, terminal degree program designed for those who have had no legal training and who do not desire a professional law degree.

Admission

The Graduate College admission requirements (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply) and English language proficiency requirements (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c) apply. In addition for the LL.M. program, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) requirement is 80 internet-based. Students are not required to take the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Students are admitted on an individual basis according to a review of their prior accomplishments with an emphasis on academic achievement. Admission is generally made for the fall semester only.

Financial Aid

Applicants to the College of Law graduate programs are welcome to apply for scholarship assistance. Scholarships typically are awarded to applicants with a combination of excellent academic and professional credentials and proven financial need. Awards usually provide part of tuition and do not cover living expenses. There are always more qualified applicants than there are funds available. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to explore alternative sources of funding.

- Master of Laws (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/law/master-laws)
- Master of Studies in Law (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/law/master-studies-law)

Doctor of the Science of Law

The Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.) degree provides students who primarily intend to pursue an academic career an opportunity for extended study, research, and scholarly writing. Those admitted to the program must have demonstrated analytic and research ability, possess outstanding academic credentials, and have completed the LL.M. or other law degree from the University of Illinois or other accredited American law school. In exceptional cases, consideration will be given to applicants who have completed programs of study in common law countries. All candidates must provide evidence of excellent reading and writing skills in English. The J.S.D. program normally takes a minimum of three years. Two years must be completed in residence at the College of Law and must include two semesters of course work. J.S.D. candidates are assigned a primary faculty advisor with expertise in the student’s research area and an additional three faculty members, who form the student’s doctoral committee. Each student must pass a qualifying examination demonstrating general proficiency in the student’s field of study and a preliminary examination on the research proposal. The student’s faculty committee then will assess the student’s thesis research and writing progress, make recommendations, and conduct an oral examination on the final draft of the dissertation. The final dissertation will then be completed and deposited with the Graduate College.

Graduate Degree Programs

The LL.M. and J.S.D. programs of graduate study in law are designed for foreign law graduates who wish to pursue advanced study and conduct independent research under the direction of the College of Law faculty. Two advanced degrees are conferred by the College of Law: the Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree and the Doctor of Science of Law (J.S.D.). Overall coordination of the graduate program is the responsibility of the Office of Graduate and International Legal Studies, and individual inquiries should be addressed to this office. The M.S.L. is a one-year, nonprofessional, terminal degree program designed for those who have had no legal training and who do not desire a professional law degree.
Preliminary Exam Required: Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required: Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required: Yes
Hours of residence credit: 64
Minimum GPA: 2.75

For additional details and requirements refer to the College of Law’s graduate degree requirements (http://www.law.illinois.edu/admissions/llm-program-overview) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

The following four concentrations require students to complete a minimum of 14 credit hours in topics integral to each concentration. Courses taken toward the following four concentrations will count toward the student’s LL.M. degree.

• Commercial Law and Trade (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/law/commercial-law-trade-concentration)
• Justice, Democracy and Legal Rights (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/law/justice-democracy-legal-rights-concentration)
• Corporate and Finance Law (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/law/corporate-finance-concentration)
• Environmental Law, Sustainability and Compliance (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/law/environmental-concentration)

A fifth concentration, also for the LL.M. only, requires students to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours and spend an extra semester in the program.

• U.S. Legal Practice Skills (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/law/legal-practice-skills-concentration)

These concentrations can be earned with the LL.M. degree only.

The professional J.D. in Law can be earned jointly with the following graduate degrees:
Business Administration, M.B.A. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/bus-admin-mba/#jointdegreestext)
Chemistry, M.S. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/chemistry/ms-chem-law)
Computer Science, M.C.S. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/computer-science/#jointdegreestext)
Human Resources and Industrial Relations, M.H.R.I.R. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/labor-empl-relations/joint-degrees)
Journalism, M.S. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/journalism/journalism-jd)
Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, M.S. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/nres/#jointdegreestext)
Political Science, M.A. with Civic Leadership Concentration (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/poli-sci/#jointprogramtext)
Political Science, Ph.D. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/poli-sci/#jointprogramtext)
Urban Planning, M.U.P. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/urban-reg-plan/#jointdegreestext)

Medical Scholars Program: Juris Doctor (J.D.) in Law and Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) through the Medical Scholars Program (https://www.med.illinois.edu/mdphd)