



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

LL.M. Program Information

What does the abbreviation LL.M. stand for?

It derives from the Latin phrase *Legum Magister*, which means *Master of Laws*.

What is the LL.M. program?

The Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree is recognized in legal education as the first advanced degree beyond the Juris Doctor (J.D.) The SIU School of Law offers two distinct educational opportunities to receive the LL.M., a general LL.M. and a highly specialized LL.M. in Health Law and Policy.

If you do not have a J.D. or equivalent, you are not eligible for LL.M study at SIU School of Law. A more appropriate choice might be the Master of Legal Studies Program.

What are the program requirements?

Both the general LL.M. and the specialization in Health Law and Policy require the completion of 24 semester hours of credit in law courses approved by the Director of Graduate Legal Studies. Of these 24 hours, at least 3 semester hours must be earned in producing a substantial research paper of publishable quality. Students enrolled in the Health Law and Policy specialization are required to complete at least 12 of the required 24 hours in specialized health law and policy classes and to participate in two extern ship placements.

What are the benefits of obtaining a LL.M. degree ?

The LL.M. degree offers many benefits.

- The LL.M. degree also benefits lawyers who have an established practice who desire to add a graduate level law degree to increase their expertise in a particular field, to qualify for a different position, or to establish a credential to enter the field of legal education.
- The LL.M. degree is beneficial to those who have recently completed the basic J .D. degree and who desire to add a graduate level law degree to enhance their marketability as they enter into the practice of law, or into the highly specialized area of health law and policy.
- The LL.M. degree also benefits graduates of law schools in other countries who desire to learn about the American legal system either as a prerequisite to sitting for a bar examination in select states, or to enhance their marketability as a practicing lawyer in their native country .

What is the cost of obtaining an LL.M. degree?

The tuition rates for the LL.M. program are currently the same as the tuition rates for the Southern Illinois University School of Law J.D. degree program.

Are there any scholarships available? Can I obtain financial aid?

At this time there are no scholarships, fellowships nor assistanceships available.

Questions concerning financial aid in the form of loans should be directed to the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Financial Aid Office. Additional information is available on the SIU Financial Aid Office website: <http://www.siu.edu/~fao>

SIUC Financial Aid Office
Woody Hall, B- Wing, Third Floor
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901-4702
618.453.4334 e-mail: fao@siu.edu

May I enroll in the program on a part-time basis?

Yes. A program requirement is that the degree must be completed within five years. This accommodates part-time study.

Is there an application fee? May I obtain a waiver?

The non-refundable application fee is \$50 in US funds. The application fee will not be waived.

What factors are considered in admitting or refusing an applicant?

The LL.M. program is designed principally for mid-career individuals who desire to further an area of study of interest to them, to develop further specialization, or to change specializations within the law. The applicant's academic record, past experience, evidence of maturity and motivation, personal recommendations are all relevant to admission.

Is there student housing available on campus?

Yes. Some graduate student housing is available through the SIU University Housing. Their website is <http://www.housing.siu.edu>, and they may be reached via phone at 618-453-2301.

Are guided tours of the law school building available?

Yes. Several days of notice would be appreciated.

What is the General LL.M.? I thought the degree was for specialization.

The SIU General LL.M. degree reflects a year of specialized study. Each student will custom-design a specialized curriculum with the Director of Graduate Legal Studies. The diploma will state that the degree is an LL.M. and not state the specialization pursued, except in the case of the Health Law and Policy LL.M. degree.

Does the University offer English Language classes for those who have a language other than English as their first language?

The study of law depends on fluent use of the English language. All applicants need to be able to demonstrate a mastery of written and spoken English prior to admission. However, through the SIU Center for English as a Second Language, an intensive curriculum in the English

language is available to prospective University students who want to learn English as a second language. Further information is available at <http://www.siu.edu/~cesl>

What is the process for admission ?

Candidates will be evaluated by the School of Law Graduate Admissions Committee. In the case of application to the Health Law and Policy specialization the candidate must be approved by the Director of the Center for Health Law and Policy.

When are the application deadlines ?

To receive fullest consideration for admission candidates wishing to begin the program in the Fall term should have all application materials submitted by April 15th. Candidates who wish to begin the program in the Spring term should have all application materials submitted by September 15th.

Can the LL.M. degree be pursued on either a full-time or part-time basis?

Yes. Students may elect either full or part-time status.

What are the criteria for admission ?

An applicant for the LL.M. program must either hold a J.D. degree from an ABA accredited school, hold an equivalent degree from a law school located in an English speaking country that follows the common law system, or hold an equivalent law degree from a foreign law school and demonstrate proficiency in English. Applicants in this last category, once admitted, must successfully complete two introductory courses on American law. All applicants must also have a proven record of scholastic accomplishment and ordinarily have graduated in the top fifty percent of his or her law class.

What if I am a foreign-trained attorney ?

Attorneys who are foreign-trained must have their law transcripts evaluated by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC). LSAC will evaluate your transcript and provide a written report to the Southern Illinois University School of Law.

Questions concerning the program may be directed to the following address:

Director of Graduate Legal Studies
1150 Douglas Drive, Mail Code 6804
Lesar Law Building
Southern Illinois University School of Law
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

618.453.8980 Fax: 618.453.3317

LLMadmit@siu.edu

<http://www.law.siu.edu> (under the admissions tab)

August 2005