



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

M.L.S. – Master of Legal Studies Information

What is the M.L.S. program?

The Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) program is a post-baccalaureate degree program designed for those who wish to obtain an advanced knowledge of the law and the legal system but who do not wish to become lawyers. SIU Law offers two distinct concentrations in the M.L.S. program, the general M.L.S. and the specialized M.L.S. in Health Law and Policy.

If you already have a J.D. degree, the M.L.S. is not an appropriate choice. In that case, the LL.M. degree program may be a more appropriate choice.

What are the program requirements ?

The M.L.S. program requires the completion of 30 semester hours of credit in law courses approved by the Director of Graduate Legal Studies. Students may enroll in a maximum of 6 credit hours with the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Graduate School in fulfilling the 30 semester hour requirement for matriculation.

What are the benefits of obtaining a M.L.S. degree ?

The M.L.S. degree is not a substitute for a law degree. Rather, it is designed to train non-lawyers to be able to identify, understand and respond to commonly-encountered legal issues. Program graduates will be able to perform basic legal research and write clear, analytical, and publishable papers. Graduates will understand the process of judicial and legislative decision making, the effects of the decisions, and how to evaluate current legal authority, and how to apply it to factual situations. Educational administrators, law enforcement administrators, human resource managers, government regulators, hospital administrators, and risk management specialists, among many other professions, would benefit greatly from the program.

What are the criteria for admission?

There are two sets of admissions criteria. First, the SIU Graduate School has requirements based on, among other things, undergraduate and graduate grade history. Information is available on the Graduate School website, <http://www.siu.edu/gradschl>. Also, the School of Law has guidelines for admissions, based on test scores, work experience, and extracurricular involvement. All applicants must possess a bachelor's degree and submit either GRE, LSAT or other acceptable test scores from within two years of application. Candidates seeking admission into the Health Law & Policy program must also have a minimum of three years experience in a health care related occupation.

What is the process for admission ?

Candidates first submit an application to the SIU Graduate School. Next, an application with supporting materials must be submitted to the SIU M.L.S. Program. The SIU School of Law Graduate Admissions Committee will evaluate candidates backgrounds and credentials. 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. The applicant's academic record, past experience, evidence of maturity and motivation, personal recommendations, are all relevant to admission.

What is the cost of obtaining a M.L.S. degree?

The tuition rates for the M.L.S. program are currently the same as the tuition rates for the Southern Illinois University Graduate School.

Is there an application fee, and may I obtain a waiver?

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

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.

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

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

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

At this time there are no scholarships available from the SIU School of Law. There may be assistanceships or fellowships available through the SIU Graduate School.

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

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August 2005