

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:

MASTER OF STUDIES IN LAW (M.S.L.)

College involved: The College of Law

SPONSOR:

Ralph Brubaker, College of Law, rbrubake@law.uiuc.edu, 265-6740

JUSTIFICATION:

Many professionals and academics outside the legal academy have an interest in understanding basic principles of law and how legal systems operate. The standard three-year J.D. program, however, deters many from pursuing their interests. The proposed degree of Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.) is designed to permit non-lawyers and scholars in other disciplines to obtain a basic familiarity with legal thought and to explore the relation of law to their disciplines by introducing them to the foundations of the legal system, the basic modes of legal argumentation and analysis, legal procedure, and the substantive law of selected areas. The M.S.L. program would afford an opportunity for those on the UIUC campus and elsewhere to enhance their own professional and scholarly goals while also enriching the College of Law community with the presence of students with well developed expertise in other disciplines.

Program Requirements

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. M.S.L. students will take course work from the same curriculum offerings available to (and in the same classes as) J.D. students. To obtain the M.S.L. degree, program students must successfully complete 30 hours of credit in graduate-level Law courses, including all required courses (described below), and complete a faculty-supervised research paper. The M.S.L. research paper requirement is satisfied by successful completion of two hours of credit that complies with the College's existing Upper-Level Writing Requirement (see Appendix 1). The required courses for the M.S.L. shall consist of the following:

- » Legal Research (Law 627) [1 hour]
- » Legal Writing and Analysis (Law 609) [2 hours]
- » any two of the following courses:
 - › Contracts (Law 601) [4 hours]
 - › Property (Law 602) [4 hours]
 - › Torts (Law 603) [4 hours]
 - › Criminal Law (Law 604) [4 hours]
 - › Constitutional Law I (Law 606) [4 hours]
 - › Civil Procedure (Law 607) [4 hours]

The remainder of an M.S.L. student's course work can be in any graduate-level Law course offered by the College of Law, pursuant to a plan of study formulated in consultation with the College's academic advisors.

- The M.S.L. program is designed for those who do not desire a professional law degree, but M.S.L. candidates and graduates will be eligible to apply for admission to the College of Law's J.D. program (although it is anticipated that only rarely will M.S.L. candidates and graduates be granted J.D. admission). In the event that an M.S.L. candidate or graduate is admitted to the College's J.D. program,

Law credits earned in the M.S.L. program will not count toward the minimum credit hours required for the J.D. degree, and the student will not be permitted to enroll as a J.D. student in any course successfully completed as an M.S.L. candidate. For any course required for the J.D. degree, the course requirement will be satisfied if the student successfully completed the course as an M.S.L. candidate, although the student will receive no credit hours for the course toward the minimum credit hours required for the J.D. degree.

Admission

All persons holding a bachelor's degree will be eligible to apply for admission to the M.S.L. program, and admission will be granted to a limited number of students on a competitive application basis. Although not a requisite to application or admission, applicants with an advanced degree or significant work experience will receive favorable consideration in admissions decisions.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

a. Additional staff and dollars needed:

It is anticipated that only a few students each year will be admitted to the M.S.L. program and that existing College of Law faculty and staff levels will fully accommodate the M.S.L. program. Because the M.S.L. program will be administered exclusively by College of Law personnel, though, future growth in the M.S.L. program can be carefully regulated to ensure that the additional tuition revenue from M.S.L. students will cover any increases in College faculty and staff levels necessary to properly administer the M.S.L. program.

b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, etc.):

Again, it is anticipated that only a few students each year will be admitted to the M.S.L. program, and that this small number of additional students will not materially impact class sizes, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, or other indicia of the quality of students' classroom experience or faculty workloads. Future growth of the M.S.L. program would be contingent upon sufficient additional tuition revenue from M.S.L. students to maintain faculty numbers and course offerings at levels that ensure no material increases in class sizes, teaching loads, or student-faculty ratios.

c. Effect on course enrollment in other departments: None.

It is anticipated that M.S.L. students will not take courses in other departments, as only credit hours earned in Law courses will count toward those required for the M.S.L. degree.

d. Impact on University Library:

It is anticipated that M.S.L. students' demand for Library services will be principally (if not exclusively) met through the Law Library, which has sufficient capacity to service the needs of the limited number of anticipated M.S.L. students. Future growth of the M.S.L. program will be contingent upon sufficient additional tuition and Law library fee revenue from M.S.L. students to maintain Law Library resources and staffing at adequate levels for properly servicing the library needs of M.S.L. students.

e. Impact on computer use:

All College of Law students are required to own a personal laptop computer for use as a College of Law student. The only College computer resources impacted by the M.S.L. program, therefore, are network and server capacity and computing staff. Because it is anticipated that only a few students each year will be admitted to the M.S.L. program, these students can be accommodated by existing computing staff and resources. Future growth of the M.S.L. program will be contingent upon sufficient additional tuition revenue from M.S.L. students to maintain computing resources and staffing at adequate levels for properly servicing the needs of M.S.L. students.

Clearances:

Charles J. Alf

College of Law/

3-31-08

Date

William J. Applegate

Graduate College

5/18/08

Date

Office of the Provost

Date

Senate Educational Policy Committee

Date

UIUC Senate

Date

University Senates Conference

Date

Board of Trustees

Date

Illinois Board of Higher Education

Date