



LL.M. Third Semester Option

Overview:

The ABA recently approved (October 2019) a new opportunity whereby LL.M. students at Minnesota Law have the option to extend their study for a third full-time semester, and may earn an additional concentration at the University of Minnesota Law School. "Additional concentration" means a second concentration, or a first concentration if they did not complete one during the first two semesters but wish to do so.

Background:

To date, the LL.M. program has been one academic year (two semesters) in length. Students attend two semesters full-time (minimum of 24 credits total) and are eligible to earn one concentration. With this new option, students may apply to stay a third semester and would enroll in full-time study (minimum of 9 credits) during that term. They would officially graduate with the LL.M. degree after the third semester.

Advantages:

- This is a unique and innovative opportunity, not offered at other U.S. Law Schools
- Students continuing for a third semester will have the chance to complete additional law courses to strengthen their knowledge of U.S. law, and enhance their G.P.A.
- Another concentration is an impressive detail on a transcript and C.V.
- Scholarships awarded upon admission will continue on in the third semester

Logistics:

- LL.M. students who wish to extend their study for a third semester must apply to International Programs by March 1 of their spring semester. Please note that the third semester is not guaranteed to all students, and a selection/approval process will be required. Students with a fall semester GPA of 3.0 or higher will be considered first.
- Students staying a third semester will be required to register for a full-time credit load (minimum of nine credits), even if they need less than that to complete the concentration they are pursuing.
- Many courses at the law school apply to more than one concentration. To maximize the academic experience and ensure diversity in concentration coursework, only up to six overlapping credits will be allowed in two concentrations.

- LL.M. students will receive general academic advising early/often so they can still graduate successfully (and complete a first concentration, if they choose to), even if they apply and are not admitted for the third semester option. The intention is to offer this opportunity to extend study, but not to hold anyone back from graduating with the degree.
- During the first and second semesters, International Programs (with guidance from faculty chairs) will work with students to ensure that a suitable program is feasible in light of potential scheduling constraints for the third semester.
- Although LL.M. students extending their study would officially graduate with the degree after their third semester, they may still participate in Commencement and other graduation festivities in May, after their second semester.
- Currently, the Business Law LL.M. degree program is not included in this third semester option; only the general LL.M. degree third semester is approved by the ABA.

Any questions may be directed to Kara Galvin, Director, at galvink@umn.edu