



University of Illinois Springfield Legal Studies - MA

Program Description



The Legal Studies Master's Degree is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of law as a social phenomenon. The program emphasizes analytical and conceptual thinking as expressed both in writing and orally. Public policy and current social issues are interwoven with the study of law and lawmaking by the various political actors in the United States and globally.

Admission Requirements

In order to be admitted into the Legal Studies Master's Degree Program, students must have obtained their bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university. No particular undergraduate major is required of applicants. Applicants are expected to have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; however, on occasion, if a student has significant professional experience or qualifying graduate work, an exception is made to the minimum cumulative GPA requirements. Applicants to the Legal Studies Master's Degree Program must exhibit the ability to write effectively in order to be considered for full admittance to the program.

To apply applicants must:

- Complete the UIS Graduate Application (found at <http://www.uis.edu/admissions/applytoday/>).
- Submit official copies of transcripts from all colleges and universities attended to the UIS Admissions office.
- Submit the application fee to the UIS Admissions office (\$60 for domestic students and \$75 for international students).
- International applicants must submit proof that they satisfy the UIS English proficiency requirements (found at <http://www.uis.edu/admissions/international/graduate.html#epa>).
- GRE scores are not required.

Degree Requirements

Both the on-campus and the online Legal Studies Master's Degree Programs have the same curriculum requirements. To earn a Master's of Arts Degree in Legal Studies from the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS), a student must successfully complete all 36 hours of required core courses and electives and, if necessary, the 4 hour preliminary course.

Preliminary Course (4 Credit Hours)*

LES 401: Legal Research and Citation (4 hours)

* This course may be waived for students who have already completed approved an equivalent.

Core Courses (20 Credit Hours)

All core courses are only offered online. Both on-campus and online students must take their core courses online.

- LES 501: Introduction to Graduate Legal Studies (4 hours)
- LES 512: Theories of Justice (4 hours)
- LES 513: Seminar in Politics and Law or LES 519: Seminar in Courts and Policymaking (4 hours)
- LES 587: Public Advocacy (4 hours)
- LES 504: Graduate Seminar or LES: 590 Thesis (4 hours)

Electives (16 Credit Hours)

The focus for the degree is conducted through four elective courses (with a minimum of two courses being LES prefixed electives). Students may focus in a particular area of law or legal policy, and they may create their own focus from the resources of the department, college, or university. Suggested areas of focus include: Law and Public Policy, Human Rights and Social Justice, Criminal Justice, or Regulatory Compliance. Students enrolled in the UIS Graduate Public Service Internship Program (GPSI) may count the GPSI Seminar course towards their non-LES electives. Similarly, students enrolled in the Illinois Legislative Staff Internship Program (ILSIP) may count the ILSIP: Academic Seminar towards their non-LES electives.

Official degree requirements are available in the UIS catalog at www.uis.edu/uiscatalog

Program Contacts

Program Coordinator:

Rebekah Grosboll
Legal Studies Online Coordinator
Legal Studies Department
Public Affairs Center, Room 313
One University Plaza, MS PAC 350
Springfield, IL 62703
217.206.8545
les-online@uis.edu

Legal Studies Department

Public Affairs Center 350
University of Illinois Springfield
One University Plaza, MS PAC 350
Springfield, IL 62703-5407
217.206.6535
les@uis.edu

UIS Admissions

Office of Admissions
University of Illinois Springfield
One University Plaza, MS UHB 1030
Springfield, IL 62703
888.977.4847 / 217.206.4847
admissions@uis.edu

Program URL: <http://www.uis.edu/legalstudies/curriculum/masters/>