LLM Curricular Advising FAQs

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What are Northwestern Law’s LLM graduation requirements?

In the General LLM program, you must complete 20 law credits, including:

- Common Law Reasoning
- One course in American Legal Studies (American Jurisprudence, American Legal Studies: Constitutional Law, OR American Legal Studies: Civil Procedure)

In the Graduate Program in Law and Business (LLM/K), you must complete 18 law credits, including:

- Common Law Reasoning
- Business Associations
- Securities Regulations, Secured Transactions, OR Sales
- Three Business Enterprise courses- list available [here](#)
Why are some courses designated as 2.0-3.0 credits?

Northwestern Law offers courses for 2.0-3.0 credits to allow for the writing of multiple drafts of a paper under the supervision of a faculty member. If you enroll in the course for 2 credits, you must complete a one-draft manuscript. If you enroll in the course for 3 credits, you must complete a multiple-draft (two or three) manuscript.

If you bid successfully on a seminar, CAESAR will enroll you in the seminar for 2 credits. To receive the third credit for your work in a seminar, you must retain professor approval to write multiple drafts and submit the necessary paperwork to the Registrar for manual enrollment in course for 3 credits. Upon completion of the multiple-draft manuscript, you must file a certification of completion with the Registrar.

What is a "seminar"?

Seminar courses are small (15-25 students) classes that focus on a fairly narrow area of the law and in which students are assessed through paper(s) rather than exams. Seminar courses are open to 2Ls, 3Ls, and LLMs and most may be taken for 2.0-3.0 credits, as designated in the seminar’s course description. Seminar courses are discussion-heavy, and class participation plays a substantial role in the student’s final grade.

What is the minimum number of credits I must take in any given semester?

If you are studying here on an F-1 or J-1 visa, you are required to take a minimum of 8 law credits each semester to maintain your visa status. Under the ABA rules, there is no minimum number of credits you must take in a semester to be considered a full-time student. However, if you are receiving financial aid, you should contact the Financial Aid Office for more information on the minimum load required by your financial aid provider.

What is the maximum number of credits I can take in any given semester?

Under the ABA rules, you may take no more than 17 credits of coursework in any given semester. However, the recommended course load for LLM students is 10-12 credits and no more than 14 credits. Thus, in planning your schedule, be sure to keep this limit in mind.

Does Northwestern Law offer courses to prepare LLM students for the New York Bar Exam?

The LLM program is not intended to qualify foreign-trained lawyers to sit for the bar examination or to practice law in the United States. Most of the LLM graduates who take a bar exam do so in the state of New York. You are responsible for contacting the New York State Board of Law Examiners yourself to verify that you meet their requirements.

If you choose to take the New York Bar Exam you must take a minimum of 24 Law Credits. These credits must include the following courses:

- One course in professional responsibility: Legal Ethics, Legal Ethics for Business Lawyers, or Legal Ethics in a Global Legal Practice will meet this requirement.
• One course in legal research, writing, and analysis: *Common Law Reasoning* will meet this requirement.

• One course in American legal studies: *American Jurisprudence, American Legal Studies: Constitutional Law* or *American Legal Studies: Civil Procedure* will meet this requirement.

• Minimum of 6 credits in subjects tested on the bar exam. The following courses will meet this requirement:

  - *Business Associations*
  - *Business Law and Contracts*
  - *Commercial Law: Secured Transactions*
  - *Conflict of Laws*
  - *Constitutional Criminal Procedure*
  - *Corporations*
  - *Criminal Process*
  - *Contracts (LLM)*
  - *Evidence*
  - *Estates and Trusts*
  - *Family Law*
  - *Federal Jurisdiction*
  - *First Amendment*
  - *Fourteenth Amendment*
  - *Remedies*
  - *Sales Law—Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code*
  - *Civil Procedure*
  - *Constitutional law*
  - *Contracts*
  - *Criminal Law*
  - *Property*
  - *Torts*

  *Please note that LLM/K students who took *Business Associations* in the summer can count only 2 credits of the course towards this requirement*

For more information, please contact the New York State Board of Law Examiners directly or visit their web site at [http://www.nybarexam.org/Admission/Admission.htm](http://www.nybarexam.org/Admission/Admission.htm)

The New York rules for students from common law countries vary depending on the nature of your previous education. Students from common law countries should also be extra vigilant about ensuring their eligibility.

If you are considering sitting for another state bar exam, please check the curricular requirements directly with the state bar examiners before you plan your studies.

**Does Northwestern Law have a winter intersession?**
Yes, there are courses offered every year during the break between the fall and spring semesters. The schedule and bidding process for these classes will be released in the fall.

**Do Northwestern Law students have opportunities to focus their studies on a specific area of law?**

Except for the mandatory courses, you may design your studies to focus on a specific area of practice that you are interested in. You may contact the Director to have individual curricular advising sessions.

If you prefer, you may also use CAESAR to search for courses in your designed area of expertise. Use the "Additional Search Criteria" feature on CAESAR to search for law practice areas and subjects. This feature provides a listing of all courses related to specific practice areas, such as administrative law, employment and labor law, family law, international law, real estate law, intellectual property law, and civil and human rights.

**What is the difference between Business Associations and Corporations?**

Corporations is an alternative to Business Associations for students who prefer a one course introduction to the law of business entities. Business Associations provides broader, more in-depth coverage and is offered for students who wish to follow up with related course work, such as securities regulation, corporate finance, corporate tax, or other specialized offerings. Students who have taken Corporations may not take Business Associations.

**I am interested in taking Spanish for Lawyers. What level of Spanish language proficiency do I need to take the course?**

This course is conducted entirely in Spanish, with an expectation that students participate in the discussion. Thus, you will need at least intermediate oral comprehension and speaking skills, as well as a written fluency to understand the documents you will learn and review.

**What is the MPRE?**

The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) is a test required for bar admission in all jurisdictions. The test is a sixty question, two-hour, multiple-choice examination. The Legal Ethics course will help prepare you for this test, but you may also enroll in a commercial MPRE prep course. The test is administered three times each year, in March, August, and November. For more information on the MPRE, please consult the [Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)] page.

**What is an International Team Project (ITP)?**

ITP is a comparative law course in which students study the role of law and legal institutions, as well as cultural, political, and economic systems in a foreign country.

ITP combines semester-long research, an intense two-week field study abroad, and a [final group project](#).

ITPs are student-organized and student-driven. In the fall, students work to generate interest in a particular country, identify a faculty member with experience and/or interest in that country, and identify four team leaders to organize the course and the trip. If the team's course proposal is accepted,
students register in October and begin their study in the spring semester. The course is four credits. Please visit the [International Team Projects](#) page for more information on ITP.

**What courses should I not bid on?**

LLM students should not bid on the following courses:

- Any course with a prerequisite you cannot fulfill (see below for information about waivers)
- First year courses: Contracts, Constitutional Law, Property, Torts, Civil Procedure, and Criminal Law
- Clinical practice classes
- Communication and Legal Reasoning: you will be automatically enrolled in this course
- Practicum classes
- Legal Ethics (ITA), Evidence (ITA)
- Tax Courses: you will have options to enroll in tax courses after bidding ends (see below)

**How do I request a pre-requisite waiver?**

If you would like to request a waiver for a pre-requisite, visit the [Records and Registration website](#). From there, click the “Pre-requisite” link on the left side of the page and enter your NetID and password. You will be able to request the waiver on-line. If you are being denied access to the website, please re-set your password on the [Northwestern University Information Technology Website](#). Once you re-set your password, please try to access the “Pre-requisite” website again.

**How do I request permission to enroll in first year courses?**

LLM degree is an advanced law degree, and it is most appropriate for you to choose your classes from the upper-level JD course offerings. However, we understand that sometimes, based on your career interests and objectives, it might be beneficial to you to enroll in a first year course. If you would like to enroll in a first year course, please submit a request in writing to International.Programs@law.northwestern.edu by Monday August 1st at 5:00pm. You cannot bid for a first year course on CAESAR. For your information, first year courses are: Contracts, Constitutional Law, Property, Torts, Civil Procedure, and Criminal Law.

**Why can’t I take clinic or practicum courses?**

LLM students may not bid on clinic courses as the clinic requires students to be eligible for a 711 license. You will not have enough earned credits to qualify for the 711 license when the fall term begins.

LLM students may not enroll in practicum courses as the ABA requires students to have earned at least 28 credit hours before starting a practicum. You will not have enough credits to qualify for this requirement at the start of either semester.

**Can I enroll in tax courses? If so, how?**

During the first two rounds of bidding, you may not bid on any class in subject TAXLAW in CAESAR, as these courses are open only to LLM Tax students. However, you may bid on any tax-related classes in other subject areas such as BUSCOM. During open enrollment, you may add into any open seat in an LLM Tax course, provided that you have completed the basic requirements.
Non-Tax students who bid on Tax courses designated for LLM Tax students will be removed from the course when we process bids to enrollments. Bid points spent in violation of this registration policy will not be refunded.

Why are some courses designated specifically for LLMs?

For courses with significant LLM interest, we have designed LLM-only sections. This allows the professors to tailor the classes to your background and knowledge base. These courses currently include American Jurisprudence, American Legal Studies: Civil Procedure, American Legal Studies: Constitutional Law, Contracts LLM, and Business and Entrepreneurship Law for LLMs.

What are the tax certificates?

Northwestern Pritzker Law offers four tax certificates: Corporate Tax, International Tax, Tax Controversy, and Wealth Transfer and Legacy Planning. These certificates require completion of certain mandatory courses. Anyone interested in pursuing a tax certificate should make an appointment with Jacqueline Reise (j-reise@law.northwestern.edu), the Assistant Director of the Tax Program.