

Cornell Law School

2023-2024 LL.M. Curricular Requirements & Course Pre-Registration Instructions

GENERAL LL.M. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Degree Requirements:

All General LL.M. students are required to:

- Successfully complete the *Introduction to the American Legal System (IALS)* course held during Orientation;
- Successfully complete **20 law credits** during the fall and spring semesters; including enrollment in a three-credit seminar with a substantial writing component that satisfies the **legal writing requirement** or *Principles of American Legal Writing*. [Courses](#) that satisfy the legal writing requirement contain a “Writing” label in the course description (e.g. LAW 7156 *Copyright Litigation Lawyering*). A three-credit paper or five-credit Master’s thesis supervised by a faculty member may also satisfy the legal writing requirement in place of a seminar.

New York Bar Exam Requirements:

LL.M. students who plan to sit for the New York Bar exam and need to [cure under NY Court of Appeals Rule 520.6](#), must complete at least **24 law credits** in classroom courses and coursework must include:

- professional responsibility;
- legal research, writing and analysis;
- American legal studies; and
- core subjects covered by the New York Bar Exam.

Interested students are advised to review the NYS Bar Requirements for LL.Ms memo posted on the [Law School Registrar’s website](#).

ONLINE COURSE PRE-REGISTRATION

Course Enrollment:

LL.M. students typically take between **10 - 12 law credits** each semester. While the Law School's pre-registration process allows for an overage of credits due to the waitlist process, students may take no more than 15 credits (maximum) and no less than 10 credits (minimum) per semester. Total course enrollment must be within 10 - 15 credits by the end of the Add/Drop period unless otherwise approved by a Graduate Legal Studies advisor (gls@cornell.edu). LL.M. students may take no more than six (6) cumulative credits outside of regularly scheduled law school classes. These six cumulative credits include externships, directed readings, supervised writings, and graduate-level courses taught in other university divisions. Please note that externships are limited to 4 credit hours. To enroll in courses outside the Law School use Cornell University's [Student Center](#). Once enrolled complete the [LLM Law Credit for Non-law Courses form](#) and submit to the Law Registrar for approval and review even if you are not seeking law credits. For more information review [FAQs About Registering for Courses Outside the Law School](#). For the Fall 2023 semester, the University Online Add/Drop period for graduate and professional students is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 9:00am ET.

Law School Course Pre-Registration Bidding Considerations:

Law students are allocated **bid points** each semester for use during course pre-registration. In general, students should assign a higher number of bid points to the classes that they are very interested in taking. Most students prioritize bid points for upper-class seminars or courses with enrollment caps. Bid points are typically underutilized if applied to LL.M. only courses, 1L foundational courses, or courses with unlimited enrollment.

Enrollment in any particular course is not guaranteed. Students should carefully consider their preferred course schedule during course pre-registration bidding and during the Add/Drop period. Students who plan to sit for the New York Bar exam are advised that some courses required to satisfy the New York Bar cure provision may occasionally conflict with another of their preferred courses thereby preventing enrollment in both courses.

Add/Drop Policy:

- For the Fall 2023 semester, the Law School Add/Drop period is scheduled to begin on **Monday, August 14, 2023, at 9:00am ET**. Please monitor your Cornell email address for Law Registrar important instructions and updates. The dates included here were provided by the Law Registrar in June and are subject to change.

- A student may add (providing space is available) or drop a problem course, seminar, clinical offering or other **limited enrollment** courses until **Wednesday, August 30, 2023, at 3:00pm ET**. *Note:* Clinical offerings may have an earlier deadline. Consult the clinical registration information on the Law School's course registration site.
- A student may add or drop core courses with **unlimited enrollment** until **Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 3:00pm ET**.

Students **must remove all conflicts** in their course schedules by the end of the Add/Drop period each semester. Students are reminded to **review all course enrollment**, including law courses and any non-law courses, immediately following the Add/Drop period to confirm their **finalized course schedule**.

Waiting Lists:

Course enrollment caps are based on faculty requirements and classroom seating capacity. Once the enrollment cap for a course is reached, a waiting list will be created. Students will be contacted by email if a seat becomes available in a limited enrollment course for which they are on the wait list. Students are advised to check their Cornell email and course schedules regularly during the Add/Drop period.

Law School Course Options:

- [Law School Course Catalog](#) – List of law school course offerings and descriptions.
- [Directed Reading](#) – The faculty has adopted several very specific rules governing directed reading courses. Students must be certain that the directed reading they are requesting satisfies each of these rules. Interested students may access the [Directed Reading form](#) on the Law Registrar's site. Directed reading is not classroom based and credits will **not** qualify for the New York Bar cure provision.
- [Supervised Writing](#) – LL.M. students may do supervised research and writing with law faculty members. Interested students may access the [Supervised Writing and Teaching form](#) on the Law Registrar's site. Supervised writing is not classroom based and credits will **not** qualify for the New York Bar cure provision.
- [Cornell Tech Courses](#) – LL.M. students may take law courses offered through Cornell Tech that are listed in the [Law School Course Catalog](#). Cornell Tech courses are live-streamed from New York City to the Law School for Ithaca based students and contain a "NY Tech Course" label in the course description. Cornell Tech courses are not classroom based and credits will **not** qualify for the New York Bar cure provision. Note if you entered the U.S. on a student visa the federal government has reverted to pre-pandemic guidelines for international students. **For example, if you are here on a F-1 visa only one online course per semester is permitted.**

Law School Course Pre-requisites:

The Law School's course registration system will only permit students to pre-register in a course requiring a pre-requisite if the pre-requisite has been taken in a previous semester. A student who wishes to be considered for enrollment who has not previously taken the required pre-requisite may request a waiver from the instructor. Students must email the instructor detailing prior coursework/experience and then complete the [Prerequisite Waiver form](#) which requires the signature of the instructor. A student requesting a pre-requisite waiver will need to complete the process before the end of the pre-registration period. Once the instructor's approval has been secured, the form must be submitted to the Law Registrar. The next opportunity after pre-registration to request a pre-requisite waiver will be during the Add/Drop period at the beginning of each semester.

Class Attendance:

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED on a regular basis beginning on the first day of the semester. **Irregular attendance or neglect of work may result in removal from the course with a failing grade or other sanctions.** Regular attendance is required for certification to the bar examiners. Students must **notify their instructor if they miss a class and notify the Graduate Legal Studies Office (glsc@cornell.edu) if missing more than three classes.**

Auditing Courses:

With permission of the instructor, law students may register for a course as an auditor. Interested students may access the [Audit form](#) on the Law Registrar's site. However, please note that faculty members cannot override seminar enrollment capacity or classroom seating capacity established by the Law Registrar. Auditors may not sit for examinations. Auditing is recorded on the internal/unofficial and official record. Auditing is not available for the majority of non-law course offerings.

Examinations and Laptops:

Each student must have a laptop prior to enrollment for personal use and to complete Law School Exams via Exam4.

Faculty Bios:

Biographies for all faculty members are published in the [Faculty Directory](#).

Grading:

LL.M. students are graded on the scale of High Honors (HH), Honors (H), Satisfactory (S), and Unsatisfactory (U), except that an LL.M. student may, after consultation with a Graduate Legal Studies advisor, elect to be graded on the J.D. scale and curve. Review the [Graduate Program](#)

[Grading Policy](#) for additional details. The grading scale election applies to the student's entire period of LL.M. study (*i.e.*, two full semesters) and must be made by notifying the Law Registrar by the appropriate deadline, typically within the first four weeks of the date Fall semester classes begin. **The Law Registrar will communicate the exact deadline via email.**

All externships and directed reading, supervised writing and supervised teaching will be graded S/U. Grades received from courses graded exclusively S/U will be recorded as SX or UX.

University Registration Status:

The Office of the University Registrar determines student registration status. In order to be considered a **registered student** by the University, a student must:

- complete course enrollment according to individual college requirements;
- settle all financial accounts, including current semester tuition;
- clear any holds, whether these are from the Bursar's Office, Cornell Health, the Judicial Administrator, or the Dean of your college; and
- satisfy Cornell University and New York State health requirements.

Students can check their registration status at the beginning of the semester using the [Student Center](#). View the "Holds" box on the home page of the Student Center. If you have no holds, you are registered with the University. If you have a hold that says "[No Registration, Trans, Diploma](#)" or "[No Registration](#)" then you are not registered. It is possible for there to be other Holds listed that do not affect registration. Click on "Details," then click on the "Hold Item" link to find out what is affected and how to clear the hold.

If you do not clear the hold, after the third week of classes you will lose access to university services and be charged a \$350 late fee, in addition to finance charges. If you register after the sixth week of classes, you will be charged a \$500 late fee, in addition to finance charges. Failure to register will impact financial aid, loan deferments and health benefits that rely on in-school status. If you are an international student, failure to register will also impact your visa status. This may also affect the ability to use certain services on campus such as your Cornell Card, Library Services, and Cornell Health.