

# LL.M. Degree in United States Law

## OVERVIEW

The one-year LL.M. (Master of Laws) degree is for foreign lawyers who have already earned primary law degrees from universities in their home countries. The program offers international lawyers the opportunity to develop mastery of key areas of American law at one of the nation's top law schools. The program builds on the school's existing international programs, which include exchange, study abroad, and visiting scholar programs, in addition to faculty expertise in international and U.S. law. LL.M. students can receive legal training in American law through UNC School of Law's nationally recognized centers and areas of academic strength in legal fields that are in high demand throughout the world.

LL.M. students take most of their classes together with UNC J.D. students, enabling them to share their international perspectives while learning American law from UNC faculty and fellow students. Second- and third-year J.D. students selected as LL.M. Dean's Fellows serve as peer mentors and advisors for the LL.M. students.

## CURRICULUM

Students enter in the fall semester and are required to take 24 credit hours of course work during the academic year, maintaining a minimum overall 2.25 GPA by graduation, to receive the LL.M. degree. Students who have not received their legal training in common law countries receive grounding in the American law tradition through the Foundations in United States Common Law course. In the United States Legal Research and Writing course, all students receive training in a variety of written and oral professional communication styles as well as essential skills for American legal settings. Students pursue an academic plan that fits their individual professional needs, choosing from a selection of first-year and upper-level courses available through the J.D. program for the remaining balance of courses and credit hours. With the approval of the LL.M. faculty director, students may complete a master's thesis and/or take one law-related, graduate level course in another UNC department.

## ADMISSIONS

Applicants' performance in securing their initial law degree should demonstrate academic excellence with an average grade of B/3.0 or its equivalent. Fluency in English — with a goal TOEFL score of 100 on the internet-based test format (iBT), 250 on the computer-based test (CBT) or a goal IELTS score of 7.0 — is also a requirement. Preference is given to foreign lawyers who have already practiced law for at least two years. Applicants are encouraged to participate in a telephone or Skype interview. Applicants may submit application materials through LSAC or send directly to UNC School of Law. The application cycle is open October 15 - April 30. Tuition and fees information can be found at [www.law.unc.edu/admissions/llm/costs](http://www.law.unc.edu/admissions/llm/costs).



[www.law.unc.edu/academics/  
degreeprograms/llm](http://www.law.unc.edu/academics/degreeprograms/llm)



## The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

was the nation's first public university to open its doors. The university is consistently ranked among the nation's best in academic quality, diversity, engagement and international presence. It has been ranked 1st among public universities in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* for numerous years. The university also ranks in the top 50 overall in the world according to *The Times Higher Education's World University Rankings*. The university is located in Chapel Hill, a sophisticated university town that is part of the larger and easily accessible Triangle metropolitan area of Chapel Hill-Raleigh-Durham, offering a broad range of amenities.

## CONTACT

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UNC  
SCHOOL OF LAW

“UNC is a good environment for students who really want to learn.”

- XUAN LI , INAUGURAL LL.M. CLASS OF 2012, CHINA

### Center on Media Law & Policy

An interdisciplinary joint center of UNC School of Law and UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication that focuses on the broad array of media law and policy issues throughout the world.

### Center on Poverty, Work & Opportunity

An interdisciplinary center that studies, documents and advocates for ways to mitigate poverty in North Carolina and the nation. The center is a prominent voice in America on topics of wealth disparity.

### Center for Law, Environment, Adaptation and Resources (CLEAR)

The center addresses emerging environmental law issues, particularly serving as a leader on the laws related to climate change adaptation, and has brought international diplomats to campus to address climate issues.

### Center for Civil Rights

A leader in U.S. civil rights lawyering and social justice, addressing issues such as access to education, housing and community development, economic justice and voting rights.

### Center for Banking and Finance

Organizes the annual North Carolina Banking Institute in Charlotte, N.C., a continuing legal education program that brings together the leaders and counsel of some of America’s largest banks.

### Center for Law & Government

Prof. Gerhardt, the center’s director, brings national leaders to campus. He has served as special counsel to U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and his staff in preparation for the hearings related to U.S. Supreme Court nominations.

### Intellectual Property Initiative

An exciting forum for exploring engaging and rapidly changing topics in intellectual property laws pertaining to privacy and copyright laws throughout the world.

## AREAS OF ACADEMIC STRENGTH

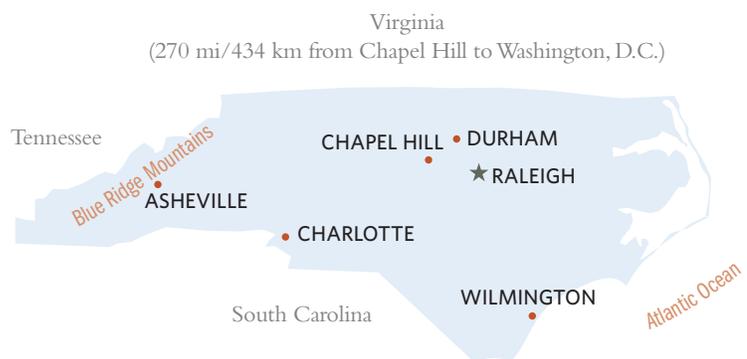
UNC School of Law has particular strengths in corporate and commercial law, banking and finance, intellectual property, environmental law, health care law, human rights, international and comparative law, and public law and regulation. Many of these areas are represented by centers and initiatives, which provide students with learning opportunities and regularly bring national and international leaders to campus.

### LL.M. COURSES

During the fall semester, LL.M. students complete two required courses that are designed to further their knowledge of the common law system and to provide them with the necessary skills to succeed at a United States law school.

**Foundations in United States Common Law:** This front-loaded course provides an introduction to the substantive and procedural law of the United States and to distinctive aspects of the Anglo-American system of common law, thereby bridging the gap between students’ understanding of their home countries’ legal systems and the United States legal system. It focuses on torts and contracts.

**United States Legal Research and Writing:** Students learn basic techniques of legal research, writing and analysis in the context of American professional practice. Through a series of research and writing tasks, students develop proficiency in researching legal issues, framing legal arguments and analyzing legal problems.



An LL.M. student celebrates his graduation with family.



Raleigh, the capital of North Carolina, is a neighboring city to Chapel Hill.