

LEGAL STUDIES MASTER OF ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

ONLINE

The graduate program in legal studies adopts 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.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Individuals seeking a comprehensive understanding of what the legal system is, how it works, how it interrelates with social change, and how it assists people in asserting their rights.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited school;
- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
- Students whose native language is not English must achieve a score of 570 or above on the paper-based TOEFL, 88 on the internet-based exam, or 230 on the computer-based exam.

To apply to the Legal Studies Master's Degree Program applicants must:

- Submit the UIS Graduate Application found at (www.uis.edu/admissions/applytoday), their personal statement, and application fee.
- Submit official copies of transcripts from all colleges and universities attended to the UIS Admissions Office.

TRANSFER HOURS POLICY:

All transfer credit hours are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the Legal Studies Department. Up to 12 hours of prior graduate credit may be accepted.

FINANCIAL AID INFO:

Please contact the UIS Financial Assistance Office at (217) 206-6724 or www.uis.edu/cost-aid/financial-aid

TEXTBOOK PURCHASE:

Required textbooks may be ordered at www.uis.bkstr.com. You may also call the UIS Bookstore at (217) 206-6766.

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Allows students to gain professional skills at various levels, as well as study legal theory and the role of law in American society. The curriculum seeks to develop the professional and scholarly abilities graduates will need in law-related careers or more advanced studies. Particular emphasis is placed on analytical thinking, research, and writing skills.

COST:

For current UIS E-tuition and fees, please visit: www.uis.edu/cost-aid/cost-attendance/tuition-fees

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

Contact the Legal Studies Online Coordinator at (217) 206-8545 or les-online@uis.edu for details.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

Fall, spring, and summer semesters.

DELIVERY MODE:

Fully online. No on-campus meetings are required.

LOCATION(S) OF COURSES:

Fully online

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Rebekah Grosboll
Legal Studies Online
Coordinator Legal Studies
Phone: (217) 206-8545
Fax: (217) 206-7807
E-mail: les-online@uis.edu

ADDRESS:

University of Illinois Springfield
One University Plaza
MS PAC 350
Springfield, IL 62703

WEBSITE:

www.uis.edu/legal-studies

REQUIRED COURSES:

The Legal Studies Master's Degree consists of 36 credit hours; however, a student without the applicable academic background must also take LES 401: Legal Research and Citation (4 credit hours)

Required Preliminary Course (or equivalent)
LES 401 Legal Research & Citation (4 credit hours)

Core Courses (12 hours total)

- LES 501 Introduction to Graduate Legal Studies (4 credit hours)
- LES 587 Public Advocacy (4 credit hours)
- LES 504 Graduate Capstone Seminar (4 credit hours) OR LES 590 Thesis (4-8 credit hours)

Electives (24 hours total)

The focus for the degree is conducted through the elective courses (with a minimum of 16 credit hours being LES prefixed electives). Students may focus in a particular area of law or legal policy or 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/Social Justice and Public Policy; Criminal Justice; or Regulatory Compliance. Students should discuss the focus of their degree with their faculty advisor.

For specific information, please see the UIS Catalog (www.uis.edu/registrar/course-schedules-catalogs).