

MASTER OF ARTS IN LEGAL STUDIES

ONLINE

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

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:

1. A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited school;
2. A cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
3. Students should apply online at <http://www.uis.edu/admissions/applytoday/> by completing the Graduate Student Application, submitting official copies of all transcripts to the UIS Admissions Office, and submitting the \$60 application fee to the UIS Admissions Office (\$75 for international students).

COST:

For current UIS E-tuition and fees, please visit: <http://www.uis.edu/registration/tuition>.

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. No on-campus meetings are required.

TEXTBOOK PURCHASE:

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

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.

TOTAL HOURS NEEDED:

The Legal Studies Master's Degree requires 20 hours of core coursework and 16 hours of elective coursework for a total of 36 credit hours.

FINANCIAL AID INFO:

Please contact the UIS Financial Assistance Office at (217) 206-6724 or <http://www.uis.edu/financialaid/>

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.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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ADDRESS:

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

WEBSITE:

<http://www.uis.edu/legalstudies/>

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 and Citation (4 credit hours)

Core Courses (20 hours total)

- LES 501 Introduction to Graduate Legal Studies (4 credit hours)
- LES 512 Theories of Justice (4 credit hours)
- LES 513 Seminar in Politics and Law (4 credit hours) OR LES 519 Seminar in Courts and Policy Making (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 (16 credit hours total - consisting of 8 credit hours of LES prefixed electives and 8 credit hours of non-LES prefixed electives*)

*Up to 4 credit hours may be substituted by clinical education or an internship if approved by advisor.