

Notice of VLGS Amendment to the Academic Regulations

Effective:	Thursday, May 1, 2025
Students Effected:	Effective immediately upon approval by faculty.
Amendment Type:	Revised Academic Regulations
Academic Regulation:	ALS LLM

Amendment Description:

In sum, the proposed amendments refine the LLM American Legal Studies (ALS) degree by adding constitutional law as a required course, providing for an optional summer start specialized semester, and expanding the maximum credit load to 37 credits.

More specifically, due to the discontinuation of Civil Procedure and Constitutional Law during the Spring Semester, it has become necessary to revise the classes offered to students in the LLM ALS program. The proposed adjustment beyond the [November 2024 amendments](#) is designed to ensure that the curriculum remains in full compliance with the requirements of the New York Board of Law Examiners, given that most LLM ALS students pursue eligibility for the New York Bar Exam. Shifting Constitutional Law from an elective course to a required course will help optimize their preparedness for the bar exam while meeting the stringent requirements set forth by the New York Board of Law Examiners.

Further, to expand academic opportunities for LLM ALS students and allow them to tailor their coursework to their specific legal interests, an optional specialization semester is proposed. Offering this semester before the core LLM ALS curriculum ensures that students can complete bar preparation immediately after graduating in May, preserving their eligibility for the July Bar Exam. During this additional semester, students could take elective courses in VLGS's key areas of expertise. They would select from existing on-campus summer courses. No new courses would be created as students would be integrated into already scheduled classes. The specific courses available will vary depending on the classes available every summer.

Currently, the VLGS handbook stipulates that students enrolled in the LLM ALS may take a maximum of **33 credits** throughout their course of study. Given the proposed restructuring of the core curriculum, students would have only 5 credits available for this additional semester. However, a 9-credit semester would be preferable to ensure a sufficient breadth of coursework, allowing the semester to be a substantive and meaningful specialization. Therefore, it is proposed that the maximum credit allowance be increased to 37 credits to accommodate the 28-credit core curriculum along with the 9-credit specialization semester.

NEW LANGUAGE (beyond the November 2024 approved amendments)

Amend academic regulation section IX.H.2.a with the changes in red below.

A minimum of 28 credits is required for the LLM degree. An LLM candidate may take a maximum of ~~33~~ 37 credits.

Amend academic regulation section IX.H.2.c with the changes in red below.

Each LLM candidate must satisfactorily complete the following courses: **Constitutional Law**; Evidence; Civil Procedure; Contracts or Torts; Criminal Law; Property; Legal Research and Writing; and Professional Responsibility. With the approval of the Vice Dean of Students, an LLM candidate may substitute a different course for Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, or Property if the candidate has successfully completed a comparable course at another law school. Although course requirements may be waived, the total number of credits required for degree completion remains unchanged.

Amend academic regulation section IX.H.2.d with the changes in red below.

LLM candidates have the option of enrolling in additional courses during **an optional summer start semester** or their ~~second~~ **spring** semester, with prior approval of the Vice Dean of Students.

Amend academic regulation section IX.H.2.f with the changes in red below.

Residence Requirement: To obtain this degree, students must be in residence at Vermont Law and Graduate School for ~~two~~ **all** semesters.

Proposed adopted date: immediately upon approval by faculty

Proposed effective date: summer semester 2025