Master of Laws Program in Washington, D.C.

CUA Master of Laws Program (LL.M.) graduates acquire a credential that will serve them throughout their legal career. Students gain specialized knowledge, receive practical training, and form a network of professional contacts. The Law School curriculum enables LL.M. students to tailor a program of study suited to their career interests and aspirations.

The CUA Law Advantage

Students who graduate from our program receive a Master of Laws degree with a concentration in one of three specialized areas of study. Students also acquire a broad understanding of the U.S. common law system. LL.M. students have the option to pursue a course of study that helps prepare them for a U.S. bar examination. All of our LL.M. students graduate with skills in U.S. legal research, analysis, and legal writing.

Experience Washington, D.C.

The Catholic University of America (CUA), Columbus School of Law, is situated in Washington, D.C., the legal and political capital of the United States. Washington, D.C. is home to the U.S. Supreme Court, federal government agencies, regulatory institutions, premier international NGOs and public interest organizations, as well as, major U.S. and international law firms.

Our LL.M. students gain practical experience through prestigious externship placements in varied private and public institutions including the Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Communications Commission, the World Bank, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, among many others.

LL.M. Concentrations

LL.M. candidates, mentored by expert faculty, plan a course of study in one of three concentrations:

Comparative and International Law offers a comprehensive examination of governments, societies, and legal systems with emphasis on comparative legal systems, international trade and business, and international human rights.

Law and Technology provides special expertise in the regulation of the telecommunications industry, electronic mass media, wireless telecommunications services, and digital technologies, FCC practice and procedure, intellectual property transactions, copyright and patent, and First Amendment challenges for media.

Corporate and Securities Law analyzes a broad array of corporate law and securities regulation topics including the issuance of securities, secondary trading of securities, market regulation, enforcement issues, corporate finance, corporate ethics, investment companies, and investment advisers, securitizations of assets, derivatives, and the regulation of financial institutions.

Preparing for a U.S. Bar Exam

Foreign-trained attorneys have the option to work closely with a law faculty adviser to develop a course of study that will enable them to sit for a U.S. bar exam, commonly New York. Students interested in taking a U.S. bar exam must review the requirements and discuss this option with the LL.M. Coordinator.
Past Student Perspectives

“The CUA program is quite demanding and of a high standard, but absolutely worth all the effort. It allowed me to learn how the common law works, understand the meaning of American law concepts, and, last but not least, improve my English skills. It created a valuable network of people — professionals with whom I spent dozens of hours together, who became friends of mine, and who are now trusted colleagues, who I can always rely on when working on international cases.”

Rafal Kos (LL.M. 2010)
Managing Partner, Kubas Kos Gaertner, Kraków, Poland

“I was fortunate to experience the LL.M. program at Catholic University. I have been surrounded by professors who are experts in their fields. They are patient and available to help students achieve their professional goals. The Columbus School of Law allows you to both study and apply, through externships and skills courses, U.S. and international law in a global legal environment. As a lawyer coming from a civil law system, the education I received at CUA helped me to understand and possibly practice in both common law and civil law systems.”

Ghazal Hassan (LL.M. 2015)
LL.B in Law and Political Science
Kabul University, Afghanistan

Requirements

To earn the LL.M. degree, students must complete 24 credit hours. Full time students complete the program in one academic year, while part-time students complete the program in one-and-a-half to two years. At least 16 of the required credits must be directly related to the concentration area. LL.M. students with a U.S. or Canadian first degree are required to take at least one course with a writing component as part of their coursework. International students must take a legal research and writing course that will familiarize them with the U.S. legal system and ensure proficiency in U.S. legal analysis and writing.

Scholarships

LL.M. applicants are considered for scholarships once they submit their application to the LL.M program. Scholarships are awarded based on the strength of the applicant’s academic record and professional experience. No separate scholarship application is required.

Application Process

For more information and to apply, visit our website at law.edu/llm or contact the Office of Admissions at 202-319-5151. Should you have questions regarding the academic requirements of the program, please contact the faculty director of the Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program, Professor Stacy L. Brustin, at brustin@law.edu or 202-319-6785.