

THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

MASTERS OF LAW INFORMATION BROCHURE

Located in Washington, DC
[Masters of Law Program](#)

THE HOWARD PERSPECTIVE

The Master of Law (LL.M.) Program offers a graduate law degree to qualifying lawyers who have attained their law degree.

The program builds on the Howard University School of Law's rich history as a center for creative scholarship and advocacy in the juridical aspects of human rights. Graduates are prepared to strengthen the rule of law, promote justice, and contribute to international harmony. The program particularly seeks to cater to the interests of law and social justice throughout the world.

Howard graduates historically have filled roles of importance in many countries. Many have assumed high positions in government and in the judiciary. Others have pursued further graduate studies in Doctor of Juridical Science programs.



STUDY IN WASHINGTON, DC *The World's Resources at Your Doorstep*

Washington, DC is home to one of the greatest collections of intellectual and physical resources in the world. The LL.M. program creates opportunities for mentorship; pairing students with prominent judges, attorneys, government officials, staff members from national and



international organizations, and leaders in the Washington, DC legal community. When opportunities are available and appropriate arrangements can be made, a student may be offered a period of internship in a non governmental organization (NGO), judge's chambers, government agency, or the like.

THE ADVANTAGE OF LOCATION

Located in the heart of Washington, DC, the School of Law gives students an advantage as they experience and learn from a broad range of activities in our nation's capital. Few cities in the world can offer such a diverse educational experience. The School of Law gives students a sample of such opportunities. Recent visitors to the campus have included Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, members of Congress, state-elected officials such as the Governor of the State of Virginia, diplomats, partners in major law firms, and respected members of academia. Within the scenic and picturesque West Campus of Howard University, the School of Law resides on Connecticut Avenue in Northwest Washington, one block from Metro subway's Van Ness-UDC Station.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Immerse Yourself in the “City of Lawyers”

A regular program of seminars and round tables permits students to:

- Discuss current issues in the U.S. legal system with judges, members of Congress, ambassadors and policy makers,
- Engage in off campus field visits to the U.S. Supreme Court, Congress, local law offices, or other points of interest, and
- Use the Library of Congress facilities to research numerous law and policy issues in comparative law, social justice, or the U.S. legal system just to name a few opportunities.

THE SCHOOL OF LAW

The School of Law admitted its first class in 1869. The first 10 Graduates from this class included the nation’s first black woman law student, who became the fourth woman admitted to the practice of law in the United States. Since its founding, Howard University School of Law has retained the very special position for which it was expressly created: *to offer educational advantages without regard to race, creed, color, or sex*. With the Law School purposely limiting the size of its student body, the faculty-student ratio is 1 to 10, thereby fostering close, frequent contact between professor and students. The School of Law's aim is to provide professional leadership for the social changes that this country and the world are experiencing.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Howard University was founded by an Act of Congress on March 2, 1867. The Charter of Howard University provides for normal, collegiate, theological, legal, medical, and agricultural departments, along with such other departments as the Board of Trustees might establish. Since its inception, the University has grown from a single frame building to three campuses occupying some 75 acres in the nation's capital. Currently, the University has

- *17* schools and colleges that embody a tradition of academic excellence,
- More than *2,000* faculty members teach a student body of over *11,000*,
- Degree programs in more than *200* specialized subjects with doctorates in more than *23* academic disciplines, and
- An array of institutes and centers addresses a number of national concerns, as well as those of the immediate Washington community.

THE MASTER OF LAWS PROGRAM (LL.M.)

The LL.M. program is designed to take advantage of both the academic strength of the School of Law and the resources available in Washington, D.C. Students observe both academic and practical aspects of the law and legal thought through basic courses and seminars that are supplemented by symposia, roundtable discussions, and LL.M. forums. LL.M. students are encouraged to write a thesis under the supervision of faculty members, with the goal of seeking its proper publications.



DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The School of Law offers a general LL.M. or a specialized LL.M. degree. All degree candidates must successfully complete the following requirements:

- **Credits** – Earn a total of 24 academic credits.
- **Required Course** – Complete successfully the 2-credit course on “Legal Methods.”
- **Residency** – Be registered as a full-time resident for a minimum of 2 consecutive semesters.
- **Research and Writing** – Complete 4 hours of writing, either by writing a 4 credit thesis or by writing research papers in 2 seminars.
- **General requirements** – Otherwise satisfy the School of Law’s requirements for graduation.

GRADES

Grading is on a numerical scale of 50-100. As an LL.M. candidate, you must maintain a minimum grade point average of 77 (C+). However, LL.M. candidates must earn a grade of no less than 70 (C) in each course in order to receive credit for that course. There is one special circumstance: the minimum acceptable grade for a thesis is 80 (B).

COURSE OFFERINGS

Although the School of Law maintains a basic law school curriculum in American Law and Legal Systems to satisfy its J.D. candidates, it also offers elective courses as well as a range of externships based in the Nations Capital. As an LL.M. candidate, you may select from the various courses and as you design a program that interests you the most. Below are some of the subject matter areas in which our faculty members teach and have special research interests.

*** Course Offerings**

- *Civil Rights*
- *Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*
- *Human Rights*
- *Intellectual Property and Social Justice*
- *Private and Comparative International Law*
- *Private and Social Entrepreneurship*
- *Pursuing a Progressive Law Practice (“Big Law” pro bono, public interest/nonprofit, government service, teaching, solo practice, small firm)*
- *Securities Regulation, Investor Protection, Corporate Responsibility*



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

As an LL.M. candidate, you must have a first degree in law from an accredited law faculty, law school or an equivalent qualification to be determined by the School of Law's Graduate Committee, along with a demonstrated high degree of academic excellence and promise. Before your application can be reviewed, the Director of the Graduate Program must receive the following documents:

- **A completed Application** for admission to the School of Law's LL.M. Program.
- **A brief (2--3 pages) autobiographical statement** that is typed and describes your professional goals and the role of an LL.M. degree in fulfilling those goals.
- **Official transcripts** of your record from both the university you attended as an undergraduate and the institution you attended for legal study. Each institution must send original transcripts directly to Howard University School of Law.
- **An essay** in English of 5 typed pages written by you describing your intended thesis dissertation.
- For applicants whose native language is not English or for applicants from non-English-speaking countries, the **results of the TOEFL** (Test of English as a Foreign Language Test) Test showing you have achieved a **score of 550 paper Based Test (PBT) or higher, 79/80 Internet Based Test (IBT) score.**
Inquiries about the TOEFL Test, should be directed to The Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ 08540, U.S.A., Attention: TOEFL. www.
- **Two letters of recommendation** as to your character and academic potential for participating in a graduate law program. At least one letter of recommendation must be written by a member of your law school's faculty. Recommendations must be from persons not related to you and must be sent by each person directly to the Office of Admissions.
- **A nonrefundable application fee of \$60** in the form of a cashier's check or money order listing Howard University as payee. No personal checks will be accepted.
- **One passport-size photograph.**
- **Proof of the ability to study in the USA**
- **Statement of Financial Resources showing the ability to pay for the program** no earlier than two months prior to enrolling.

All applications and supporting documentation for the Fall Semester must be received by **March 15th** to be considered for fall admission.

EXPENSES

Howard Application Fee	\$60
Enrollment Fee & Seat Deposit	\$150
	\$50
Tuition and Fees	\$32,000/ yr.
Living Expenses (lodging, transportation, meals, books, misc.)	Approx. \$26,000/yr.
Late Registration Fee	\$150
Deferred Payment Fee (if applicable)	\$50

**All fees cannot be waived and are non-refundable*

FINANCIAL AID

As a rule, the School of Law does not offer scholarship assistance to LL.M. candidates. When you register, you may apply for a loan or for deferred payment terms on your tuition and fees.

For further information, please contact:

The Financial Aid Office, Howard University School of Law, 2900 Van Ness Street, NW,

Washington, DC 20008; Phone (202) 806-8005 or Fax (202) 806-8564.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you should inquire at the U.S. Embassy in your country about assistance for travel and other expenses.

HOUSING

The Law School has no on Campus housing. There is graduate housing on the main Howard University campus, located approximately 5 miles from the law school. However, graduate law students are generally not given on-campus housing.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Contact regarding questions concerning immigration into the U.S.:** The Office of International Student Services, Howard University, 2400 6th St., NW, Washington, DC 20059: Phone (202) 806-2777. FAX (202) 238-8521.
- **Direct inquiries about the LL.M. Program to:** The Director of the Graduate Program, Howard University School of Law, 2900 Van Ness St, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008; phone (202) 806-8052 or fax (202) 806-8428.
- **For admission and application information please contact:** The Office of Admission at (202) 806-8008/9 or admissions@law.howard.edu.
- **For assistance in finding housing:** Howard Plaza Towers, 2251 Sherman Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001; Phone (202) 806-3986.

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:

*Howard University School of Law
Office of Admissions
2900 Van Ness Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 806-8008 Fax: (202) 806-8162*

Nondiscrimination: The mission of Howard University includes providing education for any student, while emphasizing educational opportunities for students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to acquire an education of the type provided at Howard. In fulfilling its mission, the University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, marital status, religion, or handicap as it administers its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other University-sponsored programs and employment

MASTER OF LAWS PROGRAM (LL.M.) *APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS*

All Applicants to the Howard University School of Law LLM Program must meet the following criteria for admission:

1. Applicant must have a first degree in law from an accredited law faculty, law school, or an equivalent qualification to be determined by the Law School's Graduate Committee.
2. Applicant must have a demonstrated record of academic achievement and excellence particularly in the legal area.
3. Preference will be given to applicants with considerable legal experience.

This application must be accompanied by the following:

- A brief (2-3 pages) autobiographical sketch describing your professional goals and the role of an LL.M. Degree in fulfilling those goals.
- An essay in English of five (5) type written pages, written by you and describing an aspect of your country's legal system or your intended thesis dissertation
- A nonrefundable \$60 application fee in the form of a cashier's check or money order.

NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED

- A passport size photograph.
- Statement of Financial Resources

In addition, applicants should make sure that the following are received separately by the Graduate Director:

- **Official Transcripts;** your record from your university and the institution you attended for legal study. Each institution must send transcripts directly to the Office of Admissions.
- **TOEFL Test Score;** applicants whose mother tongue is not English or for applicants from non-English speaking countries, the TOEFL test (Test of English as a Foreign Language) showing a result of 550 or higher. Inquiries about the TOEFL test should be directed to: The Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, Attention: TOEFL
- **Letters of Recommendation;** two letters of recommendation as to your character and academic potential. One letter must be from a member of your law School's faculty. Each recommender must send the letter of recommendation directly to the Office of Admissions.

Application Deadline: March 15th (Fall), October 1st (Spring)

To begin the application please visit the following link: [Masters of Law Application](#)