Why Houston?

Tax law is a moving target, constantly changing and becoming ever more complex as it evolves. Proficient tax lawyers are in demand, and the University of Houston Law Center, based in one of the most vibrant economies and legal practice areas in the U.S., is poised to fill that need with our Tax Law LL.M. program.

Our program boasts a level of sophistication that has earned it national prominence and unequaled stature in the Southwest United States. U.S. News & World Report ranks our tax law program 18th among the nation’s 194 ABA accredited law schools in its 2014 guidebook on law schools and specialty programs. Our focus is on helping students identify issues and plan solutions to tax problems and hone the skills needed to assimilate new tax rules into their practice. The program emphasizes professional responsibility and a thorough understanding of the tax system and how it affects individual, nonprofit, commercial and financial affairs. Our program also presents a unique opportunity to students who wish to complement their tax courses with those in other specialty areas such as energy, health, and intellectual property.

Practitioners looking to enhance their knowledge and skills through the Tax Law LL.M. program have much to gain from UHLC’s full-time professors William Streng, Johnny Rex Buckles and Bret Wells, each of whom brings years of academic contributions and high-level practice experience to the classroom. The Law Center also recently added as senior adviser Paul H. Asofsky, a longtime partner and head of the Houston tax group at Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP. In addition, Professor Emeritus Ira B. Shepard, an integral part of the tax program since 1975 who was recently named the 2013 Outstanding Texas Tax Lawyer by the State Bar, continues to contribute to the life of the tax program. The full-time faculty is bolstered by an outstanding group of adjunct professors from the Houston tax community who are nationally recognized leaders in their fields.

Past LL.M. students have earned national awards for their work and have seen their works published in the Law Center’s Houston Journal of International Law and in other academic forums.

LL.M. Degree Options

- Lawyers who earned their law degree from a U.S. school may apply directly to the Tax Law LL.M. program. Tax law courses must account for 18 of the 24 credit hours required for graduation. Students interested in writing a paper have two options: (1) enroll in a seminar, or (2), with the approval of a faculty adviser, write a thesis.

- Lawyers who earned their law degree from a foreign school have two options:
  - Lawyers with strong backgrounds in tax law and who possess superior skills in speaking and writing in English may apply directly to the Tax Law LL.M. program. The 24 credit hours needed for graduation must include 18 hours of approved tax law courses, as well as two required courses: Introduction to American Law and Lawyering Skills and Strategies. Students interested in writing a paper have two options: (1) enroll in a seminar, or (2), with the approval of a faculty adviser, write a thesis.
  - Lawyers may also choose to enter the Foreign Scholars LL.M. program, which offers a Certificate of Specialization in Tax Law. The 24 credit hours needed for graduation must include 12 hours of approved tax law courses and two required courses: Introduction to American Law and Lawyering Skills and Strategies.
Courses

• Advanced Corporate Tax
• Bankruptcy Taxation
• Business Planning
• Corporate Taxation
• Estate Planning
• Federal Income Tax
• Federal Income Taxation of Trusts & Estates
• Oil & Gas Tax
• Partnership Tax
• Post Mortem Estate Planning
• Real Estate Tax
• State & Local Taxation
• Tax Accounting
• Tax Ethics
• Tax Fraud & Money Laundering
• Tax Policy Seminar
• Tax Procedure
• Tax Research
• Taxation of Compensation
• Taxation of Exempt Organizations
• Taxation of Financial Instruments
• Taxation of Sales & Exchanges
• U.S. International Tax

Note: This is a partial listing, and not all courses are taught every semester.

Visit www.law.uh.edu/schedule/homepage.asp for current course offerings.

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