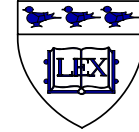


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**University of Houston Law Center**  
**Bar Examination Options for Non-US**  
**Educated Lawyers**  
**New York**

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*Can a foreign-educated lawyer practice law in the United States?*

The answer is “yes” and “no.” To practice law in the United States, both US-educated lawyers and foreign-trained lawyers must pass the bar examination and be admitted in the state in which they intend to practice. Each state establishes requirements for eligibility to take the bar examination in that state, and those requirements will vary from state-to-state. The eligibility requirements may include:

- Completion of a U.S. LL.M. degree at an ABA-accredited school.
- Completion of specific courses within an LL.M. program.
- Practice in their home country for a specific period of time.

Students considering taking a bar examination should review and confirm eligibility requirements before beginning any LL.M. program. Only a state’s board of law examiners – not a law school - can confirm eligibility to take a state’s bar examination.

Information on bar eligibility requirements and an overview of the bar admission process is available at:

- American Bar Association, [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/bar\\_admissions/basic\\_overview.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/bar_admissions/basic_overview.html)
- National Conference of Bar Examiners, [A Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements](http://www.ncbex.org/) (2013), <http://www.ncbex.org/>
- Texas Board of Law Examiners, [www.ble.state.tx.us](http://www.ble.state.tx.us).
- New York bar examination, <http://www.nybarexam.org>

*Only the NY Board of Law Examiners can determine an applicant’s eligibility for the bar exam.* The application process is lengthy and students are advised to begin the application process *before* or during their first semester of LL.M. studies.

### **Course Selection**

#### University of Houston Law Center

- The LL.M. degree requires the completion of a minimum of 24 credits. However, students admitted to a specialty program *and* meeting bar eligibility requirements need more than 24 credits. Courses are designated as one, two, three or four credits. A credit refers to the length of time that a class meets each week. For example, a two credit course meets for two hours

each week for one semester. The fall semester is August-December and the spring semester is January-May. All course selections must be approved by the student's faculty advisor.

- All lawyers who earned their degree outside of the United States are required to take Introduction to American Law and Lawyering Skills and Strategies.
- In addition to these two courses, students in a concentration/specialty, such as International Law, are required to complete a specific number of concentration-specific courses:

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR)	15 credits of EENR coursework
Health Law	18 credits of Health coursework
Intellectual Property & Information Law (IPIL)	15 credits of IPIL coursework
International Law (IL)	15 credits of IL coursework
Tax Law	18 credits of tax coursework

- Introduction to American Law and Lawyering Skills and Strategies are the only required courses for LL.M. in U.S. Law program. All other courses are selected to meet personal or professional goals, such as meeting bar eligibility requirements.

Eligibility for the New York bar exam requires completion of an LL.M. program and the following:

- Professional Responsibility (2 credits)
- Lawyering Skills and Strategies (2 credits)
- Introduction to American Law (2 credits)
- Six credits of courses that cover subjects tested on the NY bar (Rule 520.6(b)(3))

The following information combines the New York eligibility requirements with the Law Center program requirements (listed in *italics*).

#### **LL.M. in U.S. Law**

- *3 credits of Lawyering Skills and Strategies*
- *3 credits of Introduction to American Law*
- 3 credits of Professional Responsibility
- 6 credits of courses in subjects tested on New York bar examination
- 9 credits of other courses approved by faculty advisor
- Total: 24 credit hours

**Energy, Environment and Natural Resources LL.M.**  
**Intellectual Property & Information Law LL.M.**  
**International Law LL.M.**

- 3 credits of *Lawyering Skills and Strategies*
- 3 credits of *Introduction to American Law*
- 3 credits of Professional Responsibility
- 6 credits of courses in subjects tested on New York bar examination
- 15 credits of *concentration-specific coursework*
- Total: 30 credit hours

**Health Law LL.M**

**Tax Law LL.M.**

- 3 credits of *Lawyering Skills and Strategies*
- 3 credits of *Introduction to American Law*
- 3 credits of Professional Responsibility
- 6 credits of courses in subjects tested on New York bar examination
- 18 credits of *concentration-specific coursework\**
- Total: 33 credit hours

\*Students admitted to the Tax program who have not taken a Federal Income Tax course are required to take the course during their first semester in the LL.M. program. The four credit course does *not* count toward the 24 credit program requirement or the 18 credits of tax coursework requirement.

**New York Bar Examination**  
**Approved Courses**

The following University of Houston Law Center courses have been approved by the New York Court of Appeals as meeting the eligibility requirements for the New York Bar Examination. Applicants who earned their law degree outside of the United States must complete six *credits* of coursework on subjects tested on the New York Bar Exam *and* three specific courses: Professional Responsibility, Lawyering Skills & Strategies, and Introduction to American Law.

**Approved under Rule 520.6 subdivision (3)(vi)(a):**

- Professional Responsibility (3 credits)

**Approved under Rule 520.6 subdivision (3)(vi)(b):**

- Lawyering Skills & Strategies (3 credits)

**Approved under Rule 520.6 subdivision (3)(vi)(c):**

- Introduction to American Law (3 credits)

**Approved under Rule 520.6 subdivision (3)(vi)(d):\***

- Business Organizations (4 credits)
- Conflicts of Laws (3 credits)
- Contracts (4 credits)
- Remedies (2 credits)
- Criminal Procedure: The Investigation Process (3 credits)
- Criminal Procedure: The Adjudication Process (3 credits)
- Evidence (3 credits)
- Constitutional Law (4 credits)
- Federal Courts (3 credits)
- Federal Jurisdiction/Federal Courts (3 credits)
- Procedure I (4 credits)
- First Amendment (3 credits)
- Family Law (3 credits)
- Property (4 credits)
- Torts (4 credits)
- Product Liability (3 credits)
- Trusts & Wills (3 credits)
- Sales & Leasing (3 credits)

\*Not all courses are offered every semester.