

**Bar Examination for Non-US Educated Lawyers
Texas**

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

The answer is “yes” and “no”. To practice law within the United States, both US-educated and foreign-trained lawyers must first pass the bar examination and be admitted in the state in which they intend to practice. The requirements for bar admission vary from state to state and can be very complex. The eligibility requirements may include:

- Completion of a U.S. LL.M. degree earned from an ABA-approved law school
- Completion of specific courses within an LL.M. degree plan
- Licensed to practice in home country, and/or specific time frame of practice experience

Students considering taking a state bar exam 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, https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/bar_admissions/basic_overview/
- National Conference of Bar Examiners, A Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements (2021), <https://reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide/#>
- Texas Board of Law Examiners, <https://ble.texas.gov/rule13>

UHLC LL.M. Degree Plan Requirements

1. The LL.M. degree plan requires the completion of a minimum of 24 credit. Courses are designed 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 class course meets for two hours each week for one semester. The fall semester runs from August-December and the spring semester runs from January-May. All course selections must be approved by the student’s faculty advisor.
2. Lawyers who earned their 1st law degree outside of the United States are required to take 5319-Introduction to American Law and 5314-Lawyering Skills & Strategies their first semester of enrollment, regardless of degree plan selection.
3. 5319-Introduction to American Law and 5314-Lawyering Skills & Strategies are the only required courses in the LL.M. in U.S. Law degree plan. All other course are selected to meet personal or professional goals, such as meeting bar eligibility requirements.
4. Students in a concentration LL.M. degree plan are required to complete a specific number of concentration-specific courses:

Energy Environment and Natural Resources Law LL.M. (EENR)	15 credits of EENR coursework
Health Law*	18 credits of Health coursework
Intellectual Property & Information Law LL.M. (IPIL)	15 credits of IPIL coursework
International Law (INTL)	15 credits of INTL coursework
Tax Law*	18 credits of Tax coursework

*Specific specialty course(s) required, see program requirement chart for details

Texas Bar Exam – Curriculum Requirements

To meet Texas bar exam eligibility requirements, students graduating AFTER October 1, 2016 must meet curriculum requirements by taking certain courses during the LL.M. program.

- 6321-Professional Responsibility
- 5314-Lawyering Skills & Strategies
- 5319-Introduction to American Law
- Six credit hours of coursework that are in subjects tested on the Texas Bar Exam

Students completing a concentration/specialty LL.M. degree plan such as International Law LL.M. will need to complete 27 to 33 credits to meet both LL.M. degree plan and Texas bar exam eligibility requirements. Students admitted to the LL.M. in U.S. Law degree plan can meet both program and bar exam requirements within 24 credits.

PROGRAM/SPECIALTY	TOTAL CREDITS	REQUIRED COURSEWORK ¹	TEXAS BAR CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL CREDITS
Energy, Environment & Natural Resources LL.M.	24	15 credits of EENR coursework, Introduction to American Law (3 credits) and Lawyering Skills (3 credits)	Professional Responsibility & 6 credits	30
Health Law LL.M.	24	18 credits of health law coursework, (including 5108-Advanced Health Law), Introduction to American Law (3 credits) and Lawyering Skills (3 credits)	Professional Responsibility & 6 credits	33
Intellectual Property & Information Law LL.M.	24	15 credits of IPIL law coursework, Introduction to American Law (3 credits) and Lawyering Skills (3 credits)	Professional Responsibility & 6 credits	30
International Law LL.M.	24	15 credits of INTL law coursework, Introduction to American Law (3 credits) and Lawyering Skills (3 credits)	Professional Responsibility & 6 credits	30
Tax LL.M.	24	18 credits of tax law courses (including 5459-Federal Income Tax, 5288-Tax Ethics and 5151-Tax Research), Introduction to American Law (3 credits) and Lawyering Skills (3 credits)	Professional Responsibility & 6 credits	27 to 30
LL.M. in U.S. Law	24	Introduction to American Law (3 credits) and Lawyering Skills (3 credits) ²	Professional Responsibility & 6 credits	24

¹ Introduction to American Law & Lawyering Skills and Strategies are both LL.M. degree plan and bar eligibility courses.

² Introduction to American Law & Lawyering Skills and Strategies are the only required courses for this degree plan.

TO MEET BOTH LL.M. DEGREE PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TEXAS BAR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

LL.M. in U.S. Law

- 3 credits of *Introduction to American Law-5319*
- 3 credits of *Lawyering Skills and Strategies-5314*
- 3 credits of Professional Responsibility-6321
- 6 credits of courses in subjects tested on Texas bar exam
- 9 credits of other courses approved by advisor
- Total: 24 credit hours

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

- 3 credits of *Lawyering Skills and Strategies (5314)*
- 3 credits of *Introduction to American Law (5319)*
- 3 credits of Professional Responsibility (6321)
- 6 credits of courses in subjects tested on Texas bar exam
- 15 credits of *concentration-specific coursework*
- Total: 30 credit hours

Health Law LL.M.

- 3 credits of *Lawyering Skills and Strategies (5314)*
- 3 credits of *Introduction to American Law (5319)*
- 3 credits of Professional Responsibility (6321)
- 6 credits of courses in subjects tested on Texas bar exam
- 18 credits of *concentration-specific coursework (Including 5108-Advanced Health Law)*
- Total: 33 credit hours

Tax Law LL.M.

- 3 credits of *Lawyering Skills and Strategies (5314)*
- 3 credits of *Introduction to American Law (5319)*
- 3 credits of Professional Responsibility (6321)
- 6 credits of courses in subjects tested on Texas bar exam
- 18 credits of *concentration-specific coursework (Including 5459-Federal Income Tax, 5288-Tax Ethics, and 5151-Tax Research)*
- Total: 27 to 30 credit hours

TEXAS BAR EXAM – APPROVED COURSES

Applicants who earned their law degree outside of the United States must complete *six* credits of coursework on subject matter tested on the Texas bar exam and three specific courses: Introduction to American Law, Lawyering Skills and Strategies and Professional Responsibility. The following University of Houston Law Center courses have been approved by the Texas Board of Law Examiners as meeting the eligibility requirements for the Texas bar examination.

Rule XIII(9)(a)(7)(C)

Introduction to American Law -5319 (3 credits)

Rule XIII(9)(a)(7)(B)

Lawyering Skills & Strategies -5314 (3 credits)

Rule XIII(9)(a)(7)(A)

Professional Responsibility -6321 3 credits [Distance Learning course does not meet the requirement]

Rule XIII(9)(a)(7)(D): Six credits from the courses listed below:³

* These classes account for over 65% of the content tested on the UBE.

Bankruptcy (course 5365) 3 credits

Business Organizations (course 5421) 4 credits

Civil Procedure* (course 5406) 4 credits

Constitutional Law* (course 5488) 4 credits

Criminal Procedure: Adjudication Process (course 5350) 3 credits

Contracts* (course 5409) 4 credits

Estate Planning (course 5368) 3 credits [Tax Specialty Course]

Evidence* (course 5357) 3 credits

Family Law (course 5383) 3 credits

Federal Income Tax (course 5459) 4 credits [Tax Specialty Course]

Federal Courts (5308) 3 credits

First Amendment (course 5312) 3 credits

Insurance Law (course 5369) 3 credits

Landlord & Tenant (course 5318) 3 credits

Land Use (course 5338) 3 credits

Marital Property Rights (course 5340) 3 credits

Payment Systems (course 6346) 3 credits

Products Liability (course 5311) 3 credits

Property (course 5408) 4 credits

Remedies (course 5356) 3 credits

Sales & Leasing (course 5358) 3 credits

Secured Financing (course 6347) 3 credits

Torts* (course 5418) 4 credits

Trusts & Wills (course 5339) 3 credits

³ Courses are typically not offered every semester.