

Technical Standards for Boston University School of Law LLM Programs

LLM graduates of Boston University School of Law must have a predictable level of competence across the range of knowledge and skills generally expected of lawyers. This allows clients, licensing and credentialing authorities, and other interested parties to rely on these competencies. The American Bar Association and state bar associations require some of these competencies; others come from widespread industry practice and expectations. In order to achieve these competencies, students must *enter* the Boston University School of Law able to do various functions, either with or without reasonable accommodation, and must maintain these abilities throughout law school in order to graduate. These functions, known as *technical standards*, are listed and described below.

Boston University is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities and for students for whom English is not their native language, who cannot satisfy these technical standards without accommodation. While these standards are not intended to deter any student who might be able to complete the requirements of the LLM curriculum with reasonable accommodation, students should be aware that:

1. Technical Standards are not waivable. If a student cannot meet these requirements with or without reasonable accommodation, then a student will not be able to enroll in or complete the LLM program and graduate.
2. Boston University adheres to a formal reasonable accommodation process through the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Reasonable accommodations are reviewed on a case-by-case basis through an interactive process between the student and ODS, in accordance with these technical standards. Accommodations are deemed unreasonable if they fundamentally alter an essential academic requirement that is necessary to the curriculum of the student's particular LLM program. This includes competence, knowledge and general lawyering skills both inside the classroom as well as in the practical environment. In those cases, the request for accommodations may be denied.
3. Because of the specialized skills involved in the practice of law, accommodations that were available and adequate in high school, undergraduate study, prior law studies and/or in standardized testing may not be appropriate, adequate, or reasonable when applied to the LLM at Boston University.

4. After reviewing the Technical Standards, prospective students who anticipate the need for reasonable accommodation for a disability or who are unsure as to whether they can satisfy the requirements of their anticipated LLM program even with reasonable accommodation for a disability must contact the Office of Disability Services. This contact must take place prior to matriculating to determine whether reasonable accommodations can be provided. If, at any point, a current student experiences or anticipates a need for reasonable accommodation for a disability, that student must contact the Office of Disability Services in a timely manner to determine whether reasonable accommodations can be provided. Candidates and current students with questions regarding these Technical Standards are also encouraged to contact the appropriate LLM program office for assistance.

5. International LLM students are expected to meet the same Technical Standards as U.S. students. Students whose native language is not English must be able to fulfill these requirements consistent with their level of English proficiency at the time of admission. Prospective students who anticipate the need for a communications accommodation in order to satisfy the requirements of their anticipated LLM program must contact the Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs or the director of their anticipated program prior to matriculation.

Description of Technical Standards

Technical Standards are not waivable. If a student cannot meet these requirements with or without reasonable accommodation, then a student will not be able to enroll or to complete the LLM program and graduate.

Intellectual and Conceptual Skills

Students must independently be able to learn to research, solve problems, apply concepts, and think critically, such that they can engage with materials and satisfy course requirements.

Time Management Skills

Students must be able to meet deadlines; keep scheduled appointments; and complete all classroom assignments, exams, and administrative tasks within the assigned timeframe.

Attendance and Exam Policy

Students must comply with the School of Law's policies on attendance and on exams and other assessments. Students must also satisfy the attendance, exam, and other assessment policies in all courses and academic offerings in which the student is enrolled.

Participation and Public Speaking

During class, students must be able to make public oral responses to questions from the instructor, from guest speakers, or from other students. In some classes, they must be able to make public oral presentations.

Communication Skills

Students must be able to communicate orally and in writing in an effective, efficient, mature, respectful, and professional manner. Students must be able to understand oral and written communications, including directions, corrections, and feedback and be able to respond effectively both orally and in writing. Students must be able to read and understand large amounts of written material as well as lectures and audio and video presentations.

Organizational Skills

Students must have the ability to set goals, to formulate a plan to accomplish those goals, and to implement such a plan. Students must be able to follow directions, to make reasonable inferences, and to organize and synthesize large amounts of information. Students must be able to organize ideas in order to communicate those ideas in writing and orally. Students must be able to understand deadlines and to meet them. Students must be able to manage competing demands and heavy workloads.

Behavioral Skills

Students must exercise good judgment, honesty, and integrity. Students must have appropriate professional interpersonal skills and be able to work successfully under stressful conditions with or without others. Students must be able to work alone, with other students, and with faculty and staff. Students must be able to work in teams, and in all cases to observe appropriate boundaries. Students must be able to handle courseloads and academic demands that may be mentally and emotionally

taxing. Students must be able to adapt to changing circumstances. Each student must be able to monitor his or her own behavior, act civilly, and adhere to all norms of ethical and professional conduct.

(Note: Some of the language above was taken from (sometimes verbatim), or modeled after, the requirements of other schools, departments, and universities. Please contact Boston University School of Law for attribution.)

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