



## **Boston University School of Law**

### *Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy*

This policy defines satisfactory academic progress for all Boston University School of Law financial aid recipients in the following LL.M. programs:

- LL.M. in Taxation, including the residential and online program, the Seven Semester J.D./LL.M. in Taxation, and the Six-Semester J.D./LL.M. in Taxation
- LL.M. in Banking and Financial Law, including the Seven Semester J.D./LL.M. in Banking and Financial Law and the Six-Semester J.D./LL.M. in Banking and Financial Law
- LL.M. in American Law
- LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law
- Executive LLM in International Business Law

The Director or Associate Director of each LL.M. program and, under certain circumstances, the Academic Standards Committee, the Graduate Tax Program Committee, the Graduate Program in Banking and Financial Law Committee, or the Executive LL.M. Committee determines whether or not a student is maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward the achievement of their LL.M. degree. The School of Law evaluates the satisfactory academic progress of each LL.M. student at the end of each payment period.

The Academic Standards Committee is comprised of a faculty chairperson and two other faculty members. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs are ex-officio members of the Committee.

The Graduate Tax Program Committee shall consist of the Director of the Graduate Tax Program, who shall serve as Chair of the Committee; the Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs; a member of the full-time faculty of the School of Law; and such other members of the full-time faculty of the School of Law and the adjunct faculty of the Graduate Tax Program as may be recommended by the Program Director and appointed by the Dean of the School of Law.

The Graduate Program in Banking and Financial Law Committee shall consist of the Director or Associate Director and such other members of the full-time faculty of the School of Law as may be recommended by the Program Director or Associate Director and appointed by the Dean of the School of Law.

The Executive LL.M. Committee is appointed by the Dean. The Academic Director of the Executive LL.M. program or his/her designee shall serve as Committee Chair.

Federal regulations require that schools establish satisfactory academic progress standards. To be eligible to receive any type of financial assistance, including federal loans, all students at Boston University must meet all applicable academic criteria for their program. The Law Financial Aid Office does not impose any academic progress criteria beyond the regulations and policies established by the School of Law. In order to retain their financial aid, students are required to comply with all academic requirements for their degree program. Students who fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress must be informed of their status and may be placed on financial aid probation. The standards of satisfactory progress measure a student's

performance which includes completion of required credits and coursework, the minimum required grade point average and the maximum time frame for completion of the degree.

### **Notification of Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Students who have not met the standards for satisfactory academic progress will receive written notification from their LL.M. program with copies to the Law Financial Aid Office.

Documentation of decisions concerning a student's status of satisfactory academic progress, probation, dismissal, appeal, reinstatement, or re-establishment of satisfactory academic progress shall be transmitted to the student and maintained in the student's academic file.

### **Probation**

Students who fail to meet academic progress criteria may be placed on financial aid probation. Failure to improve one's academic standing by the end of the probationary period will result in the loss of financial assistance until the student has regained satisfactory standing. The mere passage of time will not normally allow a student to regain financial aid eligibility.

Students placed on financial aid probation may appeal that decision by providing a documented change in their academic record that enables them to meet the academic criteria for satisfactory academic progress or documented extenuating circumstances.

Appeals will be reviewed by the Law Financial Aid Office, the Director of their LL.M. program, the Associate Dean of Students, the Academic Standards Committee or the Program Committee, as appropriate. All appeals may not be reviewed by all parties, but only those individuals necessary to confirm a student's satisfactory academic progress.

### **Appealing a Determination of Unsatisfactory Academic Progress**

A student may appeal the determination of a lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress with the Director or Associate/Assistant Director of their LL.M. program.

### **Withdrawal and Leaves of Absence**

Under ordinary circumstances, a student who takes a leave of absence will not jeopardize their financial aid eligibility. Students who are facing personal difficulties may benefit from a leave of absence if remaining enrolled would harm their academic standing.

- **Withdrawal in good standing.** Withdrawal in good standing becomes effective only upon submission of an official withdrawal form to their LL.M. program, whatever the reason for withdrawal, and whether or not the student seeks leave to return. No student may withdraw in good standing until all obligations to the University have been paid.
- **Leaves of absence.** A student seeking a temporary interruption of study may request a leave of absence. In addition to any special conditions imposed, the following rules apply to all leaves.
  - *Length.* Leaves ordinarily will not be granted for periods longer than one semester.
  - *Extension.* A student seeking to extend a leave must petition their LL.M. program before the leave has expired. The total length of a leave may not exceed two consecutive semesters.
  - *Return.* A student returning from a leave must inform their LL.M. program by the date specified by their LL.M. program. A student failing to give such notice may not return for that semester without the program's permission.
  - A student who takes a leave of absence is still expected to complete the program within the maximum timeframe for their program of study.

- **Students who withdrew without leave to return or whose leave has expired.** Such students must petition their LL.M. program for readmission to the School.

## **LL.M. in Taxation**

### **Completion of Required Credits and Grade Point Average**

All students in the LL.M. in Taxation program must fulfill the following requirements:

- Complete with a passing grade a minimum of 24 credits in the Graduate Tax Program curriculum (or elsewhere if approved).
- Earn a final average of at least 3.0 with no more than one grade of “D” (1.0).
- Receive not more than one grade below C-minus in elective courses.
- Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better after completion of 12 credits.
- Complete the five required courses unless excused by the Graduate Tax Program director.
- Satisfy the GTP tax ethics requirement either by completing TX914 (“Standards and Responsibilities in Tax Practice”) or by participating in the GTP Tax Ethics Program.
- Complete each course for which he or she is registered, including any additional courses beyond the required 24 credits, unless the course has been dropped.

### **Appealing a Determination of Unsatisfactory Academic Progress**

A student, who is dropped from the Graduate Tax Program for failure to fulfill the degree requirements or otherwise, may petition the Graduate Tax Program Committee for reinstatement.

### **Maximum Time Frame**

A full-time student must complete the Degree Requirements in two consecutive academic semesters. A part-time student must complete the Degree Requirements in not more than eight consecutive semesters. With the written approval of the Program Director, a student may change his or her status from full-time to part-time or the converse.

### **Seven-Semester and Six-Semester J.D. /LL.M. in Taxation**

Through the Seven-Semester program, the School of Law offers qualified Boston University J.D. candidates the opportunity to earn an LL.M. in Taxation with only one semester of full time post-J.D. study. BU Law J.D. students are given advanced standing toward the LL.M. degree for 12 credits in qualified tax courses taken as a part of the J.D. course of study. (Credit will not be given toward the LL.M. degree for Graduate Tax Program courses which are in whole or in part repetitive of courses taken in the J.D. curriculum.)

Students in the six-semester program who complete all requirements of the LL.M. program will be awarded the LL.M. in Taxation degree in addition to the J.D. degree upon graduation. Those who do not meet the LL.M. degree requirements, but otherwise meet the J.D. requirements, will receive the J.D. but not also the LL.M. A student who does not meet the J.D. degree requirements will not be awarded the LL.M. degree, even if he or she has met the requirements for the LL.M. degree.

### **Completion of Required Credits and Grade Point Average**

- A seven-semester student must earn a total of 24 credits in qualified tax courses.
- Earn a final average of at least 3.0 with no more than one grade of “D” (1.0).
- Complete the basic Federal Income Taxation course (for which credit toward the LL.M. degree is not given) and 12 or more additional credits of qualified tax courses (12 of which may be credited toward both the LL.M. and the J.D. degree programs.) **These latter courses must include at least one corporate tax course and at least one partnership tax course.**
- Receive grades of B (3.0) or better in the above referenced courses.
- Satisfy the GTP tax ethics requirement either by completing TX914 (“Standards and Responsibilities in Tax Practice”) or by participating in the GTP Tax Ethics Program.

- For the Seven-Semester program, the Academic Regulations for the J.D. Program apply to students who have been offered admission to the Seven-Semester Program until they receive their J.D. degrees. Thereafter, the Academic Regulations of the Graduate Tax Program apply. A student may request relief from this, or any other Seven Semester Program requirement, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Academic Regulations of the Graduate Tax Program.
- For the Six-Semester program, both the Academic Regulations for the J.D. Program and the Academic Regulations for the Graduate Tax Program apply once a student has been admitted to the Six-Semester program.

The Associate Dean for Student Affairs, the School of Law Registrar and, under certain circumstances, the Academic Standards Committee determines whether or not a student is maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward the achievement of their JD degree. The Director and the Graduate Tax Program Committee will determine whether or not a student is maintaining satisfactory progress toward their LL.M. degree.

### **LL.M. in Banking and Financial Law**

#### **Completion of Required Credits and Grade Point Average**

All students in the Graduate Program in Banking and Financial Law program must fulfill the following requirements:

- Earn 24 passing credits.
- Earn a final average of at least 3.0 with no more than one grade of D (1.0) or F (0.0).

Students who earn a GPA of less than 3.0 must retake coursework or complete additional coursework as required by the Graduate Program in Banking and Financial Law.

#### **Maximum Time Frame**

Students must complete the Graduate Program in Banking and Financial Law program in no more than 2 semesters for full-time students or 8 semesters for part-time students. Students who cannot complete the program in consecutive semesters must receive approval from the Graduate Program in Banking and Financial Law committee.

#### **Seven-Semester and Six-Semester J.D. /LL.M. in Banking and Financial Law**

Through the Seven-Semester program, the School of Law offers qualified Boston University J.D. candidates the opportunity to earn an LL.M. in Banking and Financial Law with only one semester of full time post-J.D. study. BU Law J.D. students are given advanced standing toward the LL.M. degree for 12 credits in qualified banking courses taken as a part of the J.D. course of study.

Students in the six-semester program who complete all requirements of the LL.M. program will be awarded the LL.M. in banking and Financial Law degree in addition to the J.D. degree upon graduation. Those who do not meet the LL.M. degree requirements, but otherwise meet the J.D. requirements, will receive the J.D. but not also the LL.M. A student who does not meet the J.D. degree requirements will not be awarded the LL.M. degree, even if he or she has met the requirements for the LL.M. degree.

#### **Completion of Required Credits and Grade Point Average**

- A seven-semester student must earn a total of 24 credits.
- Earn a final average of at least 3.0 with no more than one grade of D (1.0) or F (0.0).
- To be accepted to the Seven-Semester Program, students must complete three prerequisite courses: *Corporations*, *Government Regulation of Financial Services*, and *Business Law: The UCC*.

- To be accepted to the Six- Semester Program, students must complete three prerequisite courses: *Corporations*, *Government Regulation of Financial Services*, and *Business Law: The UCC*. Students in this program will be granted 10 credit hours for these courses.
- The Academic Regulations for the J.D. Program apply to students who have been offered admission to the Seven Semester Program until they receive their J.D. degrees. Thereafter, the Academic Regulations of the Graduate Program in Banking and Financial Law apply.
- For the Six-Semester program, both the Academic Regulations for the J.D. Program and the Academic Regulations for the Banking and Financial Law Program apply once a student has been admitted to the Six-Semester program.

The Associate Dean for Student Affairs, the School of Law Registrar and, under certain circumstances, the Academic Standards Committee determines whether or not a student is maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward the achievement of their JD degree. The Director and the Banking and Financial Law Program Committee will determine whether or not a student is maintaining satisfactory progress toward their LL.M. degree.

### **LL.M. in American Law**

#### **Completion of Required Credits and Grade Point Average**

All students in the LL.M. in American Law program must fulfill the following requirements:

- Complete not less than 24 credit hours in two semesters of residence, with at least 10, and no more than 18, credit hours in each semester.
- Complete and achieve a passing grade in all required courses.
- All students must take "Introduction to American Law" and a Legal Research and Writing seminar (unless waived with the Director's permission) and participate in a graduate colloquium, "Topics in American Law."
- Obtain a final weighted cumulative average of at least C+ (2.3) for all courses (including seminars) taken.
- Receive not more than one grade of C-(1.7), D (1.0) or F (0.0) in elective classes.

#### **Appealing a Determination of Unsatisfactory Academic Progress**

Any student who at the end of the year, has failed to satisfy the requirements for the LL.M. degree must petition the Director with a specific proposal for completing outstanding requirements. The Director shall report the matter to the Academic Standards Committee, along with a recommendation. The Committee shall, in turn, report the matter to the Faculty with its recommendation. The Faculty may then direct either that the student be dropped from the Program or, where appropriate, that the student complete specified work to satisfy degree requirements.

#### **Maximum Time Frame**

Unless the Director of the Office of Foreign Programs grants a waiver in a particular case, each student must complete all requirements in the same academic year that he/she begins the LL.M. in American Law Program.

### **LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law**

#### **Completion of Required Credits and Grade Point Average**

All students in the LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law program must fulfill the following requirements:

- Complete not less than 24 credits in courses taken in the LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law Program curriculum, with at least 10, and no more than 18 credit hours in each semester.
- Complete three of the following four core courses: Intellectual Property; Copyright; Patents; and Trademark and Unfair Competition

- Complete a three-credit analytical writing in intellectual property law (a thesis), either through a seminar or an independent project
- If foreign trained, complete two introductory two-credit classes: Introduction to American Law and a Legal Research and Writing Seminar, unless waived with the Director's permission
- Complete and achieve a passing grade in all required courses
- Obtain a final weighted cumulative average of at least C+ (2.3) for all courses (including seminars) taken.
- Receive not more than one grade of C- (1.7), D (1.0) or F (0.0) in elective classes.

### **Appealing a Determination of Unsatisfactory Academic Progress**

Any student who at the end of the year, has failed to satisfy the requirements for the LL.M. degree must petition the Director with a specific proposal for completing outstanding requirements. The Director shall report the matter to the Academic Standards Committee, along with a recommendation. The Committee shall, in turn, report the matter to the Faculty with its recommendation. The Faculty may then direct either that the student be dropped from the Program or, where appropriate, that the student complete specified work to satisfy degree requirements.

### **Maximum Time Frame**

Unless the Director of the Office of Foreign Programs grants a waiver in a particular case, each student must complete all requirements in the same academic year that he/she begins the LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law Program.

## **Executive LLM in International Business Law**

### **Completion of Required Credits and Grade Point Average**

All students in the LL.M. in International Business Law program must fulfill the following requirements:

- Complete not less than 20 credit hours in the Executive LL.M. curriculum, including all required courses and workshops with an overall grade of 3.0 ("B").
- Fourteen (14) of the credits must be from courses or colloquia that have a residential component unless a hardship waiver is granted allowing a student to complete eleven (11) residential credits.
- All students must take "Corporations and Contracts" (unless waived) and "International Business Transactions and Agreements" and two (2) of the 1-credit colloquia "Current Issues in U.S. Business Law".

### **Appealing a Determination of Unsatisfactory Academic Progress**

Any student who has failed to satisfy the requirements for the LL.M. degree must petition the Executive LL.M. with a specific proposal for completing outstanding requirements. The Committee may then direct either that the student be dropped from the Program or, where appropriate, that the student complete specified work to satisfy degree requirements.

### **Maximum Time Frame**

Unless the Director of the Executive LL.M. in Business Law program grants a waiver in a particular case, each student must complete all requirements in four (4) calendar years from the date that he/she begins the LL.M. in International Business Law.

## **Extended LLM (3 semester)/Two Year LLM**