



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

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## University Council

August 17, 2018

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the School of Law to offer the existing Master in the Study of Law (M.S.L.) on the Buckhead Campus will be an agenda item for the August 24, 2018, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Interim Provost Libby Morris  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

**Proposal for an External Degree  
The University of Georgia**

**Institution:** University of Georgia

**Date:** June 13, 2018

**College/School/Division:** School of Law

**Department:** School of Law

**Degree (please indicate whether this is a stand-alone degree):** Master in the Study of Law (M.S.L.)  
(standalone degree)

**Major:** Law

**CIP Code:** 22020102

**Proposed Start Date:** Spring 2019

**Introduction:**

In 2014, the Law School received final approval to begin offering the Master in the Study of Law (M.S.L.) degree. This is a program for individuals interested in developing an understanding of the legal system or in a particular field that intersects with other professional or academic interests, and who are not interested in becoming attorneys. The Law School has been offering this degree since the program's approval. M.S.L. students must complete thirty credit hours for the degree. All but three of these credits are earned by taking classes side-by-side with the Law School's J.D. students. The three credit hours unique to M.S.L. students are offered in a mandatory class that introduces these students to the American legal system.

In 2016, the Law School began offering its J.D. students the opportunity to spend a semester in Atlanta through a field study program. As part of that program, students take classes at the UGA Buckhead campus. Some of the Law School's M.S.L. students have also chosen to take classes offered at the Buckhead campus. Because of the number of courses the Law School has offered in Atlanta, no M.S.L. student could have come close to taking 50% of his/her credit hours in Atlanta.

The Law School is now preparing to expand the number of course offerings at the Buckhead campus. As a result of this expansion, an M.S.L. student will be able to complete the thirty (30) credit hours required for the degree on the Buckhead campus.

As discussed below, the Law School assesses that there is a market of potential students who are interested in the M.S.L. degree and have the ability to complete most or all of it in Atlanta. Students will continue to be able to complete all of their credits toward the degree in Athens, a mix of courses in Athens and Atlanta tailored to their professional goals and needs, or in Atlanta.

Consequently, the Law School now seeks approval to offer the M.S.L. degree in Atlanta, which necessitates this Proposal for an External Degree.

**1. Assessment**

A needs assessment demonstrating a sufficient pool of qualified applicants.

As detailed in the Law School's original proposal to offer the M.S.L. degree, numerous law schools around the country are now offering M.S.L. or equivalent degrees. The degree is of particular interest to professionals seeking to enhance their careers. Because Atlanta is the regional (and increasingly, a national) hub and employment market, the Law School assesses that there will be considerable interest among students for this program.

Of particular note, Emory Law School offers an equivalent degree in Atlanta and matriculated roughly 50 students each year, who pay much higher tuition than the Law School's in-state tuition. In addition, the Law School has contacted employers in Atlanta, including law firms, lobbyists, state agencies, and others, who have indicated that they would value the degree and would encourage employees in relevant positions to pursue the degree. Finally, since 2014, the Law School routinely fields inquiries as to whether it is possible to earn the degree in Atlanta.

For these reasons, the Law School assesses that there is market demand in Atlanta for an M.S.L. degree offered by UGA that can be completed or substantially completed in Atlanta.

No University in the USG offers this or an equivalent degree in Atlanta, and the UGA School of Law is the only public institution in the State of Georgia to offer this or an equivalent degree.

## **2. Admission Requirements**

All requirements for admission to an External Academic Degree Program will be the same as those for the same degree at an authorized unit.

The admission requirements for students who choose to take most or all of their courses in Atlanta will be identical to the current requirements for Athens campus M.S.L. students who now earn all or most of their credits in Athens, in the Law School's already-approved M.S.L. degree program.

## **3. Program Content**

The basic curriculum of the program will be equivalent to the authorized unit's approved program. The criteria for electives or substitutions for specific requirements will be equivalent at both (or all) locations.

The curriculum of the program will be identical to the Law School's M.S.L. program offered in Athens. Specifically, all M.S.L. students are required to take an introductory course on the American legal system, and then to complete their degree by taking classes with J.D. students and with individualized study with Law School faculty. The only change is that the Law School will now offer the introductory course in both Athens and Atlanta, and enough classes in Atlanta to allow an M.S.L. student to complete the degree there.

## **4. Student Advising**

Each student must have reasonable access to an advisor or advisory committee.

Professor Hillel Y. Levin is the Director of UGA Law in Atlanta, which houses the Law School's Atlanta-based academic programs. Professor Levin spends substantial time onsite in Atlanta (including teaching some of the courses offered by the Law School) and will be readily available to advise M.S.L. students in Atlanta. In addition, students will be advised by Allison Hale, the Law School's Director of Academic Enhancement Program and the Faculty Advisor for the M.S.L. Program, by phone, Skype, eLC, etc. Finally, when students require additional advice and support, Professors Levin and Hale will facilitate communication with appropriate faculty and staff.

## **5. Resident Requirements**

Residence requirements will be identical to those established for the authorized degree program with residence at the approved location serving to meet that requirement.

Residence requirements remain the same.

## **6. Program Management**

Each proposal must contain a specified plan for program maintenance and program quality. This plan will provide contact persons at cooperating units, a detailed timetable, and complete plans for application and matriculation of students. In addition, specific plans should be provided concerning the schedule of courses, the duration of the program, program review, and possible duplication with other programs in the immediate area.

M.S.L. students currently take 27 out of 30 credits in classes with J.D. students and/or under the direct supervision of Law School faculty. The courses the Law School offers in Atlanta are of the highest quality and are taught by Law School faculty and part-time non-permanent instructors with specialized expertise of particular interest to M.S.L. students. The courses are the same as those offered in Athens, with the same quality and the same instructional faculty.

M.S.L. students would choose to take their mandatory three-credit introductory course in Athens or in Atlanta. In Athens, the course is taught by Allison Hale, the Law School's Director of Academic Enhancement Program and the Faculty Advisor for the M.S.L. Program. In Atlanta, the course will be taught by Judge Timothy Batten, a Federal Judge with extensive teaching experience.

In addition, Professor Hillel Y. Levin is the Director of UGA Law in Atlanta, which houses the Law School's Atlanta-based academic programs. He spends substantial time onsite in Atlanta (including teaching some of the courses offered by the Law School).

M.S.L. students may currently take one to three years to complete the degree, depending on the number of credits earned each semester. A student choosing to complete all credit hours in Atlanta may complete the degree program in two years on a part-time basis.

In all other respects, the M.S.L. program, courses, matriculation, and timetable will be identical for students in the already-approved Athens-based M.S.L. program.

No University in the USG offers this or an equivalent degree in Atlanta, and the UGA School of Law is the only public institution in the State of Georgia to offer this or an equivalent degree.

## **7. Library and Laboratory Resources**

The proposal must include a review of existing library and laboratory (or other specialized resources) at the host location. If deficiencies exist, the proposal must include a plan, including timetable and budget, for alleviating the deficiencies.

No additional library resources are necessary, as all necessary materials are available through online databases available to M.S.L. students. In the event that relevant physical books or other materials are of interest to an M.S.L. student located in Atlanta, the Law School's faculty and library staff will facilitate the transfer of materials.

Laboratory resources are not required.

## **8. Budget**

The budget must provide a realistic estimate of the costs of developing and implementing a quality program. Consequently, each program budget must contain detailed estimates -- specified separately for authorized and cooperating units -- concerning faculty and staff positions, library, laboratory, and other specialized facility resource requirements, travel and other significant operating expenses. If the support for the program is the result of an internal reallocation of resources, explicit details should be included in the proposal. The budget must reflect the start-up costs of the program, projected costs for completion of the first cycle of students, and additional costs associated with any future cycles of students.

The Law School has instructional capacity at the Buckhead campus to offer M.S.L. students the opportunity to complete all or most of their credits in Atlanta. This will require only two additional sources of expenditure. These are:

- (1) The instructional cost of offering the once-yearly three-credit introductory course in Atlanta that all M.S.L. students must take. The anticipated cost for this is \$25,000 annually.
- (2) The cost to rent additional classroom space on the Buckhead campus each year to house M.S.L. students. This space will be leased from the UGA Division of Development & Alumni Relations, located in

the same building as the Law School's current space in the Terry Executive Education Center. The cost for this is \$1,470 annually.

Thus, the total annual cost to offer the M.S.L. degree program in Atlanta is \$26,470. This cost will be covered by the Law School's regular operating budget, including through the standard tuition for M.S.L. students, with no additional cost to the University or to students.

**9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Any costs beyond those normally associated with the program on campus must be spelled out and justified.

No additional costs assessed to students are anticipated.

**10. Accreditation**

Appropriate accreditation procedures will be carried out by the authorized institution.

No additional accreditation procedures are required.

## Approvals on File

**Proposal:** Offer the existing Master in the Study of Law (M.S.L.) on the Buckhead Campus

**College:** School of Law

**Proposed Effective Term:** Spring 2019

School/College:

- UGA Law in Atlanta Director, Mr. Hillel Levin, 5/10/2018
- School of Law Dean, Mr. Peter Rutledge, 7/24/2018