



Courses Taught in English

Students are required to have strong writing and verbal skills in English, and a solid understanding of legal theory and analysis. For students who need to improve their English prior to beginning the LL.M. program, Valparaiso University offers a program called Interlink. The **INTERLINK Language Center at Valparaiso University (VU)** provides international students with ESL (English as a Second Language) training, cultural orientation and academic preparation as well as conditional admission to assure a successful and memorable educational experience in the United States. Students whose test scores indicate that they would benefit from the INTERLINK program will be referred to them by the LL.M. Program Director.

Summer Legal English Program

LL.M. students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Summer Legal English program prior to matriculation in the LL.M. program. (Interlink students will be required to attend the Summer Legal

English program). This intensive, 3 week program is designed to introduce LL.M. students to legal vocabulary, legal analysis, written advocacy, and the Socratic method. Students will have the opportunity to improve both their written and oral English skills, become acquainted with American-style higher education, and engage in social activities designed to introduce them to their classmates and to American culture.

Financial Assistance and Scholarships

Valparaiso University Law School offers financial assistance for LL.M. students, including generous scholarships. Applicants are also encouraged to seek funding from outside sources, such as home governments and employers. Many applications for outside funding are due in October and November for enrollment the following August, so students should seek out these opportunities as early as possible.

All incoming LL.M. students will be evaluated for scholarship funding based on their completed application for admission.



The Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program in American Law

at Valparaiso University Law School is designed for foreign-educated lawyers who wish to enhance their understanding of the American legal system as a way to improve their career prospects in their home country. Students completing the program may also choose to apply to take the U.S. bar examination in certain states.

The LL.M. curriculum is flexible enough to allow students to explore individual interests while providing a rigorous introduction to the American legal system.

Valparaiso University Law School provides LL.M. students with:

- Access to many courses offered by the law school, allowing opportunities to explore individual interests;
- A customized study plan based on each student's educational and career goals;
- A solid basis of courses on various areas of American law;
- Access to the Career Planning and Placement Office, along with workshops on the practice of law in the United States; and
- Inclusion in a growing, campus-wide community of scholars and students.

Program Curriculum

LL.M. students combine required courses and electives, in conjunction with their advisor, to create an individual academic program designed to meet their academic and professional goals. Required courses include:

- Legal Research and Writing for LL.M. Students (3 credits)
- Introduction to American Law and Legal Education (2 credits)

Students may choose an additional 19-25 credits from the courses at the Law School and Graduate School. Valparaiso University Law School offers a wide array of courses in criminal law, corporate law, civil law, litigation, intellectual property, family law, and many others

Student Life

Valparaiso University Law School enjoys a close relationship with the main campus' Office of International Programs. The Office of International Programs is dedicated to serving the special needs of international students and creates a supportive environment in which to live

and study. The Office coordinates all visa paperwork, and provides a community for students to connect with other international students outside of the law school. For more information on International Students and Scholars, please visit the website at http://www.valpo.edu/international/international_students/index.php

Living in Valparaiso

The city of Valparaiso, with a population of approximately 31,000, offers a thriving downtown with numerous dining and entertainment options, a safe and diverse college town environment, and close proximity to Lake Michigan and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Valparaiso Law students take advantage of numerous externship, internship, and pro bono opportunities in the city of Chicago 55 miles to the northwest, in the state capital—Indianapolis—in the summers, and in Valparaiso itself—the county seat—where the courthouse and many social service agencies are located within walking distance of the Law School.

Admission Requirements

LL.M. students must submit the following to the Valparaiso University Law School Office of International Programs to be considered for admission:

- Completed Application for Admission;
- Original transcripts from all degree-granting institutions, translated into English if necessary;
- A personal statement;
- Resume or CV;
- 2 letters of recommendation;
- Copy of current license to practice law (if applicable);
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or other English as a Second/Foreign language test scores;
- \$60 application fee; and
- Transcript evaluation report (LSAC is preferred).

Additional documents, such as copies of passports and an affidavit of financial support will be required prior to matriculation.