

**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 in the United States, both US-educated lawyers and foreign-trained lawyers must pass the bar examination and be admitted in the state in which they intend to practice. Each state establishes requirements for eligibility to take the bar examination in that state, and eligibility requirements vary from state-to-state. The eligibility requirements may include:

- Completion of a U.S. LL.M. degree at an ABA-accredited school
- Completion of specific courses within an LL.M. program
- Practice in their home country for a specific period of time
- Licensed to practice in home country

Students considering taking a bar examination 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, http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/bar_admissions/basic_overview.html
- National Conference of Bar Examiners, *A Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements* (2017), <http://www.ncbex.org/pubs/bar-admissions-guide/2017/index.html>
- Texas Board of Law Examiners, www.ble.state.tx.us.
- New York bar examination, <http://www.nybarexam.org>

UHLC LL.M. REQUIREMENTS

- The LL.M. degree requires the completion of a minimum of 24 credits. Courses are designated 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 course meets for two hours each week for one semester. The fall semester is August-December and the spring semester is January-May. All course selections must be approved by the student’s faculty advisor.
- Lawyers who earned their degree outside of the United States are required to take Introduction to American Law (5319) and Lawyering Skills and Strategies (5314).

- In addition to these two courses, students in a concentration/specialty, such as International Law, are required to complete a specific number of concentration-specific courses:

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR)	15 credits of EENR coursework
Health Law*	18 credits of Health coursework
Intellectual Property & Information Law (IPIL)	15 credits of IPIL coursework
International Law (IL)	15 credits of IL coursework
Tax Law*	18 credits of tax coursework

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

- Introduction to American Law (5319) and Lawyering Skills and Strategies (5314) are the only required courses for the LL.M. in U.S. Law program. All other courses are selected to meet personal or professional goals, such as meeting bar eligibility requirements.

TEXAS BAR EXAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

Professional Responsibility (6321)
 Lawyering Skills and Strategies (5314)
 Introduction to American Law (5319)
 Six credits of coursework that are in subjects tested on the Texas Bar Exam

- Students in a concentration/specialty program such as Intellectual Property will complete more than 24 credits to meet both LL.M. program and Texas bar examination requirements. Students admitted to the LL.M. in U.S. law program 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 and 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 to 33
Health Law LL.M.	24	18 credits of health law courses (including 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 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 international 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 Federal Income Tax, Tax Ethics and Tax Research), Introduction to American Law (3 credits) and Lawyering Skills (3 credits)	Professional Responsibility & 6 credits	27 to 33
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 and Lawyering Skills and Strategies are both UHLC program and bar requirements.

2 Introduction to American Law and Lawyering Skills and Strategies are the only UHLC required courses for this program.

***TO MEET BOTH LL.M. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND TEXAS BAR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

LL.M. in U.S. Law

- 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 examination
- 9 credits of other courses approved by faculty advisor
- Total: 24 credit hours

LL.M. in Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, 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)
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- 6 credits of courses in subjects tested on Texas bar examination
- *15 credits of concentration-specific coursework*
- Total: 30 credit hours

LL.M. in Health Law or Tax Law

- *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 examination
- *18 credits of concentration-specific coursework (including required courses listed for concentration in chart above)*
- Total: 27 to 33 credit hours

TEXAS BAR EXAMINATION – APPROVED COURSES

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. Applicants who earned their law degree outside of the United States must complete six *credits* of coursework on subjects tested on the Texas bar *and* three specific courses: Professional Responsibility (6321), Lawyering Skills & Strategies (5314), and Introduction to American Law (6321).

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

Introduction to American Law (course 5319) 3 credits

Rule XII(9)(a)(7)(B)

Lawyering Skills and Strategies (course 5314) 3 credits

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

Professional Responsibility (course 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-

* Beginning in 2021, these classes account for over 65% of the content tested on the UBE.

Bankruptcy (course 5365) 3 credits

Business Organizations (course 5421) 4 credits

Constitutional Law* (course 5488) 4 credits

Criminal Procedure: The 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

³ Courses are typically not offered every semester.

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
Procedure* (course 5406) 4 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

^ If taking the bar exam before 2021, the below listed classes are also Bar Courses:

Oil & Gas Law^ (course 5355) 3 credits [EENR Specialty Course]
Pre-Trial Procedure^ (course 5320) 3 credits Texas
Consumer Law^ (course 5348) 3 credits Texas
Criminal Procedure^ (course 6348) 3 credits