

LL.M. Graduation Requirement Practical Skills vs. Research Track

To qualify for graduation, LL.M. candidates must either complete the *Practical Skills Track* or *Research Track*. International Legal Studies, Law & Government and Intellectual Property LL.M. students are automatically placed in the *Research Track* at the start of the LL.M. program. Advocacy LL.M. students are automatically placed in the *Practical Skills Track*. Students may change their graduation track at any time before the end of the add/drop period during their final semester. However, they can only change their track once. To change their track, ILSP, Law & Government and Intellectual Property students must fill out an Externship Contract form. Trial Advocacy students must fill out a Specialization Certification form.

• **Practical Skills Track:** LL.M. candidates in the *Practical Skills Track* must complete an externship in their discipline for academic credit during their studies. To receive academic credit for an externship, students must officially register for the externship through their individual LL.M. Program office and complete all of the corresponding academic requirements for the externship credits. Students who intend to receive a certificate of specialization or concentration through their LL.M. Program must contact their Academic Advisor regarding any additional writing requirements. Each LL.M. Program will be responsible for certifying the completion of the externship and additional requirements for individual specializations and concentrations. International students may not register for an externship until the second semester of their LL.M. program. Students should plan to complete the externship requirement within the first year of the LL.M. Program.

• **Research Track:** ILSP and Law & Government LL.M. candidates in the *Research Track* must complete at least 2 research papers during the LL.M. program that demonstrate legal writing knowledge and scholarship. Papers must be at least 20 pages long and may be written in connection with a WCL course or seminar or through an independent study writing project under the supervision of a faculty member. The writing requirement may be completed at any point during the LL.M. program. For internationally-trained students, the papers completed for the mandatory Legal Research & Writing component of American Legal Institutions (LAW-580-002) can qualify toward this requirement. Intellectual Property Candidates in the Research Track must participate in the IP Writing Seminar offered each fall and complete a 30 page (minimum) research paper. Trial Advocacy LL.M. students may satisfy the *Research Track* requirement through their work in an Advanced Trial Advocacy course approved by the Program. Students who intend to receive a certificate of specialization or concentration through their LL.M. Programs must contact their Academic Advisor regarding any additional writing requirements. Each LL.M. Program will be responsible for certifying the completion of the research component and additional requirements for individual specializations and concentrations. Students will submit the research paper information for final certification on the Specialization Request form during their final semester.

International Students:

LL.M. students on an F-1 visa must apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) in order to complete the *Practical Skills Track* externship requirement. CPT is different than Optional Practical Training (OPT). Applying for the CPT should not influence the amount of time you will be allotted under OPT guidelines.* Students must have an externship offer before applying to the *Practical Skills Track* and CPT.

To apply for CPT:

1. Read and agree to the terms of the *Practical Skills Track* section on the Externship Contract.
2. Submit the completed Externship Contract to the Office of International Student and Scholars Services (ISSS) in Butler Rm 410 on main campus for processing.
3. Ensure that you receive your authorization to begin your externship from ISSS before you begin working at your externship (processing takes 5-7 business days).

**Students engaging in 12 months of a full-time externship under CPT (21 hours or more per week) will lose eligibility for OPT after completion of the LL.M. program*