



University System of Ohio Board of Regents

John R. Kasich, Governor
Jim Petro, Chancellor

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI Master of Laws

Request:

The University of Cincinnati's College of Law requests approval for a new Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree.

Background:

The proposed new Master of Laws degree is designed for foreign-educated lawyers. The program will offer a rigorous course of legal studies that provides students with an understanding of the fundamentals of law in the United States, while also allowing students to develop knowledge in areas of study relevant to his or her legal practice. Students in the program will be a mix of individuals who have recently completed an undergraduate law degree, likely a Bachelor of Law (LL.B.), and attorneys who already have commenced practicing law in other countries. Because LL.M. students will take classes with students in the Juris Doctor program, all law students will benefit from increased diversity in the college and from a better understanding of the global context in which law is practiced today. The development of an LL.M. program will allow the college to respond to a new rule regarding bar admissions in Ohio. As of August 2010, the Supreme Court of Ohio requires that an applicant for admission to the bar whose legal education was not received in the U.S. must be able to show successful completion of 30 hours of coursework at an American Bar Association approved law school. Currently, the College has no formal way to serve students who wish to undertake U.S. legal studies to satisfy this rule.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The proposed program will require a minimum of twenty-four credit hours to be earned for the degree to be awarded. This generally will occur within one academic year. Some of the courses in the LL.M. are required (e.g., Introduction to U.S. Law, The U.S. Legal System, Legal Research & Writing for LL.M. Students), while others may be selected from those offered in the J.D. program. LL.M. students will be able to design a course of study that best advances their own professional agendas. This is particularly important, given that many LL.M. students will be professionals who already have developed an expertise or a defined field of practice in their home countries. Students wishing to seek admission to practice law in Ohio will be required to successfully complete 30 credit hours, 20 of which must cover topics required by the Ohio Supreme Court in order to apply to take the Ohio bar exam.

It is anticipated that 5 to 20 students will be enrolled in the LL.M. program, annually.

Faculty and Resources:

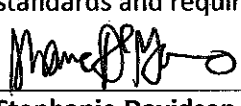
Adequate faculty, facilities and resources are in place to offer the proposed Master of Laws degree program.

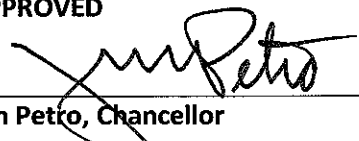
Recommendation:

The request for a new Master of Laws degree meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degrees, and the members of RACGS unanimously voted to recommend approval to the Chancellor.

End of Comment Period: December 7, 2011

No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

RECOMMENDATION	
The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs has verified that this institution has met the standards and requirements of the Ohio Board of Regents.	
 (Share DeGarmo Director of Program Approval)	12/9/11
Stephanie Davidson, Vice Chancellor	Date

APPROVED	
	12-12-11
Jim Petro, Chancellor	Date

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