

LLM in Medical Ethics and Law credit unit statement

The curriculum requires candidates to complete not fewer than 72 credits nor more than 78 credits with a total study load of not fewer than 1,800 learning hours nor more than 1950 learning hours. All law courses in the curriculum are 9-credit in value. We use 225 hours of student learning activities (including 36 contact hours) as the norm for a 9-credit course, except for the experiential course which normally involves 180 to 225 hours of student learning activities. Some of the courses are assessed with 100% continuous assessment. For courses assessed by a combination of coursework and examination, the actual percentages may range from 20% to 80% of respectively continuous assessment and in-hall examinations or vice versa. The Head of Department, on this basis, will ensure a proper balance in the allocation of weight to different modes of assessment. The four categories of law courses are summarized as follows:

1. Foundation courses (9 credits, 225 hours of student learning activities)

These are mostly courses emphasizing foundational legal concepts and institutional framework. They also include courses on cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as linguistic/technical skills. Introductory courses are taught in small or large seminar format and assessments are in the form of periodical assignments, short research papers with a total output of approximately 6000 to 7000 words and/or in-hall examinations (with coursework ranging between 20% - 80% and examinations 80%-20%)

2. Seminar courses (9 credits, 225 hours of student learning activities)

These courses offer specialized/advanced legal or cross-disciplinary knowledge. They are mainly taught in seminar format with heavy reliance on extensive reading before the seminars and active participation in class discussion. These courses aim to further enhance students' knowledge of legal concepts as well as analytical and evaluative skills. Assessment for this category of course is by way of a combination of class presentation, take-home examination, in-hall examination and/or research papers, with a total output of approximately 6000 to 7000 words.

3. Research course (9 credits, 225 hours of student learning activities)

This course aims to provide students with the theoretical insights and cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as an opportunity to pursue advanced and independent research. This course tries to help students develop original and critical thinking through independent research. A 9-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper on a legal topic likewise approved with required range from 8,000 to 10,000 words. The dissertation must provide evidence of original work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

4. Experiential course (9 credits, 180 - 225 hours of student learning activities)

The experiential course is the practicum project option. This course aims to familiarize students with the social/medical environment in which law operates and the practical dimension of medico-legal studies. They aim to offer opportunities for students to apply and test their medico-legal knowledge and critical and analytical legal skills they have learned in other courses. Students in this category of courses are expected to log a minimum of 120 hours and are assessed by a report of approximately 5000 words with intensive feedback from academic staff and/or practitioners.

Non-law electives

In addition to law courses, students will be required to select at least one non-law elective in order to broaden the scope of their studies. These non-law electives will be offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences and School of Public Health. Electives offered by the School of Public Health are 3-credit in value, whereas electives offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences are 6-credit in value. Candidates who choose a combination of law and non-law electives are allowed to take not fewer than 72 credits nor more than 78 credits in the case of a full-time study in one academic year, or not fewer than 36 credits nor more than 42 credits in the case of a part-time study in each of the two academic years of study (as long as the total study load does not exceed 78 credits). Non-law electives will consist of a total of 36 contact hours over the course of a semester. The learning hours for 3 credit and 6 credit electives are 60 hours and 120-180 hours respectively.

Faculty of Social Sciences electives:

Assessment for the Faculty of Social Sciences electives is 100% based on the continuous assessment of coursework. Assessment activities include term papers (40%-70%), reflective papers (0%-20%), group presentations (0%-40%) and powerpoint presentations (0% -30%), with the output requirement ranging from 1000-3000 words.

School of Public Health electives:

Assessment for the School of Public Health electives comprises continuous assessment of coursework (40%-100%) and written examinations (0%-60%). Assessment activities include essays, case study reports, presentations and debates, numerical and other assignments, with the output requirement ranging from 500-3000 words.