


October 30, 2024

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D. 
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Modality Modification: Executive LLM (Online)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the online modality for the Executive LLM in the School of Law.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2017 the Board of Trustees approved an Executive LLM program to be offered by the University of Connecticut School of Law at a partner institution, Hallym University of Graduate Studies (HUGS), a private institution in Seoul, South Korea. As the program was offered through in-person instruction at HUGS, approval from our institutional accreditor, NECHE, was required in order to offer the program. This approval was granted with an effective date of November 16, 2017.

The program has been successful, with enrollments at around 55-65 students in total each year. Students have taken the program while simultaneously enrolled in the HUGS Master of American Law program. The Washington DC Bar permits foreign law graduates to sit if the applicants have successfully completed 26 credits from an ABA-accredited law school in courses on subjects covered by the DC Bar Exam. Graduates of the Executive LLM program who have also graduated from a South Korean law school can therefore seek to qualify to sit for the DC Bar Exam.

The Executive LLM requires 24 credits. The curriculum courses of study correspond to the core LLM curriculum in US Law and cover subjects tested on the Uniform Bar Examination. The UConn School of Law is accredited by American Bar Association (ABA), primarily for the JD degree. ABA accreditation has a required process of "acquiescence" in order for a law school to offer the LLM degree, for which the UConn School of Law has been approved. However, the LLM program itself is not encompassed within the ABA programmatic accreditation.

Following the need to shift to online modalities during the COVID-19 pandemic, regulatory changes in South Korea mean that the program no longer has to be offered in person at the HUGS campus. As the original approval related to in-person instruction, formal approval for online modality is required, effective from the spring 2025 term. No additional resources are required for this change, which supports current instructional practice. The flexibility offered by the online modality will also support the School of Law in seeking additional international partnerships for the Executive LLM.