

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: LLM in Energy and Environmental Law (Online)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the online modality for the LLM in Energy and Environmental Law in the School of Law.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2014 the Board of Trustees approved an LLM program in Energy & Environmental Law (E&E LLM), offered by the School of Law. The program was designed for candidates holding a law degree from either a law school in the United States or an accredited law program in another country who demonstrate minimum English fluency standards. The program requires 24 credits, which include a research paper, project, or thesis, created under the supervision of a faculty member. All E&E LLM students take courses areas of energy law and of environmental law. International students are also required to take both U.S. Law & Legal Institutions and Legal Research and Writing

The School of Law E&E LLM was developed based on growing expertise across the University in areas related to energy and the environment. From these same strengths, an online interdisciplinary Master's Degree in Energy and Environmental Management (MEEM) degree was approved in 2018, with courses drawn from CAHNR, CLAS, and LAW. This program has grown rapidly, with over 90 enrolled students and increasing numbers of completions each year. As online courses in energy and environmental law are already offered to support the MEEM curriculum, the addition of an online modality for the LLM in Energy & Environmental Law will require no additional resources. The online E&E LLM will further develop UConn's program portfolio and will contribute to the "wellness of people and planet" area of focus in the strategic plan.

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. This fully online modality will be offered from fall 2025.