Tribal Policy, Law, and Government, LLM

Do you have your law degree and work or aspire to work with Native American tribes and businesses? Are you interested in government, economic development or health care positions that impact native populations? If so, consider a Master of Laws with an emphasis in tribal policy, law and government.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: LL.M. Tribal Policy, Law and Government

The LLM program in tribal policy, law and government is designed for lawyers and law school graduates who desire to work on issues related to tribal law and federal Indian law at the professional and academic levels. The Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law is a leading institution in producing graduates specializing in Indian law. The College of Law is also home to the nationally known Indian Legal Program, established in 1988.

The program provides students with a detailed understanding of the nature of tribal government and of law and policy development within the domestic federal structure. Candidates benefit from the extensive resources committed to the Indian Legal Program, including a director and staff and an Indian law clinic with its own full-time director and staff.

The core curricular offerings focus on domestic tribal law, federal Indian law and American institutions of law and government. The program explores the expression of domestic law within contemporary administrative, governmental and judicial institutions.

Arizona State University is located in the heart of the southwestern U.S., home to roughly one-third of the native population in the U.S. and where many of the largest Indian nations in the country are located. The university is the academic home for several nationally known scholars who do research on American Indian issues, and it houses many unique resources for such scholarship, including the Labriola Collection at Hayden Library.

At a Glance
Degree Requirements

The program is administered by the Indian Legal Program and is oriented toward students who seek practical experience in tribal law and federal Indian law. It provides intensive instruction to students who graduated from a law school that had few or no courses in Indian law and who now seek to practice in these areas at a professional level. This degree program requires a minimum of 24 credit hours of study. A thesis is not required.

Students immerse themselves in the study of tribal law and federal Indian law and apply the knowledge and experience they gain through the practical component of the degree program which may consist of research projects for tribal courts and governments; state, tribal and federal court practice; and tribal code drafting.

Graduates are well-equipped for professional positions that require knowledge and expertise in tribal law and federal Indian law. Students have the option of pursuing the degree on a part-time basis.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and College of Law English proficiency requirements.

Admission to the program is competitive. In order to be admitted, an applicant must have completed a JD degree or law degree at a foreign institution that would qualify the applicant to practice law or pursue license to practice in that country and have submitted a complete application to the program.

Selection will be based on academic background and potential, career experience and ambitions, diversity of experience and background, space and resource limitations in the law school, and the applicant's strength of experience related to the program sought, as well as other factors.

Applicants are encouraged to apply electronically through https://www.lsac.org. For an application to be considered complete, it must include the following:

1. the completed LLM application form
2. the required application fee
3. a resume that does not exceed three, typed pages
4. a statement of interest that does not exceed 1,250 words, typed and double-spaced
5. transcripts from all institutions attended, including the transcript showing that the bachelor's degree and law degree were conferred
6. two letters of recommendation
7. a writing sample

Transcripts and letters of recommendation or evaluations must be submitted through the Law School Admissions Council's Credential Assembly Service and are provided to the ASU College of Law by LSAC.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines.

Contact Information

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Admission Deadlines