

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF COMMON LAW [MCL]

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the MCL curriculum in the academic year 2025-2026 and thereafter.

(See also [General Regulations](#) and [Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula](#).)

MCL1. Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Master of Common Law, a candidate:

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) shall hold the degree of Bachelor of Laws with at least second class honours or an equivalent qualification in a non-common law jurisdiction; and
 - (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and /or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).
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MCL2. Advanced Standing

Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully no more than 5 years before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty of Law, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 9 credits (one course) for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
 - (b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
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MCL3. Period of Study

- (a) The curriculum for the Master of Common Law shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester including summer semester.

- (b) Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their study beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
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MCL4. Completion of Curriculum

To complete the curriculum for the degree of Master of Common Law, a candidate shall:

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed under TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) satisfactorily complete a non-credit bearing compulsory course and no fewer than 72 credits as prescribed in these regulations and the syllabus, including a capstone experience.
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MCL5. Selection of Courses

- (a) Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabus before the beginning of each semester. Changes to the selection of courses may be made only during the add/drop period of the semester in which the course begins, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript of the candidate. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered.
 - (b) Withdrawal from courses beyond the designated add/drop period will not be permitted, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law. Withdrawal without permission will result in a fail grade in the relevant course(s).
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MCL6. Dissertation

- (a) Candidates must successfully complete LLAW6022 Advanced Research Methodology in order to be eligible to submit a dissertation.
- (b) Candidates who elect to submit a dissertation shall propose a title for the dissertation, secure a supervisor, and secure the approval of the Programme Director by November 30 of the academic year in which they intend to submit a dissertation. Candidates shall submit the dissertation no later than May 1 of that academic year.
- (c) In exceptional circumstances a candidate may apply to the Board of the Faculty of Law for an extension of the period within which the dissertation must be submitted. Such application must be made at least one month before the prescribed

date of submission. Late applications for extension will not be considered, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law.

- (d) The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his or her own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may require an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.

MCL7. Progression in Curriculum

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to undertake a combination of courses and study requirements as prescribed in these regulations and the syllabus, and in the manner as specified below, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
 - (i) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 27 credits nor more than 36 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester).
 - (ii) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty of Law may give permission for candidates to exceed the required curriculum study load as specified in MCL4(b).
 - (iii) In the case under (i) above, the total number of credits taken shall not be fewer than 72 credits nor more than 78 credits for the normative period of study specified in MCL3(a).
- (b) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curriculum of the candidates during their candidature at the University.
- (c) Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
 - (i) failed to complete successfully 45 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
 - (ii) failed to achieve an average semester GPA of 1.5 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
 - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in MCL3(b).

MCL8. Exemption

Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, up to 9 credits (one course) of the requirements prescribed in the regulations and the syllabus governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

MCL9. Assessment

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.
- (b) Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.
- (c) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.
- (d) Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner:
 - (i) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
 - (iii) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
 - (iv) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.
- (e) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/ re-examination/ re-submission/ assessment in an alternative course under (d) above, the new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, year GPA and the cumulative GPA. Such candidates shall not be eligible for any mark of distinction.
- (f) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MCL10. Absence from an Examination

Candidates who are unable through illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MCL11. Requirements for Graduation

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Common Law, candidates shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) complete the curriculum requirements prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses within the maximum period of registration and satisfy the examiner in the compulsory non-credit bearing course and courses not fewer than 72 credits in accordance with the regulations governing examinations procedures, which shall include the successful completion of a capstone experience as specified in the syllabus; and
 - (c) have achieved a Cumulative GPA of 1.50 or above.
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MCL12. Grading System

Individual courses shall be graded in accordance with TPG9 (a) or (c) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula as determined by the Board of Examiners.

MCL13. Classification of Awards

Upon successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded the degree with distinction as determined by the Board of Examiners, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF COMMON LAW (MCL)

COURSEWORK

The Board of Examiners shall decide what proportion of the final assessment for each course shall be determined by written or other work carried out during the course of study. Candidates will be informed at the beginning of the course of the relative proportions of the final assessment to be derived from coursework and from written examinations which will be held at the end of the teaching programme.

OBJECTIVES

The degree of Master of Common Law is specifically designed for graduates in law from non-Common law jurisdictions (notably Mainland China) who wish to acquire an expertise in Common Law as it is practised in Hong Kong and in other common law jurisdictions. Candidates will commence the curriculum with a course, Understanding Common Law, in transition into the methodology of common law. They then take 6-7 elective courses in common law as suit their interests and expertise. Finally they take one or two of the capstone course(s) in Public Law in Common Law Jurisdiction or/and Private Law in Common Law Jurisdiction respectively to allow greater synergy between students background expertise in civil law and the new training in common law that they have obtained from the Curriculum.

DISSERTATION

An 18-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper with required length ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 words on a legal topic approved by the Programme Director.

A 9-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper with required length ranging from 8,000 to 10,000 words on a legal topic approved by the Programme Director.

The dissertation must provide evidence of original research work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

STRUCTURE

Candidates are required to complete the compulsory non-credit bearing course and no fewer than 72 credits nor more than 78 credits, including a capstone experience in accordance with the regulations for this degree and the syllabus as set out below. Candidates must choose at least seven courses from the Course List below, including the compulsory course, one capstone course and at least five designated electives. Candidates may choose up to two other electives from courses not listed on the Course List below, but listed as Electives on the Course List for the General LLM programme. Candidates who hold a law degree from a PRC university may not choose courses related to PRC law subjects, except with the approval of the Programme Director.

COURSE LIST

(Each of the courses listed below carries 9 credits unless otherwise stated)

Compulsory Course (0 credit)

(Candidates must complete the following course)

LLAW6259 Understanding common law¹ (0 credit)

Capstone Courses (9 credits)

(Candidates must complete one of the following courses)

LLAW6258 Private law in common law jurisdictions

LLAW6204 Public law in common law jurisdictions

Designated Electives

(Candidates must complete at least four of the following courses)

Taught postgraduate courses

LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation#

LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation (18 credits)#

LLAW6243 Advanced intellectual property law

LLAW6022 Advanced research methodology

LLAW6304 AI and competition law

LLAW6183 Animal law

LLAW6138 Arbitration law

LLAW6058 Armed conflict, humanitarian law and human rights

LLAW6024 Banking law

LLAW6271 Bioethics foundations

LLAW6153 Business and human rights

LLAW6172 Carriage of goods by sea

LLAW6124 Communications law

LLAW6238 Comparative arbitration in Asia

LLAW6156 Comparative constitutional law

LLAW6248 Comparative contract law

LLAW6279 Comparative corporate law and theories

LLAW6209 Comparative family law

LLAW6150 Comparative law

LLAW6251 Comparative property law

LLAW6187 Competition law and intellectual property

LLAW6264 Competition law and policy in China

LLAW6154 Competition law I

LLAW6155 Competition law II

LLAW6194 Competition law in the digital economy

LLAW6101 Competition, mergers and acquisitions

LLAW6245 Compliance in the Hong Kong securities industry

LLAW6141 Contemporary issues of comparative platform governance

LLAW6158 Contract law[^]

LLAW6223 Copyright and creativity

¹ The course will be taught immediately after the term starts and lasts for only a month.

LLAW6082	Corporate governance and shareholder remedies
LLAW6171	Corruption: China in comparative perspective
LLAW6002	Credit and security law
LLAW6084	Cross-border insolvency law
LLAW6114	Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua)
LLAW6127	Current issues in financial law
LLAW6060	Current issues in human rights
LLAW6087	Current issues in insolvency law
LLAW6117	Data protection, cyber security and crime
LLAW6088	Derivatives: law and regulation
LLAW6300	Digitalisation: health, law and policy
LLAW6090	Economic foundations of competition law
LLAW6062	Economic, social and cultural rights
LLAW6126	e-Finance: law, compliance and technology challenges
LLAW6210	Energy law
LLAW6249	Entertainment law
LLAW6063	Equality and non-discrimination
LLAW6174	Family mediation
LLAW6222	Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong and international perspectives
LLAW6149	Healthcare law
LLAW6005	Hong Kong intellectual property law
LLAW6307	Hong Kong National Security Law in comparative perspective
LLAW6034	Human rights in Hong Kong
LLAW6107	Insurance law
LLAW6195	Intellectual property and competition in the digital economy
LLAW6120	Intellectual property and information technology
LLAW6140	Intellectual property, innovation and development
LLAW6132	International and comparative intellectual property law
LLAW6099	International commercial arbitration
LLAW6321	International commercial litigation
LLAW6206	International corporate finance
LLAW6036	International criminal law
LLAW6007	International dispute settlement
LLAW6133	International economic law
LLAW6294	International investment: structuring, protecting, and resolving related disputes
LLAW6182	International organizations
LLAW6073	International protection of refugees and displaced persons
LLAW6057	International securities law
LLAW6096	International tax and tax planning
LLAW6280	Introduction to artificial intelligence and law
LLAW6288	Introduction to European Union law
LLAW6227	Introduction to private international law (conflict of laws)
LLAW6295	Issues in consumer law: theory and policy
LLAW6231	Justice
LLAW6230	Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration
LLAW6110	Law and regulation of banking and insurance in the People's Republic of

	China
LLAW6239	Law and regulation of private banking and wealth management
LLAW6197	Law and social theory
LLAW6170	Internet and social media law and policy
LLAW6299	Law and wealth management
LLAW6313	Law as data
LLAW6283	Law of international civil aviation and aircraft finance
LLAW6055	Law of international finance
LLAW6260	Law of state immunity and sovereign debt
LLAW6342	Law of the sea
LLAW6178	Law, economics, regulation and development
LLAW6301	Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) – postgraduate internship
LLAW6265	Law, regulation and compliance for insurance industry in Hong Kong
LLAW6323	Legal concepts and practical application in financial transactions
LLAW6285	Legal data science
LLAW6302	LITE lab: emerging technology and business models (postgraduate)
LLAW6181	Management and commercialization of intellectual property
LLAW6131	Media law
LLAW6324	Mediation advocacy
LLAW6247	Medico-legal issues
LLAW6224	Mergers and acquisitions
LLAW6179	Multiculturalism and the law
LLAW6075	National protection of human rights
LLAW6163	Negotiation: settlement and advocacy
LLAW6219	Patent law
LLAW6165	PRC economic law
LLAW6047	PRC property law
LLAW6048	PRC security and insolvency law
LLAW6167	PRC tort law
LLAW6196	Preventative law: approaches to conflict prevention and resolution
LLAW6164	Principles of family law
LLAW6046	Privacy and data protection
LLAW6298	Private equity and venture capital: law and practice
LLAW6098	Project finance
LLAW6242	Public interest clinic
LLAW6109	Public international law
LLAW6093	Regulation of financial markets
LLAW6144	Rights and remedies in the criminal process
LLAW6305	Sanctions: law and practice
LLAW6049	Securities regulation I
LLAW6244	Securities regulation II
LLAW6076	Seminar in human rights research
LLAW6215	Seminar on human rights and constitutionalism in Asia
LLAW6341	Sports law
LLAW6311	Sustainability and competition law
LLAW6325	Digital transformation of legal services
LLAW6306	The economic analysis of law

LLAW6322	The private law of cooperative institutions
LLAW6250	The regulation of biomedical research
LLAW6315	Theories and methods on law and society
LLAW6326	Topics in technology law
LLAW6200	Trademark law
LLAW6316	Transnational criminal law
LLAW6102	White collar crime: law and practice
LLAW6211	World trade law, policy and business

Candidates can only enroll in either LLAW6014 or LLAW6054. Enrollment in these two courses requires prior approval by the Programme Director. Candidates must successfully complete LLAW6022 Advanced Research Methodology in order to be eligible to submit a dissertation.

^ LLAW1001 and LLAW1002 are mutually exclusive with LLAW6158. Candidates who have enrolled in LLAW1001 and LLAW1002 are not allowed to take LLAW6158 and vice versa.

*Undergraduate Courses(Candidates may complete up to two 6-credit courses from the following cross-listed undergraduate courses)***

LLAW3093	Administrative law (6 credits)
LLAW3010	Business associations (6 credits)
LLAW3097	Civil Procedure (6 credits)
LLAW2012	Commercial law (6 credits)
LLAW3015	Company law (6 credits)
LLAW2001	Constitutional law (6 credits)
LLAW1014	Criminal law I (6 credits)*
LLAW1015	Criminal law II (6 credits)*
LLAW3099	Criminal procedure (6 credits)
LLAW3102	Evidence I (6 credits)*
LLAW3103	Evidence II (6 credits)*
LLAW2013	Land law I (6 credits)*
LLAW2014	Land law II (6 credits)*
LLAW1001	Law of contract I (6 credits)*^
LLAW1002	Law of contract II (6 credits)*^
LLAW1005	Law of tort I (6 credits)*
LLAW1006	Law of tort II (6 credits)*
LLAW1008	Legal system of the Hong Kong SAR (6 credits)

** Courses marked as I and II are full-year courses and must be taken together as a sequence, except for LLAW3102 Evidence I & LLAW3103 Evidence II. Candidates are not allowed to take either one of them without the other, except for LLAW3102 Evidence I which may be taken without also taken LLAW3103 Evidence II.*

*** Candidates who choose one 6-credit course from the list of approved UG courses offered by the Faculty of Law are required to complete 78 credits for satisfying the curriculum requirement.*

Candidates who choose two 6-credit courses from the list of approved UG courses offered by the Faculty of Law are required to complete 75 credits for satisfying the curriculum requirement.

Other Electives (0-18 credits) (or 0-9 credits if LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation is selected as a designated elective)

Candidates should refer to the Electives listed under the Course List for the syllabus for the general degree of Master of Laws. No more than two courses may be taken from any single Cluster in the Electives.

NOTE: Not all courses will be offered in any given year. For actual courses available, please refer to annual course offerings.
