

CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF LAW

**ADMIRALTY & MARITIME LAW
LL.M. PROGRAM
2025-2026**

Licensed by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, 1333 Main Street, Suite 200, Columbia, SC 29201, and Telephone number 803.737.2260. Licensure indicates only that minimum standards have been met; it is not an endorsement or guarantee of quality. Licensure is not equivalent to or synonymous with accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

The J.D. program at the Charleston School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association. The Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar approved the law school's application Aug. 4, 2011, for the J.D. program at its meeting in Toronto, Canada. The American Bar Association acquiesced to the establishment of the LL.M. program in Admiralty and Maritime Law at the Charleston School of Law at its meeting on April 12-14, 2012. The ABA Section of Legal Education can be contacted at 321 North Clark St., Chicago, IL 60654 or by phone at 312.988.6738.

The Charleston School of Law is in compliance with required [ABA Standard 509 Disclosures](#).

For additional information on the Law School Admission Test visit [LSAC](#) or call Law Services at 215.968.1001.

The Charleston School of Law is an equal opportunity institution of higher education and conforms to all applicable law prohibiting discrimination and is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, social condition, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability in the administration of admission policies, educational policies, financial aid, employment, or any other school programs or policies. For further information, contact the Director of Human Resources at 843.377.4904.

This Catalog contains information about the LL.M. DEGREE IN ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW at the Charleston School of Law. For information about the JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE, please visit the website at [Charleston School of Law](#).

This Catalog incorporates by reference all policies and procedures of the [Charleston School of Law Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

The current academic calendar can be found at [Academic Calendar](#).

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Updated June 2025
Volume No. IX

**The Charleston School of Law offers a Master of Laws (LL.M.)
in Admiralty and Maritime Law**

Charleston, South Carolina is a high-volume, expanding port and a world-class resort city. *Condé Nast Traveler* consistently rates Charleston the number one city for travelers in the U.S. The Charleston School of Law is located in the historic peninsula of the city within view of eighteenth-century church spires and the busy waterfront. By combining both historic preservation and vital maritime commerce, Charleston is the perfect place for this program.

The primary objective of our program is to bring students together with the most experienced practitioners, judges, and professors in a broad range of admiralty law specialties, and with the non-lawyer maritime professionals that make our port such a success.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
Academic Policies.....	6
Maritime Course Academic Requirements.....	7
LL.M. Program Admission Requirements.....	7
LL.M. Program Degree Requirements.....	8
Maritime Course Descriptions.....	9
Maritime Designation & Honors Program for JD students	13
The Maritime Law Bulletin.....	13
Charleston Maritime Law Institute.....	13
Francis Drake Admiralty Inn of Court	13
Tuition.....	13

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Introduction

The Charleston School of Law Admiralty and Maritime Academic Catalog is the official document of record concerning degree requirements, course descriptions, academic policies, and regulations for the LL.M. program. This Catalog incorporates by reference all policies and procedures of the [Charleston School of Law Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the information presented in this Catalog and for knowing and observing all policies and procedures therein.

Registration at the School of Law assumes the students' acceptance of all published regulations, including those which appear in this online Catalog and the Charleston School of Law Academic Catalog and Student Handbook, as well as any updates, and all others as applicable in any official announcement.

Disclaimer - This Catalog is not a contract. The Charleston School of Law expressly reserves the right to change tuition, fees, programs of study, academic requirements (including those required for degrees), lecturers, teaching staffs, the announced academic calendar, and other matters described in this Catalog with reasonable prior notice, and in accordance with established procedures. Therefore, information contained in this Catalog and Student Handbook should not be considered to remain valid throughout an entire program of study; it may be necessary for the School to alter program requirements before the start of any enrollment period. As noted, any changes will be published.

In an emergency, it may become necessary to adjust the academic calendar, move classes to an online format, or take other measures to ensure educational continuity. Such emergencies may be of a public health nature, such as COVID-19; a weather-related event, such as flooding, that necessitates the closure of the Law School building; or some other condition that makes it unsafe or impractical to hold classes as regularly scheduled on-campus. If adjustments are necessary, Charleston School of Law will make every effort to ensure that students have the ability to interact with professors, student services, and each other, even if through remote means.

Mission Statement

The Charleston School of Law Admiralty and Maritime LL.M. program provides legal professionals with advanced knowledge and practical skills in maritime and admiralty law, preparing them for careers in maritime legal practice and global trade.

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Graduates of the Admiralty and Maritime LL.M. program will be able to:

1. Analyze and interpret federal maritime laws including general maritime law, statutory and regulatory law.
2. Evaluate legal issues arising from maritime commerce and global trade.
3. Understand and apply admiralty specific procedures and remedies in federal and state legal regimes governing tortious behavior and personal injury in maritime environments.

4. Conduct independent legal research and policy analysis on maritime and admiralty topics and produce a scholarly paper that examines current issues in maritime law and proposes legal or policy reforms.

Academic Policies

LL.M students must maintain good academic standing during each semester of enrollment. A student will be placed on academic probation if, as of the immediately preceding semester, the student has a cumulative grade point average below 2.0. To complete the degree, the student must complete all required credit hours and have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above. The degree must be completed in two years or less.

A student on academic probation will be academically disqualified from the Law School if the student does not achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 at the end of the probationary semester. Students who are dismissed due to falling below good academic standing a second time do have the right to petition for readmission. Any student who has received notice that he or she has been academically disqualified may petition the Academic Standards Committee for readmission and permission to continue his or her studies on academic probation for the following semester, or such period as the Academic Standards Committee deems appropriate. A student may petition the Academic Standards Committee regarding his or her academically disqualified status only once during his or her studies at the Law School. Additional attempts to petition for reinstatement are prohibited.

The Academic Standards Committee may grant a petition if the student establishes the following:

- Extraordinary circumstances contributed to his or her inability to meet the academic requirements of the Law School;
- The student's failure to meet the standards for continuing his or her studies does not indicate a lack of capacity to complete the program of study or to pass the bar exam and, in fact, the student possesses that capacity; and
- The circumstances resulting in the student's academic disqualification have been remedied or no longer exist.

A student whose petition for readmission is denied by the Academic Standards Committee may appeal the decision to the Dean. The appeal will be limited to a review of whether the Academic Standards Committee committed prejudicial procedural error. The fact that the Academic Standards Committee has denied a student's petition and reached a decision that the student feels is erroneous is substantive and not procedural and is therefore not grounds for an appeal to the Dean. The Dean's

review may not include a review of the substance (i.e., the basis) of the student's petition to the Academic Standards Committee or the student's perceived correctness of the committee's decision.

Maritime Course Academic Requirements

Admiralty and maritime course syllabi must affirmatively demonstrate that the students' out-of-class time will meet the requirements for out-of-class work as set out by the Charleston School of Law. All faculty must submit syllabi and required forms, within the timelines assigned by the Office of Academic Affairs. In addition to the review by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, for maritime designated classes, the Director of Maritime Programs will also review syllabi for compliance.

Credit hours for admiralty and maritime courses are determined by the faculty in accordance with the American Bar Association's Standards and Rules for Approval of Law School, Standard 310. Pursuant to Charleston Law policy, each credit must reasonably approximate at least 42.5 hours of total in-class instruction. This determination is based on 750 minutes of in-class instruction per credit hour. Each credit hour must also require at least 1,800 minutes of out-of-class student work.

LL.M. Program Admission Requirements

The Charleston School of Law begins to review files as they are completed and continues to review files until all seats in the program are filled. The application deadline for the LL.M. program is June 1 for fall admission. An application to the Charleston School of Law LL.M. program requires the following:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- J.D. from an ABA-approved law school, except for international students.
- International applicants with law degrees from schools outside the United States must obtain the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to ensure that the degree-granting school is the equivalent of an ABA-accredited school.
- Completed and signed application for admission. Applications are available at [LSAC](#).
- LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service (LL.M. CAS) Law School Report. Registration for the LL.M. CAS is available at [LSAC](#).
- A minimum of two letters of recommendation, at least one from a law faculty member, a lawyer, or a judge. Applicants should use the LSAC Letter of Recommendation (LOR) service.
- Personal statement. Personal statements should be uploaded as an attachment to your application to LSAC. The admission committee considers

many applicants with strong credentials and makes difficult decisions regarding whom to admit to the limited number of seats at the Charleston School of Law. Applicants should provide a candid evaluation of themselves detailing any information that he/she believes will assist the committee in considering their application. Applicants should provide evidence of their abilities and strengths, examples of leadership abilities, maturity, organizational skills, and motivation to study law. Applicants may also wish to provide, as an addendum, information regarding any educational and financial obstacles that have been overcome, or disabilities that may have affected academic performance.

- Letters of Recommendation. The Charleston School of Law requires the submission of two letters of recommendation. Applicants who have been out of school for some time may provide letters of recommendation from an employer. LL.M. applicants should have at least one letter of recommendation from a law faculty member, an attorney, or a judge. Recommendations should be uploaded through LSAC's Letter of Recommendation (LOR) service.
- Current resume.
- Transcripts from all undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools attended. Transcripts from the degree-granting institution(s) must indicate the degree(s) earned and date conferred. All transcripts should be submitted by the school(s) directly to LSAC.

TOEFL Score and International Applicants

Applicants should be aware that competency in English is critical to success in the LL.M. program at the Charleston School of Law, and that demonstrated fluency in English is an important consideration in evaluating applications. International applicants are required to demonstrate proficiency in English by completing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) within two years prior to submitting the application. For information and questions about the TOEFL, please contact Educational Testing Service (ETS). Applicants should arrange to take the TOEFL at the earliest possible date in order to ensure that their application is completed by the deadline. Please request that official scores be sent directly to the Charleston School of Law.

Deadlines

The priority application deadline for all LL.M. applicants can be found on the [website](#). All applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Personal Interviews

Formal interviews are not a part of the normal application process; however, applicants are always welcome to visit the school, attend a class, and meet with current students and members of the faculty.

Student Conduct

All LL.M. students are bound by the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

LL.M. Program Degree Requirements

The Charleston School of Law in Charleston, South Carolina, offers an advanced degree program in Admiralty and Maritime Law. The course of study leading to the award of the LL.M. degree consists of twenty-four (24) credit hours. At least eighteen (18) credit hours must consist of Admiralty I and Admiralty II and from the maritime designated offerings listed below. The remaining six (6) hours may be chosen from the general curriculum of the Charleston School of Law. This will permit the completion of all degree requirements in one academic year, consisting of two twelve credit hour semesters. Ordinarily this will be a Fall-Spring sequence of courses. No maritime courses are offered during Summer Session.

Completion of course requirements in one academic year is not required, and some students may wish to complete the required 24 hours over a longer period of time, but no longer than two calendar years. The aim of the program is to provide both variety and depth in the courses offered, covering the field from the general, introductory level to the sub-specialties comprising admiralty and maritime law. Courses will be taught by experienced practitioners, as well as Charleston School of Law faculty. The course offerings will provide each student with the opportunity to advance in any of these various sub-specialties and to tailor their studies beyond the basics to their individual professional interests.

Course Descriptions

Required maritime courses (3 credit hours each):

- **Admiralty I**

- 710 or 7010 (3 credit hours)**

- A study of the distinct body of federal law (both substantive and procedural) governing navigation and shipping. Topics associated with this field of study include shipping, navigation, waters, commerce, seamen, towage, wharves, piers and docks, insurance, maritime liens, canals, recreation, and piracy. Satisfies the Upper-Level Writing Requirement when so designated in the registration material for a particular semester. Prerequisites: Satisfactory completion of 27 credit hours.

- **Admiralty II**

- 7015 (3 credit hours)**

- A survey of select maritime law topics, including maritime insurance, liens and

mortgages, general average, piracy and drug smuggling, oil pollution, sovereign immunity, and forums shopping. Satisfies the Upper-Level Writing Requirement when so designated in the registration material for a particular semester. Prerequisites: Satisfactory completion of 27 credit hours.

Please note: If a student has successfully completed either, or both, of the above courses of their equivalent in law school, the requirement(s) may be waived, but the credit hour requirement may not be. It is expected that an LL.M. student will complete an Upper-Level Writing Requirement-equivalent in Admiralty II. If this class is waived, this writing requirement may be completed in another maritime designated class, or through an approved independent study on an admiralty and maritime topic.

Designated Admiralty and Maritime Courses:

In addition to Admiralty I and Admiralty II, students must complete at least 12 credit hours from these or other maritime designated courses:

- **Intermodal/Container Transportation Law
8104 (3 credit hours)**

This course will cover the history and development of the ocean container industry, focusing on relevant case law and legal regimes governing the international carriage or containerized cargo, including both current and prospective statutory regimes. As part of this course, students will have the unique opportunity to observe first-hand the operational side of the intermodal transport industry, including visits to a working container terminal, and presentations by representatives of major container shipping lines and other involved in the intermodal transport industry.

- **International Business Transactions
642 or 7642 (3 credit hours)**

This course addresses U.S. domestic, foreign and international law applicable to private cross-border transactions. These cross-border transactions include the sale of goods, project finance, cross-border distribution and franchising, cross-border technology licensing, formation of foreign branches and subsidiaries, and cross-border joint ventures and acquisitions. This course benefits those who wish to practice business law, since the course introduces students to the range of transactional issues that business lawyers handle. Prerequisites: Contracts I & I, Property I & II.

- **Law of the Sea
711 or 7011 (3 credit hours)**

A survey of the Law of the Sea and national, particularly United States, ocean policies. The Law of the Sea covers a range of highly diverse but related legal

disciplines: admiralty and maritime law, international law, international crime (including white collar crime, terrorism, and piracy) on the high seas, environmental law, and commercial trade. Starting with the historical development of the law of the sea, the course will deal with such topics as maritime boundaries, high seas freedoms, terrorism and crime on the high seas, piracy, nationality of vessels, sovereignty over internal waters and ports, territorial seas, management of ocean fisheries, protection of marine species and marine environmental protection, mineral exploitation of the seabed (including, but not limited to, deep sea oil drilling), and, time permitting, shipwrecks and underwater cultural resources. We will also examine the modern law of the sea as reflected in the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Satisfies the Upper Level Writing Requirement when so designated in the registration material for a particular semester. Prerequisites: Satisfactory completion of 27 credit hours.

- **Marine Insurance
8004 (3 credit hours)**

This course covers contracts for insurance covering vessels involved in maritime activities such as carriage of goods or passengers, or in recreational vessel use (hull insurance), insurance on cargo carried by a vessel (cargo insurance), and liability of maritime parties to others (Protection and Indemnity Insurance). Coverage and liability issues and governing law are covered in depth.

- **Maritime Personal Injury
9402 (3 credit hours)**

This course is an advanced survey of the substantive law and procedure applicable to maritime injury and death cases, with a focus on claims involving seamen, longshoremen, and other maritime employees.

- **Marine Salvage
7748 (1 credit hour)**

This two-day course will cover the elements of "pure" and "contract" salvage. The difference between the two has enormous financial implications for plaintiffs, defendants, and insurance carriers. Interpreting salvage rights has a significant impact on the maritime lien analysis, the framework for which will be studied as to various parties' rights. We will also examine the methodology of determining awards for pure salvage cases and study the differences between the various interpretations around the country under the general maritime law.

- **Supervised Independent Study: 9301, 9302, or 9303 (may be taken as a 1, 2, or 3 credit hour course, as approved in advance)**

With the advance approval of the LL.M. Program Director, a student may elect to study any issue of maritime law and practice that is not specifically addressed in

depth in other courses or seminars. The study will be designed between the student and the professor who has agreed to supervise it. The student shall submit a written proposal to the supervising professor giving a precise description of the issue or subject proposed. To receive approval, the student shall complete the [Request for Independent Study form](#) and submit it to the LL.M. Program Director.

This study will result in a paper which is either analytical or argumentative writing. For one credit, the student must write a paper of at least 5,000 words (exclusive of footnotes or endnotes), double-spaced, and word-processed, and keep time records showing at least 50 hours of work. For two credits, the paper must be 8,750 words (exclusive of footnotes or end notes), double-spaced, and word-processed, and keep time records showing at least 100 hours of work. In exceptional circumstances, three hours of credit may be approved but the approval of both the LLW Program Director and the full Curriculum Committee is required. For more information, please refer to [Independent Study](#) in the Academic Catalog.

The student is encouraged to employ all available human and library resources at the Law School to refine his or her ideas and conduct useful research. The supervising professor or instructor will assign a final grade for the written research paper.

- **Survey of International Ship Finance**

- **7749 (1 credit)**

- This course will address the issues practitioners routinely confront in international vessel finance transactions. Strategies for developing optimal transaction structures will be examined, in addition to coping with the differences between maritime law and land based commercial law. Conflicts of law issues inherent to an intrinsically cross-border industry will be discussed, as will the peculiar nature of maritime liens and ship mortgages. Finally, the class will explore the ramifications of recent United States Supreme Court decisions that impact maritime financial transactions. Prerequisites: Contracts I & II, Civil Procedure I & II.

- **Exercise of Remedies in Admiralty (Part I) – Mortgage Foreclosure and Marine Attachment**

- **7746 (1 credit hour)**

- This course will focus on the process of vessel arrests and foreclosure sales of vessels and will also cover the use of Rule B of the Supplemental Rules of Civil Procedure as means of enforcing claims of a maritime nature. The core of the course will take students through the mortgage foreclosure process from arrest through the interlocutory sale of vessel and ultimate adjudication of claims.

- **Exercise of Remedies in Admiralty (Part II) – Maritime Liens and Vessel Arrest**

7747 (1 credit hour)

This course focuses on the peculiar admiralty law of maritime liens for purposes of in rem proceedings in federal court. Such liens include personal injury, ship mortgages, salvage, and necessities. Students will be offered a practical look at drafting pleadings for maritime liens that qualify for in rem actions; how a vessel arrest works in federal court; how to navigate and interact with the various parties involved in making such decisions; and how to negotiate and / or litigate the release of a ship under arrest.

The following courses do not count as “maritime designated courses,” but the subject matter is recommended as complementing the admiralty course of studies.

- **Arbitration Practice**

- 641 (2 credit hours) Satisfies the JD Skills or Drafting Requirement**

- Many disputes are resolved outside of our court system through arbitration. This course will cover arbitrator selection, arbitration proceedings, enforcement, conflicts of interest, ethical concerns, and drafting. Touching on the arbitration of commercial securities, family, and civil disputes, students will learn to evaluate the benefits and pitfalls of alternative dispute resolution forums and learn to advocate thoughtful and effectively in an arbitration setting. Through the interactive and engaging class, students will benefit from knowledgeable speakers, considering arbitration problems, cases and exercises as well as participating in a final mock arbitration as the class culminates.

- **Conflict of Laws**

- 760 (3 credit hours)**

- A review of legal policies, the rules of law, and the constitutional requirements for resolving disputes which involve multiple states or nations. Included is a consideration of the jurisdiction of courts, enforceability of foreign judgment, and choice of the applicable law to determine the issues in dispute. Particular attention will be given to international law, tort, contract, property, succession, family law, and “Conflicts in Cyberspace” because of e-commerce. Prerequisites: Civil Procedure I & II.

- **Immigration and Citizenship Law**

- 637 (2 credit hours)**

- As our world shrinks, immigration and citizenship laws grow more persuasive and more complex. This course is designed to give students a critical overview of today’s immigration and citizenship laws and prepare them to identify potential immigration issues in all aspects of life and law. Specifically, this course will review the historical underpinnings and practical aspects of the current law regulating citizenship, the admission of non-citizens to the United States, removal of non-

citizens from the United States, and judicial review of all such decisions.

Maritime Designation & Honors Program for J.D. students

Graduating J.D. students with 12 or more credit hours in maritime designated courses (Admiralty I and II are required for this designation) will earn the Maritime Concentration designation. J.D. students graduating with a grade point average of at least 3.3 in maritime designated courses may receive an honors designation in maritime law.

The Maritime Law Bulletin [MALABU]

MALABU is the Charleston School of Law Maritime Law Bulletin. With the historic port city of Charleston as a backdrop, MALABU brings timely and useful maritime focused articles to practicing attorneys, law professors, students, and those in the maritime field. MALABU is run by a board of law students, and faculty advisors with special interests in admiralty, with generous support from the Charleston Maritime Association. LL.M. students are eligible to be members of the MALABU staff.

Charleston Maritime Law Institute

The Charleston Maritime Law Institute (CMLI) was established in 2004 and serves as an advisory council with regular meetings to support the Admiralty and Maritime Law LL.M. program. This group includes senior maritime lawyers from law firms around the country, chief counsels to major maritime industries, as well as senior State Ports Authority officials and industry leaders from Charleston. With the support of these outstanding people, we conduct trips to the various port facilities to permit our students to see the subjects of their studies in action, from port direction and management to the movement of cargo and vessels. The CMLI meets periodically.

Francis Drake Admiralty Inn of Court

The LL.M. program also benefits from the Francis Drake Admiralty American Inn of Court. The charter was awarded by the American Inns of Court on September 20, 2011. The School of Law's Inn of Court is the only one dedicated to the subject of admiralty and maritime law, and it will serve as an important source of mentoring for the students in the LL.M. Program. Maritime lawyers and student make up membership of the Inn. The Inn is currently inactive.

Tuition Information

The degree requires 24 credit hours, which may be completed in one academic year. Tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year is \$30,000. For information about financial aid, please contact the Office of Financial Aid by phone, 843.377.1102 or email, financialaid@CharlestonLaw.edu.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

During the fall and spring semesters, the Charleston School of Law will provide to students who withdraw from the Law School a pro rata refund consistent with regulation 62-18 of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, but in no event less than:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|------|
| • Before fall or spring semester begins | 100% |
| • On calendar days 1-7 of semester | 80% |
| • On calendar days 8-14 of semester | 60% |
| • On calendar days 15-21 of semester | 40% |
| • On calendar days 22-28 of semester | 20% |
| • On and after calendar day 29 of semester | 0% |

Please find information on Graduate Employment Disclosures [here](#).