



DIFFERENTIAL TUITION REQUEST

College/School: Law **Department/Program:** Master of Studies in Law

Contact: Alfred Mathewson and Sergio Pareja Phone: 277-4700 Email: Mathewson@law.unm.edu and Pareja@law.unm.edu

Level: Undergraduate Graduate

Proposed Differential to be applied as: by student type (major): by course:

For Main Campus units, all new differential tuition will be charged by student type (major) and will follow the tuition block.

Requested Differential Tuition (shown as an amount per student credit hour):

Student Type	Current Differential	Proposed Differential	Increase/Decrease or New Differential
Residents	\$0	\$352.34	\$352.34
Non-Residents	\$0	\$527.05	\$527.05
Other	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Effective Academic Year: 2018-19

*If the differential tuition request is approved it will be applied in the following academic year **beginning in the fall semester.***

Rationale for Request: *Please provide a detailed explanation on the reasoning for the increase/decrease or new differential tuition. Please refer to policy **UAP 8210 2.2** for qualifying justifications for differential tuition.*

The law school requires differential tuition to pay for its cost of instruction. Therefore, this request seeks to apply the current JD differential to the law school’s new Master of Studies in Law (MSL) program, which welcomed its first entering class in August 2017. The JD differential has remained unchanged since the 2012-13 academic year and will not change in 2018-19.

Applying one differential to all graduate-level degree programs offered by a particular college or school is the norm at UNM. This norm informed our now-approved MSL degree proposal since November 2013, when the law faculty held its first planning session. Moreover, the cost of instruction is the same for the MSL and JD programs. MSL and JD students take the same courses at the law school except for one MSL-specific course called “Introduction to U.S. Law, Procedure, and Legal Education.” The



introductory MSL course and all other courses that MSL students can take at the law school are taught by law professors.

Here are the reasons why the cost of instruction at the law school is higher than the cost of graduate instruction in most other disciplines at UNM:

1. The law school competes in more expensive regional and national markets compared with most other graduate disciplines. This requires more resources to remain even remotely competitive, including the ability to attract faculty who demand higher salaries. Even with our current tuition differential amount for our JD program, we struggle to retain faculty members because UNM's salaries are on the low end compared to the salaries of professors at other law schools around the country.
2. The law school's curriculum provides numerous experiential learning opportunities and small seminars, which require low student:faculty ratios.
3. The law school's curriculum generally is geared toward meeting licensure requirements. In July 2017, 91% of our JD graduates passed the NM Bar Exam on their first attempt, which compares very favorably with graduates of other regional and national law schools. While MSL students will not be sitting for the bar exam, the excellent instruction in the JD program redounds to the benefit of the MSL students.
4. The law school's curriculum necessitates expenditures above those required for typical graduate programs of instruction, and beyond the level of additional support available from class and curricular fees alone.

Market Analysis: *Please provide detailed information on whether the college/school or department/program cost of instruction is markedly higher than the university average program costs or market conditions warrant additional tuition.*

See explanation above and below. The law school must charge differential tuition to provide the faculty, curriculum, and student support services that allow it to successfully compete with its peers year after year.

Student Consultation: *A preliminary request should be submitted to the Provost Office (Main Campus) or Chancellor's Office (Health Sciences Center (HSC)) no later than October 1st. Per policy it must be posted to the unit's website no later than October 1st to allow for at least 30 days of constituent comment prior to final submission to the Provost or Chancellor by November 1st.*



Please provide an explanation on how you plan to communicate the proposed differential tuition request to students, and the feedback you have already received from students on this request, if any.

We certify that students and faculty are involved in this request process. This request was initially communicated at a “town hall” meeting at the law school on September 28, 2017 and at a faculty meeting on October 10, 2017. Additional communication with students and faculty occurred via email.

Current MSL students were notified in July 2017 that during the 2017-18 academic year they would pay the lower graduate program tuition rate rather than the previously announced law school rate that included differential tuition. The notice explained that the MSL degree proposal approved by the UNM Board of Regents at their April 10, 2015 budget summit included financial projections that used the law school rate, but that the motion to approve differential tuition for the MSL program failed on a tie vote of 2 to 2 at the Regents’ May 24, 2017 budget summit.

As noted above, all students were notified of this request via email once it was posted to the law school website for their comment.

Accountability/Budget Information: *Please provide budgetary information about how the revenue generated will be expensed. It is highly encouraged to set aside a portion of the revenue generated by the differential for financial aid (see policy UAP 8210 2.2.2).*

Financial Aid Set Aside Amount: 10.4%

Proposed Annual Revenue

Differential Tuition (per student credit hour)	\$352.54 resident \$527.05 non-resident
Projected # of Student Credit Hours (all student credit hours taken by student majors in the program).	210
Total Revenue	\$73,991

Proposed Annual Expenditures

Financial Aid Set Aside (%)	\$7,695 (10.4%)
Faculty Expense	\$27,580
Advising Personnel	\$6,980
Support Staff Expense	\$22,702
Operating Expenses	\$9,034
Total Program Costs	\$73,991



Please provide a detailed explanation on how the revenue will be used for this program:

Revenue will be used to pay the part-time program director, the part-time program coordinator, a student teaching assistant, faculty and administrative support, recruitment costs, and need-based financial aid awards.

The 10.4% financial aid set-aside for the MSL program seeks to generate a significant aid fund from the small number of credit hours generated by the MSL program.

See the next section regarding other sources of financial aid for MSL students.

Student Access and Affordability: *Please explain how student access and affordability will be addressed.*

UNM School of Law is one of the most affordable law schools in the Mountain West Region and in the country, especially for New Mexico residents. Each year, the National Jurist PreLaw Magazine ranks law schools on overall value, which is calculated based on total tuition expense, cost of living, average indebtedness after law school, bar passage rate, and employment success. UNM regularly is ranked as one of the top 25 best value law schools in the nation, giving it an A rating in value. This high ranking for value would apply to our MSL program as it has for years to our JD program, as explained below.

JD Student Access and Affordability

Tuition for New Mexico residents at our school has always been dramatically lower than private law schools and significantly lower than resident tuition at most other law schools. Current annual JD resident tuition is \$16,598, which is \$7,326 below the FY 2019 projected peer median resident tuition of \$24,284. Current annual JD non-resident tuition is \$36,248, which is \$2,524 below the FY 2019 projected peer median of \$38,772.

Our affordability is a big factor for applicants. Many students choose UNM not only because of our great academic programs, but also for our incredible value. Applicants are smart consumers who are very conscious of the cost and overall value of their degree.

Our JD graduates enjoy one of the lowest debt loads among our regional competitors. Indeed, the average loan indebtedness for three years of law school in the class of 2017 was \$79,199, which is among the lowest figures in the region by several thousand dollars. Lower debt gives our JD graduates the financial latitude to enter the workforce at a wide range of starting salaries in the private, public, and public-interest sectors. For example, of the graduates in the Class of 2016 employed as of March 15, 2017, 56.12% were in private practice, 32.65% were in the public sector (22.45% government and 10.2% judicial clerkships), and 8.16% were in the public interest sector. The remainder were in education (2.04%) and business (1.03%). 83.7% of those graduates accepted jobs in New



Mexico. Source: UNMSOL Class of 2016 Employment Statistics, available at <http://lawschool.unm.edu/careers/employment-statistics/index.html>.

MSL Student Access and Affordability

With respect to the MSL program, all 12 students in the entering class are New Mexico residents. Almost all of them work full-time. Eleven attend part-time and one attends full-time. We expect a similar composition in future classes given the program's focus on working professionals and recent college graduates. As noted above, the comparative affordability of the JD program for New Mexico residents would apply to the MSL program if this request for differential tuition is approved. The proposed annual MSL resident tuition is \$16,598, which is \$10,512 below the FY 2019 projected peer median MSL resident tuition of \$27,110. Because all of our current students are New Mexico residents and because the program has a strong preference for New Mexico residents, we do not know if we will even have any non-residents in the program next year. That said, the proposed annual non-resident MSL tuition is \$36,248, which is \$142 below the FY 2019 projected peer median of \$36,390. See Attachments A and B.

MSL students apply for financial aid through UNM Graduate Studies for sources other than the need-based set-aside described above. Only three of the 12 MSL students took out loans for the fall 2017 semester, two received scholarships, and six received employer education benefits, which are further indicators of access and affordability. Moreover, almost all MSL students have full-time jobs that cover their living expenses, but most JD students cover living expenses with loans and with jobs after the first semester of law school. In addition, the MSL is a 30-credit program, which means that even with differential tuition it still would cost vastly less overall than the 86-credit JD program.

Even if MSL students were to take out loans at the same rate as JD students, their average loan indebtedness, based on our JD numbers, would only be \$27,628 (\$79,199/86 credits x 30 credits). Assuming a 6.8% interest rate and a standard 10-year repayment plan the MSL students' monthly payment would be \$317.94 on a loan balance of \$27,628, compared with the JD students' monthly payment of \$911.42 on a loan balance of \$79,199.

In sum, the financial aid sources described above coupled with our comparatively low tuition enable students to afford the MSL program and to benefit themselves and their employers in the short- and long-term through the knowledge and skills they acquire.

Peer Comparison Chart: *Please complete the Excel peer comparison spreadsheet. If the peer institutions listed does not have a similar college/school or department/program add an institution that most closely resembles your unit. Please note this adjustment below.*

Adjustments were made to Attachments A and B. See the notes column.



Other Information: Please provide any additional information that supports this request for differential tuition.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Dean/Director Approval:

Printed Name: Alfred Mathewson and Sergio Pareja, Co-Deans

Signature: Alfred Mathewson Sergio Pareja **Date:** 10/25/17



The University of New Mexico
Attachment B - 2018-19 Tuition Projections

College: School of Law
Program: Masters of Studies in Law

MSL Non-Resident Full-Time Enrollment

Non-Resident	Tuition (1)	Differential for Peer College/Program (2)	FY 2019 Projected Tuition @ 2% Increase	Proposed Differential	Total Proposed Tuition
University of New Mexico	\$ 23,599	527.05	n/a	\$ 12,649	\$ 36,248
<i>Peer Median</i>	\$ 35,676	n/a	\$ 714	n/a	\$ 36,390
1 University of Iowa **	\$ 15,631		\$ 313	n/a	\$ 15,943
2 Florida International University*	\$ 25,595		\$ 512	n/a	\$ 26,107
3 University of Arizona	\$ 27,326		\$ 547	n/a	\$ 27,873
4 Texas A&M University*	\$ 28,000		\$ 560	n/a	\$ 28,560
5 Cleveland Marshall*	\$ 28,425		\$ 569	n/a	\$ 28,994
6 University of Nebraska-Lincoln*	\$ 32,887		\$ 141	n/a	\$ 33,027
7 University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus*	\$ 34,427		\$ 689	n/a	\$ 35,116
8 Washburn University*	\$ 34,840		\$ 697	n/a	\$ 35,537
9 University of Colorado-Boulder**	\$ 36,512		\$ 730	n/a	\$ 37,242
10 University of New Hampshire*	\$ 36,901		\$ 738	n/a	\$ 37,639
11 Arizona State University*	\$ 39,200		\$ 784	n/a	\$ 39,984
12 University of Pittsburgh*	\$ 44,362		\$ 887	n/a	\$ 45,249
13 Indiana University (IUPUI)	\$ 44,655		\$ 893	n/a	\$ 45,548
14 University of California-Hastings*	\$ 46,814		\$ 936	n/a	\$ 47,750
15 University of Illinois Urbana Champagne*	\$ 53,614		\$ 1,072	n/a	\$ 54,686
16 The Ohio State University*	\$ 63,006		\$ 1,260	n/a	\$ 64,266
17 New Mexico State University*			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
18 Oklahoma State University*			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
19 Texas Tech University*			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
20 The University of Tennessee			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
21 The University of Texas at Arlington*			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
22 The University of Texas at Austin**			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
23 The University of Texas at El Paso*			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
24 University of California-Riverside			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
25 University of Colorado-Denver**			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
26 University of Houston**			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
27 University of Kansas*			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
28 University of Missouri-Columbia*			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
29 University of Nevada-Las Vegas			\$ -	n/a	\$ -
30 University of Utah**			\$ -	n/a	\$ -

Did not provide non-resident tuition
Per webpage, slightly higher than resident tuition
College of Law Tuition
Same as in-state tuition
Same as in-state tuition
No MSL Program
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(1) Tuition is based on full-time status (12+ credit hours block rate) for Fall and Spring semesters
(2) Please indicate the peer's differential tuition based on the college/program your unit is comparing to.
*includes student fees
**rates vary depending on field of study