INTRODUCTION

In an effort to keep students abreast of changes to the Student Handbook, the Office of the Dean of Students puts together a brief document summarizing the significant substantive changes and/or clarifications made to the Student Handbook for the new academic year. While other changes are made, they are primarily stylistic or informational (updating addresses, telephone numbers, etc.). Students are still expected to familiarize themselves with the contents of the entire Student Handbook.¹

Please note that the Student Handbook contains an interpretation of faculty-developed academic policies. For information regarding the genesis and development of academic policies, please contact the Deputy Dean. If you have questions regarding the implementation of academic policies, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students or the Office of the Registrar. For information on non-academic policies contained within the Student Handbook or other questions about the Law School, the University, or life in general, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students.

Sincerely,

The Office of the Dean of Students

¹ Lawyer’s Caveats: Please keep in mind that the rules and policies described in this Student Handbook and other University publications are subject to revision at any time.
1.11 REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

This section contains the following substantive changes or clarifications:

(1) **Changed: Greenberg Seminars**

Greenberg Seminars, open only to Law School students, are designed to afford students the opportunity to engage in informal discussions with Law School faculty members on a range of topics. The groups, normally limited to twelve students, meet in a faculty member’s home five or more times over one or more quarters. Topics and participating faculty are announced prior to the Autumn quarter registration period. Participating students earn one credit which is by default allocated to Autumn Quarter. Students may reallocate the credit to any other quarter in which the specific Greenberg seminar meets. To do so they must contact the Assistant Registrar within the applicable Add/Drop period. Attendance at all sessions is required to earn the credit. Priority is given to third-year students who have not previously participated in a Greenberg Seminar and who are not currently registered in another Greenberg Seminar. Students may bid for more than one Greenberg but will initially only be enrolled in one. Greenberg Seminars are graded Pass/Fail. Greenberg Seminars do not count towards the limit of four seminars/simulations per academic year (see the Seminars and Simulation Classes section for additional details).

1.12 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

This section contains the following substantive changes or clarifications:

(1) **Added:** Additionally, students may only take four independent study credits with the same professor and are limited to six independent study credits total during their time at the Law School.

*Previously, this section did not contain any limit to the number of independent study (499) credits a student could take with the same professor or how many could be taken overall. This change reflects the new policy regarding limitations on independent study courses.*

1.26 MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM

This section contains the following substantive changes or clarifications:

(1) **Added:** Master of Legal Studies (MLS) Program. This one-year degree program is designed for PhD students who wish to improve their knowledge of law without completing a full three-year degree. The goal of the MLS program is to help PhD candidates better understand the legal issues relevant to their research and to improve their research through interdisciplinary training. Graduates of the program will either become academics in their PhD discipline or in law. Admissions decisions are based in part on the availability of Law School faculty for mentoring admitted students.
Although one of the program's goals is to support those who wish to incorporate legal scholarship in their PhD dissertation, this is not required. However, understanding a candidate's research interests is important when assigning a faculty advisor.

MLS candidates will be taught by current faculty. Each candidate will also have a faculty advisor to mentor and provide consultation on research interests. All JD courses will be open to MLS candidates. For classes with competitive enrollments, the MLS candidates participate in the regular bidding system with JD candidates.

Graduates of the MLS program may become academics in their PhD field, as they would without the degree. It is our hope that legal training will improve the quality of their doctoral work, and thus help with job prospects. It is also possible that MLS graduates may be able to become legal academics, since they would be more credibly connected to law than people without legal training. Their work would be more likely to address important legal topics, and they would better be able to teach law students because they would have had exposure to the law school classroom. These advantages, we hope, will enable MLS graduates to land top-tier academic jobs.

**Degree Requirements**

The program is designed for students who have completed their core PhD coursework and are either proposing or working on their dissertation. Candidates will take some of the general first year law school courses and advanced law courses in subjects related to their PhD discipline. The particular program of study is individualized to each student and will be set in consultation with a faculty advisor. To complete the program and earn the MLS degree, candidates must successfully complete 27 credit hours of coursework. Additionally, MLS candidates must be in residence like JD students.

**Registration**

Upon admission to the program, candidates should contact the MLS Faculty Director, to be assigned a faculty advisor. Candidates will register for classes with all other degree-seeking students in the Law School.