



## DIFFERENTIAL TUITION REQUEST

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

Contact: Dean Camille Carey Phone: 277-4700 Email: [carey@law.unm.edu](mailto:carey@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	\$370.90	\$387.37	\$16.47
Non-Residents	\$554.80	\$579.44	\$24.64
Other	\$	\$	\$

Effective Academic Year: AY23-24

*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 already qualifies for and receives differential tuition for its MSL Program. This request is to 1) continue differential tuition for the MSL Program (under required tuition differential review for existing differential tuition) and 2) increase differential tuition for the MSL Program (consistent with the increase requested for the JD Program) to meet critical needs for our students and the school.

### INCREASE REQUEST

We request an increase in differential tuition for two purposes: 1) to hire a staff member to support our students in academic support and 2) to increase the salary for our unfilled admissions recruiter position by \$10,000 so that we can fill the position with a successful applicant.

Academic Support Staff Member:



**The Law School needs to hire a staff member to support our students in academic success and bar passage. While MSL students do not take the bar exam after graduation, they would greatly benefit from the support, mentoring, and tutoring of a staff member who would provide them with extensive academic support. Our MSL Program admits and matriculates students from a wide variety of socioeconomic, educational, racial, ethnic, and geographic backgrounds. Our MSL students are generally working full-time in a non-law field and are seeking knowledge about law to enhance their career paths. MSL students take a required Introduction to U.S. Law, Procedure, and Legal Education course during their first semester, but otherwise do not take the required first-year JD curriculum (Torts, Criminal Law, Contracts, Property, Elements of Legal Argumentation I and II, Lab, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Property, and Introduction to Legal Research). After taking Introduction to U.S. Law, Procedure, and Legal Education, MSL students take courses from the upper-level JD curriculum but without the benefit of having taken the required first-year JD classes taken by their JD classmates. Because of this difference in the foundational curriculum, our MSL students sometimes need additional academic support for their upper-level courses and can feel intimidated taking classes alongside their JD colleagues. The Law School has a real need to hire an academic support and bar passage staff person who would offer extensive one-on-one and group academic support to MSL students. Hiring such a staff person would increase the academic success of individual MSL students and the success of our MSL Program generally.**

**Most law schools have significantly more robust academic and bar passage support programs, with multiple staff members and complex programming and services to support students in succeeding during law school and on the bar exam. The Law School has only one staff member to support about 300 JD and MSL students in day-to-day academic success and bar passage. We seek an increase in the tuition differential to hire a second full-time academic support and bar passage staff member for our Student and Career Services Unit. This person should hold a law degree so that he/she/they can advise, tutor, and mentor students on academic success.**

### **Salary Increase for Recruiter Position**

**We have been unable to fill a vacancy for a recruiter position in our Admissions Office due to the low salary that is currently being offered for the position, which is JD preferred. This position has been posted on 10/25/2019, 1/9/2020, 7/2/2021, and 10/28/2021. Having a recruiter at the Law School is vital to the school's pipelining efforts to ensure that we are admitting students from a diverse set of backgrounds. A diverse class is important so that a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences are represented in the classroom. Without a recruiter, the Law School has been unable to recruit a full class of MSL students each year. Our first MSL class started with 12 incoming students. Recently our entering MSL classes have been much smaller than hoped - with three new students in 2022, seven new students in 2021, and four new students in 2020. The MSL Program offers an invaluable opportunity to New Mexico residents (and non-residents) to advance their non-law careers by gaining expertise in law. The Law School needs to reach out to more working professionals about this opportunity. Having a recruiter who**



can recruit a full class of MSL students each year would create a full cohort of MSL students and strengthen the Program.

## CONTINUATION REQUEST

The Law School's cost of instruction is higher than the cost of graduate instruction in most other disciplines at UNM because:

1. The Law School competes in more expensive regional and national markets than most other graduate disciplines. This requires more resources to remain even remotely competitive, including the ability to attract and retain faculty who expect higher salaries. The Law School's salaries are on the low end compared to salaries of law faculty at other law schools around the country.
2. The Law School's curriculum provides numerous small seminars, drafting courses, and experiential learning opportunities.
3. The Law School's curriculum is generally geared toward meeting licensure requirements. While MSL students do not take the bar exam, MSL students benefit from the excellent combined curriculum offered to both its JD and MSL students and taught by law professors.
4. The Law School's curriculum necessitates expenditures above those required for typical graduate program of instruction and beyond the level of additional support available from class and curricular fees alone. In the past three years, between three (2022), seven (2021), and four (2020) students have taken the required four-credit Introduction to U.S. Law, Procedure, and Legal Education course each year. The Law School must provide a faculty member to teach the course and a student tutor to mentor the students. This is a high investment of Law School resources for a small-enrollment course.

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**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.*

The Law School's resident tuition, even with the proposed increase in tuition differential, will remain lower than that charged by law schools in neighboring states. UNM Law School's in-state tuition is \$18,938. The following schools in neighboring states charge the indicated amount of resident tuition: Arizona State University (\$31,200), University of Utah (\$33,090), University of Colorado-Boulder (\$33,082), and University of Oklahoma-Norman (\$23,755).

**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 1<sup>st</sup>. Per policy it must be posted to the unit’s website no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for at least 30 days of constituent comment prior to final submission to the Provost or Chancellor by November 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*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.*

**When the tuition differential for the MSL Program was first proposed, the Law School spent considerable effort on obtaining feedback about the proposal. The request for differential tuition was communicated at a “town hall” meeting, at a faculty meeting, and through email communication with students and faculty. Communication regarding this current proposal for continuing and increasing differential tuition will be accomplished through email correspondence, at a community meeting, and at a faculty meeting with student representation through the Student Bar Association.**

**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)	\$387.37 Resident \$579.44 Non-resident
Projected # of Student Credit Hours ( <u>all student credit hours</u> taken by student majors in the program).	198 Resident 12 Non-resident
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$83,653

**Proposed Annual Expenditures**

Financial Aid Set Aside (%)	\$8,700
Faculty Expense	\$30,310
Advising Personnel	\$9,766



Support Staff Expense	\$24,949
Operating Expenses	\$9,928
<b>Total Program Costs</b>	<b>\$83,653</b>

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

**Almost all of these differential funds will be used 1) to hire an academic and bar passage support staff member and 2) to increase the salary for a vacant Admissions recruiter position by \$10,000 to as to successfully hire for that position.**

**We intend to hire a staff member who will provide academic and bar passage support to our students. The anticipated salary is \$85,000 plus fringe benefits.**

**We also intend to increase our salary for our Admissions recruiter position from \$65,000 to \$75,000 plus fringe benefits. This increase in the salary will help us hire a qualified recruiter, as our search for a recruiter at the lower salary has been unsuccessful.**

**We also intend to set aside 10.4% as a financial aid set aside to help defray tuition costs through need-based aid.**

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**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. 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 School of Law regularly ranks in the top 25 best value law schools in the country.**

**With the proposed increase in tuition differential, UNM School of Law's tuition will still be significantly less than our competitor schools. Law school tuition is very high nationwide. UNM Law School Tuition is remarkably more affordable than almost all law schools in the U.S. with in-state tuition at \$18,938 and out-of-state tuition at \$39,890. Our competitor schools charge much higher tuition: Arizona State (\$31,200 for residents and \$39,200 for non-residents); University of Arizona (\$26,000 for residents and non-residents); and University of Denver (\$54,023). Even with the proposed increase in UNM School of Law's tuition differential, our tuition will remain much more affordable than our competitor schools.**

**The Law School awarded \$1,415,430 in scholarships last year. These scholarships and our remarkably affordable tuition allow our students to obtain a low-cost legal education**



with a low debt load. The Law School is in the midst of a fundraising campaign in celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Alumni and friends have been generously giving millions of dollars in scholarship funds this year. These new scholarship funds will help to offset tuition, including the increased tuition differential, for our students.

Almost all of our MSL students work full-time and attend the Law School part-time. Some take out loans, some receive scholarships, some receive tuition remission, some receive Law School scholarships, and some receive employer education benefits. The MSL Program is a 30-credit program, which means that even with differential tuition, it still costs vastly less overall than the 86-credit JD Program. The financial resources mentioned 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 that they acquire.

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**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.*

**See attached.**

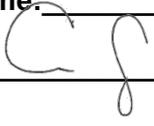
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**Other Information:** *Please provide any additional information that supports this request for differential tuition.*



**Dean/Director Approval:**

Printed Name: Camille Carey

Signature:  Date: 10.14.22