



M.A. in Legal and Ethical Studies

National Labor College Cohort Begins Spring 2008

Develop your skills as a labor leader, advocate and representative.

The Master of Arts in Legal and Ethical Studies is a unique degree program offered by the Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts in partnership with the National Labor College. It is designed for trade unionists who would like to enhance their understanding of the legal and ethical issues that confront them during their employment and in fulfilling their union responsibilities; it is geared toward those who aim to improve their effectiveness as advocates for employee rights.

The course of study involves a basic but comprehensive understanding of the legal system, the fundamentals of legal and ethical reasoning and the “nuts and bolts” of legal research within a liberal arts framework. University of Baltimore faculty members will teach classes along with guest instructors who have academic and practical experience working with labor issues.

This program will teach you to:

- think independently about legal and ethical issues
- research problems related to laws and regulations more effectively
- express yourself clearly and concisely and marshal relevant knowledge to support your views
- adapt skillfully to changing conditions and bargaining contexts in the workplace
- represent yourself and your co-workers more effectively in informal dispute resolution proceedings.

Know the program.

This 36-credit program includes core courses that address legal research, legal and ethical foundations, historical perspectives, legal and ethical arguments, and law and morality. Advanced courses explore several of the basic areas of law, such as contract and business organization law, as well as more specialized topics related to employment law. In addition, three courses in the fields of conflict management and negotiations or public administration may count toward completion of the degree. Courses are scheduled to permit you to complete the degree in two years.

Three academic sessions a year coincide with the normal academic calendar (spring, summer and fall). Spring sessions will include a one-week (Saturday through Saturday) intensive session with room and board available through the George Meany Center in Silver Spring, Md. Other coursework will be conducted online using the WebTycho distance-learning software developed by the University System of Maryland.

All students admitted to the program will have full student status and privileges as graduate students at the University of Baltimore and will receive Master of Arts degrees with the backing of regional accreditation. Note that while completing this degree may make you more competitive for law school admission, it does not solely qualify you for admission to or advanced standing in any law school, nor does it lead to formal certification as a paralegal or qualify you for the Maryland State Bar Examination.

Be qualified.

For admission to the program, you must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a 3.0 GPA or better. Any applicant with a GPA of less than 3.0 may be conditionally admitted upon review of supplemental application materials, such as letters of recommendation, a writing sample or a brief personal statement of educational objectives. [*Please note: Students with undergraduate degrees from the National Labor College will not have GPAs listed on their normal transcripts; therefore, NLC students will be admitted with a “conditional” designation.*] In addition to a complete application, you must submit:

- appropriate fees
- two official transcripts from each post-secondary school you have attended.

Apply.

Contact the UB Office of Admissions at gradadmissions@ubalt.edu or 1.877.ApplyUB for more information, or visit www.ubalt.edu/admissions to request additional materials and to apply online.

Contact the program.

Contact Jeffrey Sawyer, professor and program director, at jsawyer@ubalt.edu.